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INCREASING ARAB-ISRAEL TENSIONS SEEN BY HIGH STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Border incidents between Israel and its neighbors "have in recent months increased in frequency, and tensions over the Jordan River water issue, and the build-up of arms have risen," Phillips Talbot, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs today.

Testifying before the committee on behalf of the foreign aid bill, Mr. Talbot reported that "restiveness produced by political, social and economic change in all countries of the area is compounded by smoldering Arab-Israeli hostility."

Mr. Talbot told the Congressmen that the Yemen issue remains unresolved and American relations with Egypt were troubled by recent developments, including Egyptian support of the pro-Communist Congolese rebels. He said these problems, however, did not alter United States foreign policy objectives "to help create the conditions in which an enduring Middle East peace can be obtained, and to continue to help the countries resist Soviet penetration efforts." He stressed that American objectives in the area remain unchanged, although the present atmosphere is "far from tranquil."

SYRIANS FIRE AT ISRAEL FOR SECOND DAY IN THE SAME TIBERIAS AREA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Syrian gun posts across the Jordan River, near the river's inlet into Lake Tiberias, opened fire again at Israeli border patrols today. It was the second successive attack in two days. The shootings today occurred in the area of Korazim, not far from the Almagor region where the Syrians attacked another patrol yesterday.

Israel's frontier troops returned the Syrian fire today, as they did yesterday, and once more, United Nations Military observers arranged a cease-fire. Today's clash lasted an hour. Israel reported no casualties.

ESHKOL HOLDS BACK ON REPLY TO EHHARD; MEDIATION EFFORTS DENIED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry officials here denied today reports received from abroad hinting that Israel had asked foreign governments to mediate Israel's dispute with Germany over Bonn's announcement it had halted arms shipments here, due to pressures by Egypt. Another report stated that Norway's Prime Minister Otto Krag, who visited Israel recently, had sent a letter to the West German Government, proposing mediation with Israel.

Israel is expected to take no further initiative in the entire matter until Walter Ulbricht, Communist East Germany's chief of state, visits Cairo, beginning next Wednesday.

Officials said today that nothing is known officially about a reported West German plan to send a special emissary here to try to iron out the current differences between the two governments. Thus far, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol has not yet replied to a letter he received from West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, expressing a desire to reach an understanding with Israel.

GERMAN ENVOY SAYS U. S. A. IS 'INTERVENING' TO 'CALM' ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- West German Ambassador Heinrich Knappstein made known here today, after meeting with Secretary of State Dean Rusk, that the United States may be intervening with Israel in support of West Germany to calm down "the very emotional reactions" to Germany's difficulties with Egypt. The Ambassador voiced disappointment about Israel's reaction, stating that West Germany "had done a great deal for them." He said Mr. Rusk has also agreed to support the German position in the Arab countries, in connection with the current controversy. The Ambassador and the Secretary discussed further contacts in that region.

The Ambassador stressed that the United States favored and urged West Germany to embark on the arms project involving Israel. He said his Government had been in permanent consultation with the United States on Middle East problems, and that the two governments were now jointly attempting to calm down "the very emotional reactions" by Israel and the Arab states.

Ambassador Knappstein also said that they touched on Jewish threats to boycott West Germany, and felt that this was so far only a move by private individuals. He said the

boycott subject did not come up yesterday when he met with the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organizations. He added that a full-page advertisement placed in today's New York Times by the Jewish War Veterans was "deeply unfair and unjust, to say the least." The advertisement protested West German policies.

In response to reporters' questions on a related German subject, the Ambassador said that he now has the impression that there is a growing majority in the West German Parliament, seeking in one way or another to extend the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes.

State Department today made known that it disapproves of "private boycotts" by Americans of Jewish faith, arising from recent West German policies. Referring to reports that some American Jewish businessmen were no longer buying German products, State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey issued a comment on behalf of the Department.

