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ISRAELI CABINET DISCUSSES EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The pending reply by Premier Levi Eshkol to President Kennedy's latest letter was reported to have been discussed at the regular Cabinet meeting today which was attended by Israeli envoys to three key western posts.

The exchange began when David Ben-Gurion was Prime Minister and the Kennedy communications originally were addressed with Israel's concern over its security situation. The envoys attending the session were Avraham Harman, Ambassador to the United States; Michael Comay, permanent head of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations; and Yaacov Herzog, the outgoing envoy to Canada.

The American President's letters have been discussed at the highest governmental levels for the past 10 days. It was understood that the Cabinet was apparently unanimous on the content of Premier Eshkol's proposed reply, which parallels the Ben-Gurion policy on undisclosed issues posed by President Kennedy--but differs in tone. It was also indicated that, when the reply is formulated and approved, it is not expected to be final, in view of the far-reaching implications for Israel's security involved in any exchange between Israel and the United States.

Syrian Situation Seen Deteriorating; Unrevealed 'Actions' on Agenda

Gen. Zvi Tsur, chief of staff of Israel's armed forces, reviewed for the Cabinet the situation on the Syrian frontier. He cited a rapidly deteriorating situation resulting from Syrian shooting last Friday on a tractor in the demilitarized zone southeast of Lake Tiberias, the third successive day of shooting, and the eighth incident in the past three weeks.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, reported on efforts to obtain the release of three Israelis abducted last month by Syrians when their motorboat was seized on Lake Tiberias. The Israeli Cabinet decided on what action to take in the event the Israelis are not released by the weekend, but the nature of the planned action was not disclosed.

Premier Eshkol received today Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, to whom he expressed concern over the repeated Syrian aggressions. The Premier also said that Israel viewed with gravity the continued detention of the three abducted Israelis, and asked Gen. Bull's immediate intervention to obtain their release. The meeting, which followed the Cabinet session, was arranged at the Premier's request and was attended by senior members of the General Staff as well as by Mr. Comay and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Premier Eshkol also conveyed to the Cabinet the contents of a letter from Chou-En-Lai, Premier of Communist China, calling for a conference of heads of state on a total ban on nuclear weapons and for their destruction. Communist China sent such letters to many countries immediately after the American-British-Russian nuclear test ban pact was signed in Moscow last week.

NASSER VOICES NEW THREAT AGAINST ISRAEL; TO 'WASH OUT' 1948 DEFEAT

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser said today that his armed forces were preparing to "wash out the defeat in Palestine in 1948," according to reports received here from Cairo.

He made the statement in a speech to troops returning from Yemen. He also said that disarmament was impossible until the "rights" of the Arabs of Palestine were restored.

KHRUSHCHEV REPORTED PLANNING CAIRO VISIT THIS FALL TO BOLSTER NASSER

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev will visit Cairo in the next two months, in an effort to bolster the prestige of Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser, it was reported here today. Mr. Khrushchev's scheduled visit to Egypt has been on the agenda for a long time, but the timing of the visit in the early fall was said by observers here to result from a desire by the Soviet chief to revive Nasser's bid for Middle East hegemony at this time, when Nasser faces opposition by dissident Arab forces lined up with the Baath Party in Iraq and Syria.

Nasser is reportedly planning to use the forthcoming Khrushchev visit as "proof" that he is still the foremost leader, not only of the Arab world but also of Africa as a whole.

HOUSE 'SLUGFEST' EXPECTED THIS WEEK ON U. S. AID TO EGYPTIAN REGIME

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Egypt's belligerent attitude toward Israel will be made an important issue in the House of Representatives here this week, when the Administration's foreign aid authorization bill comes before the House.

In its report on the \$4,087,075 foreign aid authorization bill, filed this weekend preparatory for a "slugfest" on the issue expected this week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee has threatened to halt all aid to Egypt if the Nasser regime persists in its hostile attitude toward Israel and other Middle East countries. Other objections to Nasser's policies voiced by the House Committee include the Egyptian dictator's role in Yemen, as well as his general interference in the affairs of Middle East nations.

While, in the Senate, Senator Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican, is on record as opposing aid to Nasser as long as he continues his hostility toward Israel, Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, is expected to fight the unqualified grant of aid to Nasser in the House. Mr. Keating and Mr. Halpern are adamant in pushing their amendment to the Foreign Aid bill, calling for the severance of aid to nations using their own resources for the acquisition of Soviet arms. The Keating-Halpern amendment has already been dropped by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

REID WARNS THAT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION FACES RAPID DETERIORATION

DETROIT, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Rep. Ogden Reid, Jr., New York Republican, warned here tonight that "the situation in the Middle East could deteriorate rapidly," posing "a clear need for more affirmative United States leadership to prevent aggression and to keep the peace." Mr. Reid was formerly United States Ambassador to Israel.

