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NASSER REPORTED SEEKING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- President Nasser, of Egypt, in the course of his current visit to Moscow, is seeking additional military assistance, including ultra-modern weapons of types not yet available to Egypt, according to reports received here today.

In line with Egyptian efforts to obtain greater Soviet backing and more sophisticated weapons, Nasser has, since his arrival in Moscow, more openly identified with the pro-Communist, anti-American line on Viet Nam, the reports stated.

According to reliable interpretations, Nasser is seeking additional equipment from Russia, including certain types of missiles and weapons systems which the Russians have so far not exported to Egypt, and which German technicians in Cairo have not yet perfected.

Rep. William Fitts Ryan, New York Democrat, today commented on the danger of a "one-sided escalation" in the Near East. He called on the Administration to observe developments at the present Egyptian-Soviet summit "with caution and concern." He questioned the wisdom of further American assistance to Egypt "if such aid allows diversion of other assets for acquisition and introduction into the region of even more dangerous arms."

NEW LIBEL LAW STUDIED IN ISRAEL; KNESSET TO DEBATE ISSUE TOMORROW

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet empowered Premier Levi Eshkol today to name a public commission to study protests against Israel's much-criticized new libel law. The Cabinet approved appointment of such a commission, to include a Supreme Court Justice and representatives of the Israel Bar Association and the Israel Journalists Association, which have strongly criticized some aspects of the new law. The commission was given the task of setting up another hearing for those who consider the law an infringement on freedom of expression.

In approving the proposal for a public commission, the Cabinet decided that the Government coalition would reject proposals for changes when Parliament meets in special session on the issue Wednesday. The special session was made mandatory by submission of a request signed by 30 members of Parliament representing the opposition Herut-Liberal bloc and Mapam. The coalition parties, including Mapai, Mizrahi and Ahdut Avodah, are expected to vote against changes now, on grounds that the Cabinet has referred the issue to a committee.

The proposed amendments, developed by members of the Knesset (Parliament), in cooperation with the Journalists Association, aim to restore the right to report freely on public matters without being bound by the requirement in the new law that such comment be limited "to a suitable extent." Another proposed amendment would eliminate a clause in the new law making publication of privileged matter, such as Knesset and court proceedings, subject to prosecution for libel if published more than three years after the event.

The libel law was passed on the last day of the present Knesset's term, before it disbanded in advance of the November elections to choose a new Parliament. Criticism of the new libel law developed on a significant scale only afterward. The opposition parties acted to recall the Knesset in special session because it remains in office until the day of the first meeting of the new Knesset, following the elections.

13,000 NEW APARTMENTS BUILT IN ISRAEL; CITRUS EXPORTS UP 20 PERCENT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- A minor rise in real estate prices, a substantial rise in industrial prices and an increase in Israel's foreign currency reserves were among the highlights of the Bank of Israel's periodical economic survey, released here today. The survey showed that, in the first quarter of this year, 13,000 new apartments were built in Israel, and that prices of real estate rose by only 4 percent from October, 1964, to March, 1965. Output of citrus fruits rose by 15 percent, and exports by 20 percent, compared with the slump season of last winter.

GERMAN NEO-NAZIS COMMEMORATE NAZIS EXECUTED BY ALLIED POWERS

LANDSBURG, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- Leaders of West Germany's neo-Nazi National Democratic Party today equated the German war criminals executed by the United States and its allies with the prisoners who died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

One of the speakers at a wreath-laying ceremony at Landsburg cemetery, where many Nazi war criminals are buried, was Franz Winter, a member of the party's presidium. He said that although the whole world mourns Jewish victims of Bergen-Belsen, no one visited the graves of Nazis at Landsburg, and that the Nazis deserved commemoration. Fritz Thielen, chairman of the NDP, said that many of the executed Nazis were sentenced "unjustly" by war crimes tribunals.

AFRICAN LEADER OPPOSES INJECTION OF ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE AT ALGIERS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- Cyril Rodgers Wright, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, said here today that his Government would oppose any attempt to raise the question of the Israel-Arab dispute at the forthcoming conference of Afro-Asian nations to be held in Algiers. Mr. Wright, who concluded a state visit to Israel today, said that Sierra Leone does not consider the Algiers conference the proper forum for the airing of the Israel-Arab dispute.

The visitor also promised his country's support for Israel's claim to membership in the "Group of 77" developing countries within the United Nations. The Arab states oppose Israel's inclusion in the group, which is considered an important step in Israel's struggle for political recognition as an Asian country. Mr. Wright left here today for the United Nations where he will head his country's delegation to the General Assembly.

ISRAEL OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The serious shortage of engineers and architects in Israel's Civil Service led the government today to decide to give scholarships for the study of engineering and architecture to promising students at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa. The scholarships, however, will go only to students willing to sign up for a minimum of two years' government service at the conclusion of their studies.