Mr. McCloskey said that, "as a matter of principle, we do not favor private boycotts as a form of retaliation, and I would say that this policy would apply no matter what the reason or inspiration for such a boycott."

Meanwhile, however, strong reactions were voiced here today against Bonn's anti-Israeli stop. A dozen members of the House of Representatives, including members of both parties, protested very sharply against Bonn's "capitulation" to Egypt.

Former Foreign Minister of Belgium Proposes Way Out for Bonn

BRUSSELS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Victor Larock, former Belgian Foreign Minister, proposed today the establishment of an international agreement for a general and controlled termination of the arms race in the Middle East as "the most honorable way" for the Bonn Government to "get out from an imbroglio that did not add anything to its prestige." He said this solution to the crisis, which developed when West Germany canceled arms shipments to Israel, was regarded as extremely desirable by impartial observers.

Reactions by the Belgian press to the West German decision against arms deliveries to Israel today were generally critical of the Bonn Government and praised Premier Levi Eshkol's statement on the subject in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, earlier this week.

Influential French Newspaper Says Germany 'Jeopardizes' Western World

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The political future of the entire western world, and especially of Europe, has been jeopardized by the "mishandling" by the West German Government of the Egyptian crisis, the French newspaper, Combat, declared today in a front page editorial. The influential newspaper expressed the belief that the consequences of the Bonn-Cairo crisis would be felt for a long time "and will grow out of all proportion with the causes which provoked them."

Swiss Jewish Leader Protests to German Ambassador at Berne

BERNE, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The deep concern of Swiss Jewry over West German policy toward Israel, particularly over the Bonn suspension of arms shipments, was conveyed to the West German Ambassador here today by Georges Brunshvig, president of the Jewish Communities of Switzerland.

GERMAN HUNTER OF NAZIS ADMITS HE WAS STORM TROOPER AS YOUTH

BONN, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Erwin Schuele, who said in Warsaw earlier this week that East German charges that he had a Nazi past were "a pack of lies," admitted yesterday that he had joined the Nazi party in 1937. However, the head of the Central Agency for the Uncovering of Nazi Crimes contended he had never been active in any Nazi group.

Dr. Schuele made the statement at a press conference in Stuttgart, on his return from Warsaw where, at the invitation of the Polish Government, had sifted captured Nazi documents for new evidence against Nazi war criminals. The news conference was convened by Dr. Wolfgang Haussmann, Justice Minister of Baden-Wurtemberg.

Dr. Schuele said he had not known about his party membership until a few days ago. He said that, as a student, he had joined the Storm Troopers "which I have never denied." He added that he had considered himself only an applicant for Nazi party membership, further stating that, since he had not been given a Nazi party membership book, he believed he had not been accepted. However, he added, he had received information from the Allied Documents Center in Berlin, where there are personal files on millions of party members, which convinced him he had been accepted.

WEST BERLIN ARRESTS FOUR FOR KILLING 6,500 JEWS AND GYPSIES

BERLIN, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The West Berlin Prosecutor's Office announced here today that four former SS officers who served in Nazi killer commando groups, in German-occupied Europe, have been arrested and charged with complicity in the murder of at least 6,500 Russian Jews and Gypsies. The men were identified as: Wilhelm Wiebens, 58; Oswald Schafer, 56; Karl Rath, 55; and Heinz Tangerman, 52. They are all employed in West German industry.

MAPAI SHOWDCWN INDICATES BEN-GURION COLLAPSE ON LAVON ISSUE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The annual convention of the Mapai Party moved toward a showdown today in the bitter struggle precipitated by former Premier David Ben-Gurion's determination to reopen the simmering Lavon Affair.

A forecast of the outcome was presaged by a vote in the convention steering committee which adopted, 50 to 22, a resolution on the issue for presentation to the convention. The resolution simply asked convention approval of the Mapai central committee decision that the issue of creation of a judicial committee to reopen the Lavon case be decided solely by Mapai members of the Government "in accordance with their own judgment."