Rep. Reid made the statement at the opening session of the 18th biennial national convention of Pioneer Women, the women's Labor Zionist organization. He also told the 600 delegates that the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee had indicated it would hold hearings soon on a concurrent resolution he had introduced during the present session, which would reaffirm the deep interest of the United States in the peace and stability of the Middle East area.

The Reid resolution would reiterate the "unalterable opposition" of the United States to the making of "inflammatory statements" by leaders or spokesmen of any state in the Middle East against any other state, aimed "at the overthrow of the legitimate government of any other state." The resolution also would declare it to be the intention of the United States, on request of any Middle East country which considers itself threatened, immediately to take action, within or outside the United Nations, to prevent the threatened action and to preserve the peace in the area.

Mrs. Sidney Leff, Pioneer Women president, hailed the three-power nuclear test ban pact as a first important step toward world peace. Beba Idelson, Deputy Speaker of Israel's Parliament, and head of the Moetzet Hapoalet, the Israeli sister-organization of Pioneer Women, said that Israel, together with all peace-loving nations, rejoiced over the signing of the nuclear test ban, adding that it was an important beginning toward mutual understanding among nations.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL SEEN DISCUSSING JEWISH PROBLEM AS W. J. C. MEETS

MONTREUX, Switzerland, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Delegates to a conference of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress discussed at the opening session today the problem of protection of human rights in Latin American countries; the relationships between the Catholic Church and Jews; and the fate of Soviet Jewry.

The delegates expressed the hope that the friendly attitude of the late Pope John XXIII, and his desire to erase creedal sources of anti-Jewish antagonism, which has been confirmed by Pope Paul VI, will be fully reflected at the resumption of the Ecumenical Council in Rome next month.

(In London, the Sunday Observer reported from Rome today that the subject of relations between Jews and Catholics will be considered when the Ecumenical Council resumes its sessions at the Vatican next month. According to the newspaper, representatives of the World Jewish Congress have already discussed the issue with the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, headed by Augustin Cardinal Bea. The newspaper today also featured an article on Catholic-Jewish relations by Zachariah Shuster, European director for the American Jewish Committee.)

It was stressed that the plight of Soviet Jewry will be the main problem at the conference. A public statement on the issue will be issued tomorrow. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC, presided at the morning session today, and Israel Sieff presided in the afternoon. Among the countries represented were the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Canada, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

WORLD YOUTH PARLEY APPEALS TO THANT, KHRUSHCHEV ON SOVIET JEWS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Urgent appeals to Soviet authorities to grant Russian Jews spiritual and cultural freedoms marked the closing session today of the week-long Second Conference of World Jewish Youth. The 400 delegates from 39 countries decided to submit a request to United Nations Secretary General U Thant and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to exercise their good offices on behalf of Soviet Jews.

A related resolution included a message of fraternity and encouragement to Jewish youth in the Soviet Union and an expression of a conviction that the day was not distant when Jewish youth in all countries would be permitted to join the ranks of organized Jewish youth.

The resolution expressed concern over the recrudescence of "rabid anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism" and called on Jewish youth to react resolutely in defense of the Jewish people's honor. The delegates expressed pride over the "courageous stand" taken by Jewish youth against physical attacks by anti-Semitic organizations in "certain countries."

The delegates also urged Israeli students abroad to acquaint themselves with local Jewish communities and to participate in their activities. The resolution noted that the interest "currently shown by Israel youth" in the activities of Jews of other countries was "inadequate." The delegates said that it was of the "utmost importance that every effort be made to stimulate such interest and give it more active and tangible form."

The only other resolution adopted by the conference was one calling for the establishment of a continuing consultative committee for cooperation among world Jewish youth. This was approved, however, only after it was changed from a steering committee version calling for the setting up of a "coordinating council." The change was insisted on by some of the delegates to assure that the new body would have no power to legislate or issue directives between conferences.

Force of Measures Toned Down as Americans Threaten to Withdraw

A series of drafts calling for education in Jewish communities outside Israel to encourage Zionism and immigration to Israel were adopted as "recommendations" and not as resolutions. That formula was used to end the threat of withdrawal from the conference of American youth organizations. Delegates of four American non-Zionist groups strongly objected to resolutions of Zionist content. They declared their participation in the conference was on condition that all resolutions be adopted unanimously. They were B'nai B'rith, Hillel, United Synagogue Youth and the National Federation of Temple Youth with a total membership of 250,000.

One of the most disputed proposed resolutions called on Jewish educators to recognize that "a full independent Jewish life" was possible only in Israel, where pioneering also offered the possibility of creating a new Jewish society based on social justice.

Among the recommendations which will be submitted by the delegates to their respective organizations were appeals to Jews who have left Cuba and Algeria and Jews of the "disintegrating" communities of Latin America, as well as Jews who returned to Germany, to immigrate to Israel, and an appeal to Jewish organizations and movements to recognize that conditions in many countries were conducive to assimilation. The recommendation stated that assimilation was threatened in those countries and that, to ward off this danger, efforts should be made to strengthen Jewish life in various fields and through stronger ties to Israel.