Concluding the long and bitter debate on the Ben-Gurion demand, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who has consistently opposed his predecessor on this and other vital issues, told the convention: "I always thought only Ben-Gurion could lead the nation. But after he resigned--once and twice-- and I was entrusted with forming a Government, I shall ask your confidence for four more years." He said it was a "mistake" to bring the Lavon issue to the convention, adding: "However, Ben-Gurion can, if he so wishes, continue his efforts in this respect."

Mr. Ben-Gurion created a Government crisis last year by demanding the creation of a judicial committee and by castigating the work of a seven-member Ministerial Committee which had cleared Pinhas Lavon of responsibility for a disastrous security mishap in 1954. Mr. Lavon was subsequently forced out as Defense Minister by Mr. Ben-Gurion. The Steering Committee's draft resolution also called on Mapai to drop the Lavon issue entirely.

Mr. Ben-Gurion's supporters on the Steering Committee then proposed a resolution which said that the convention "identifies itself with Mr. Ben-Gurion's attitude but at the same time notes the Central Committee's decision of freeing Mapai representatives in the Government to act according to their judgment." When this motion was defeated 50 to 28, the minority members walked out demonstratively from the session.

Mrs. Ben-Zvi, Sharett, Golda Meir, Eban Attack Ben-Gurion Views

Bitterness over Mr. Ben-Gurion's adamant stand for a new inquiry spilled into the open yesterday and last night. Mr. Ben-Gurion again demanded, in a 90-minute speech, that the party repudiate the findings of the Ministerial Committee, of which both Mr. Eshkol and Foreign Minister Golda Meir had been members, insisting on the naming of a judicial commission to probe the 1954 mishap again.

He was challenged by Moshe Sharett, who had been Premier in 1954. Brought to the Mann Auditorium convention site in a wheelchair, the ailing former Premier and Foreign Minister warned Mr. Ben-Gurion that he alone was seeking the renewed inquiry, and that his persistence was imperilling the party. He called on the party "once and for all to throw away this nightmare and start breathing again."

Before Mr. Ben-Gurion made his address, the 4,000 persons jamming the auditorium heard Mrs. Izhak Ben-Zvi, widow of Israel's second President, make a dramatic appeal for party unity and productive action. Turning to Mr. Ben-Gurion she asked: "What is it you want from us?"

Deputy Premier Abba Eban and Mrs. Meir bluntly criticized Mr. Ben-Gurion. Mr. Eban made an effort to phrase his criticism softly, but Mrs. Meir hit hard at the former Premier. Directly addressing her infuriated former leader, Mrs. Meir asked: "Why did you not resign when the Committee of Seven was established? Why did you later form a Cabinet with members of that committee? Why did you not mention your demand for a judicial committee when Eshkol formed a new Cabinet?" She answered the last question herself by remarking, "If you had, most of the Ministers would not have joined the Cabinet."

She also said that Mr. Ben-Gurion had given his "blessing" when Mr. Eshkol reported to him in a hospital where he had been recuperating from illness, that the Lavon Affair would be studied by the seven-member Ministerial Committee. Denouncing Mr. Ben-Gurion for acting in the case "both as judge and prosecutor," she flared up when Mr. Ben-Gurion called out that the findings of the Ministerial Committee were "falsities." She retorted, "I voted for the findings and they don't need any kind of whitewashing."

Former Agriculture Minister Moshe Dayan and Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres spoke out in support of Mr. Ben-Gurion, but with reservations. Police Minister Eshor Shitreet and party leader David Hacohen both appealed to him to "let the matter rest."

The old warrior, rejecting both criticism and appeals, said he would keep up his fight even if he was expelled from the party. Angered by Mrs. Meir's attack, he walked out of the convention. A special delegation which included Housing Minister Yosef Almogi, Mr. Peres and others met this morning with Mr. Ben-Gurion to persuade him to return. He agreed to do so, reiterating he would not give up his fight. Previously, efforts were made by President Shazar to end the deep rift between Mr. Ben-Gurion and Premier Eshkol, but with no result.