Another recommendation called on the Jewish Agency to increase emissaries for education and guidance, and urged that such emissaries to non-Israel Jewries be oriented in "knowledge and love" for Jewish culture, religion and general Jewish values. The proposal also called on youth organizations to include at least one year's stay in Israel in educational programs for members.

The Israeli delegation, which initially had sided with the Zionist-oriented Latin American and European organizations for adoption of the disputed proposals as resolutions, decided at the last minute to support the four American youth group delegations. The Americans also objected to the exclusion of religious, cultural and other values as an objective of Jewish education in communities outside Israel from resolutions which set down Zionism and immigration to Israel as specific objectives.

Benzion Shalom, chairman of the conference organization committee, said in a summary statement that, despite all "procedural and other errors," the conference had proved worthwhile.

The closing session also heard an address by Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, who said that, while it was harder to be a Jew today than it was for many centuries before, "there has never been a period in which it was more worthwhile to be one." He told the delegates that they faced a constant struggle against "indifference, shallowness and apathy" and that it was the destiny of Jewish life everywhere to be "a life of high tension, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually."

JEWISH VETERANS BACK CIVIL RIGHTS FIGHT; ELECT SOUTHERNER AS COMMANDER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Daniel Neal Heller, Miami, Florida attorney, who today became the first Southerner in many years to be elected national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A., stated in acknowledging his election at the 68th JWV national convention that he will seek a more active role for local posts in implementing civil rights objectives.

The JWV meanwhile adopted a resolution supporting the August 28 March on Washington for Negro rights and authorized "the participation of all echelons in the planned peaceful demonstration." The veterans also resolved to urge congressional approval of President Kennedy's proposals for civil rights legislation. Several hundred Jewish veterans are expected to participate in the August demonstrations.

Adoption of the resolutions followed an address to the convention by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP. Mr. Wilkins reviewed Jewish efforts to promote Negro rights and commended the role of the JWV.

The JWV made known receipt of a letter from the White House indicating agreement with a JWV suggestion for a White House conference with the leaders of all veterans organizations on the subject of civil rights. The White House replied in a letter signed by Lee C. White, the President's civil rights expert, that the suggestion was "one that makes sense" and would be given consideration.

Urge Militancy Against Right; Call for Initiative for Arab-Israel Peace

Mr. Heller, the newly elected national commander, is 38. He is a former president of the Harvard Law School Association of Florida and served as JWV national judge advocate. He is the Florida state chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet.

In his initial remarks as national commander, Mr. Heller stressed the commitment of his organization in the racial integration crisis. He called for more activity by local leadership in the 500 JWV posts around the country, including Southern posts, to realize the racial equality objectives espoused by President Kennedy.

The organization also adopted resolutions calling for militant defense against encroachment of the radical right; an aggressive American initiative for Arab-Israel peace in view of the thaw in American-Soviet relations; adoption of the President's immigration reform bill; and the ratification by the Senate of the United Nations genocide convention, and other issues.

Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, California Republican, addressed the convention on the resurgence of the radical right. He warned that anti-Semitism and other forms of hate were being injected into national life by right-wing extremists, and gave evidence of such extremism that had recently come to his attention under the guise of zealous anti-Communism. Gov. Richard J. Hughes, of New Jersey, also addressed the convention, emphasizing the need for early action on civil rights.

(In New York, members of the American Nazi Party wearing swastika armbands, distributed leaflets yesterday, threatening to make Washington a "battleground" in connection with the planned August 28 march for civil rights. The Nazis boasted that "the white man will sweep away the black revolution," and equated the civil rights movement with Communism.)

B'NAI B'RITH CALLS ON U. N. TO SPEED RATIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DRAFTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Every effort should be made by the United Nations, during International Cooperation Year --1965-- to encourage member nations to ratify the UN conventions on human rights, B'nai B'rith said today.

Label A. Katz, B'nai B'rith president, said that international law would be "enhanced" if the UN "could hasten" the process of ratification by focusing attention on 15 international documents drafted and approved by the UN, which still lack approval by a substantial number of member states. These include the Genocide Convention, drafted in 1948, and conventions concerned with refugees and stateless persons, the political and national rights of women and the abolition of slavery and slave trading.

The proposal was made in a letter to Ambassador Ralph Enckel of Finland, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for International Cooperation Year, which invited recommendations for the observance from non-governmental organizations with consultative status at the UN. Mr. Katz also proposed that, during 1965, the UN provide technical and legal assistance which would encourage governments to consider ratification.

JEWISH FRATERNITY TO HONOR EDITOR WHO ADVOCATES RIGHTS FOR NEGROES

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Phi Epsilon Pi, a national Jewish fraternity, has named Ralph McGill, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, as the recipient of its 1963 International Service Award. Mr. McGill, who will receive the award at the organization's annual convention later this month in Hartford, Conn., was cited for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the "essentials of brotherhood." He has been one of the South's foremost pleaders for reasonable solutions to the Negro problem.