ISRAEL BONDS TO SET \$100,000,000 GOAL AT PARLEY OPENING TODAY

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jewish leaders from the United States, Canada, Latin America and Western Europe began gathering here today for the international inaugural conference for Israel Bonds, which will open tomorrow. Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, who is serving as conference chairman, announced that the three-day session will officially launch a campaign to sell \$100,000,000 in Israel bonds during 1965.

The conference will engage in discussions of Israel's economic needs, and will outline plans to finance an intensive development program to promote the growth of Israel's economy and the absorption of new immigrants.

Among the many personalities on the agenda for the conference will be Vice President Hubert Humphrey; Sir Isaac Wolfson, British financier and philanthropist; Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban; Avraham Feinberg, president of the bond organization; Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-president; Morris W. Berinstein, national chairman of trustees; Max Bressler, national chairman of guardians; and D. Lou Harris, national chairman of the bond organization of Canada.

LIBRARY OF JEWISH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OPENED IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A library of Jewish instrumental music, first of its kind on the eastern seaboard, was opened here today at Gratz College. The Joseph Kutler Library was established by Dr. Claire Schaff in memory of her brother. A Gratz College graduate, Dr. Schaff teaches music at Rutgers University and the Philadelphia Musical Academy. The Library contains scores for large and small orchestras, chamber music, string quartets and solo instrumental works.

Establishment of the library has attracted interest in this country and overseas. Contributions of compositions are being received as are requests for scores for performance. The America-Israel Cultural Foundation has contributed a substantial number of compositions, and Issachar Miron, the foundation's Israeli representative, has urged Israeli composers to contribute their scores.

The Kutler Library is a major element of the Jewish music library of the division of community services of the college. Shalom Altman, head of the music department and library director, said that little was known in the musical world of the creative contributions of Jewish composers to music and that the Kutler library would help to end this lack of knowledge.

CLEVELAND RABBIS SET STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR AT JEWISH FUNERALS

CLEVELAND, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis issued a statement here today dealing with "appropriate behavior" by Jewish mourners in connection with funeral services. Among the recommendations is a warning against "visitation hours" at funeral homes preceding the rites, and against public "viewing" of the deceased. The statement urged that the practice of combining Jewish services with Masonic or other fraternal lodge rites should be discouraged.

The statement criticized sociability, particularly "at the gathering for funeral services." Bereaved families were advised not to "receive" after the service at the graveside. The statement criticized the serving of alcoholic drinks to those coming to comfort the mourners, and urged against serving meals after a funeral when the meals assume "the proportions of a feast."

CANADIAN SOCIAL CREDIT GROUP EXPELS MEMBER FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

EDMONTON, Canada, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A key member of the Social Credit movement on the campus of the University of Alberta was expelled from the party today for distributing anti-Semitic literature. Orvis Kennedy, executive director of the Alberta Social Credit Party, said today that Walter Klinck, 30, chairman of the campus Social Credit group, had been informed that his membership had been canceled.

Klinck was expelled after it was found that he had placed on sale at the Social Credit booth at the university bookstore copies of the notorious anti-Semitic canard, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." Mr. Kennedy said that his party had disassociated itself "from this anti-Semitic nonsense many years ago."

Several weeks ago, Robert Thompson, national leader of the Social Credit Party, wrote a letter to the Canadian Jewish Congress repudiating all semblance of anti-Jewish feeling, and undertaking to expel any members who advocate anti-Semitism.

AMERICAN NAZI ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-SEMITIC LEAFLETS

DETROIT, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A member of George Rockwell's American Nazi Party has been arrested by police in Farmington near here on charges of distributing "slandorous" anti-Semitic leaflets and instigating a 14-year-old boy to help him in the distribution. The Nazi, Russell Roberts, was arrested after the boy turned the literature over to police.