A committee comprised of representatives of government ministries and consultants drawn from the Technion staff will decide on scholarship applications. Recipients of the study grants will serve in the Housing, Interior and Labor Ministries after graduation. The recruiting of qualified professional workers has been used for some years by the Israel Defense Forces.

ISRAEL TRIES TO HALT PRACTICE OF INDIGENT SEEKING AID IN GERMANY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The Israeli Government indicated its annoyance today over the practice of some persons holding Israeli passports who have drifted, jobless, into Germany, where they demand repatriation to Israel. The issue was taken up today by the Foreign Ministry, in consultation with other government branches here, in an effort to halt the practice.

The number of indigent Israelis in West Germany has increased considerably since Bonn abolished the need for entry visas for those holding Israeli passports, as a result of the diplomatic relations recently established between the two countries. Some Israelis who were stranded with no means of support in other European countries have sought refuge in Germany and, in many instances, have appealed to the German authorities on the basis of past crimes committed against the Jews. Israeli officials in Germany have reported that this approach has caused "much chagrin."

ISRAEL'S NEW PORT OF ASHDOD REPORTED READY FOR USE IN NOVEMBER

LONDON, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- Israel's new port of Ashdod is expected to be open for business in November, according to a Tel Aviv dispatch today in the Financial Times of London. Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv and Jaffa ports will be closed down completely beginning sometime in October, the report stated.

\$22,000,000 TRADE PACT WITH YUGOSLAVIA GIVEN APPROVAL BY ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- A one-year extension of the Israel-Yugoslav trade agreement was approved today by the Israel Government. The agreement covers a total two-way trade of about \$22,000,000 this year.

MOSCOW 'SURPRISED' AT REPORT OF RABBINATE OFFER TO ISRAELI RABBI

LONDON, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- Jewish community leaders in Moscow have expressed surprise at reports that Dr. Zvi Harkavy, a rabbi who is director of the Israel Chief Rabbinate Library in Jerusalem, had been approached by the Soviet authorities on the possibility that he serve as Chief Rabbi of the USSR, a post that has never existed before, even in Czarist times, it was reported here today in dispatches from the Soviet capital.

Dr. Harkavy said yesterday in Jerusalem that the proposal was first broached three years ago in a meeting between a leading Soviet diplomat and Rabbi Isser Yehuda Unterman, now Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and was again raised in subsequent meetings with Soviet diplomats. Among those who expressed surprise at the reports was Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin who recalled meeting Dr. Harkavy several years ago but said that he did not remember discussing any such appointment with him.

(The New York Herald Tribune reported from Jerusalem today that Israel's Foreign Ministry denied any knowledge of the offer, describing it as "sheer nonsense." Chief Rabbi Unterman also denied ever having heard anything about it. Despite the denials, Dr. Harkavy was reported to have stood firmly by his story.)

American Rabbi Urges Soviet Union to Guarantee Rights to Jews

NEW YORK, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The Soviet Union was urged by an American rabbi today to take a "creative step toward relaxation of the cold war," by extending its constitutional guarantees of religious and cultural freedom to its Jewish citizens. Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, of the Hillcrest Jewish Center, Queens, told a press conference at the headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that such a step would also redound to the benefit of the Soviet Union itself and, at the same time, "liberate the cultural and religious expression of its Jewish community."

The rabbi had just returned from a two-month world tour which included the Soviet Union, as chairman of the board of the new International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport, and as chairman of the Interreligious Cooperation Committee of the ADL.

Rabbi Mowshowitz clearly distinguished between an official policy of anti-Semitism -- which he said is not followed by the Soviet Union, although there are many anti-Semites in the country -- and a general practice by "an atheistic, materialistic nation" of religious and cultural discrimination which "falls heaviest upon the Jew" because of his close identity with his religion and his cultural heritage.

He pointed out that the Soviet Jewish religious community is seeking "no more but no less than other religious groups," its constitutional rights to worship without fear. This means, he said, the right to publish and distribute prayer books, establish more synagogues and religious schools, including Yeshivot (seminaries), and to join and meet with international religious bodies of one's faith. He indicated that Christian and Moslem groups in the Soviet Union do engage in such international relationships, but that the Jews do not.

LUBAVITCHER LAY CORNERSTONE FOR 120-UNIT HOUSING PROJECT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The cornerstone of the newest Lubavitcher housing project in Israel was laid at Lydda today in ceremonies witnessed by 2,000 persons, including prominent rabbis, dignitaries, municipal and civic leaders.

The project will be located next to the Lubavitcher Yeshiva buildings adjacent to Lydda's central railroad terminal. Upon completion of its first stage, the project will have 120 housing units. Although students of the Yeshiva have been transferred to the new Yeshiva complex in nearby Kfar Chabad, the school buildings in Lydda will be retained for educational purposes.

Arriving from New York at Lydda airport just in time to address the festive occasion, Samuel Kramer, a leader of the Lubavitcher community, conveyed the blessings sent by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, from Lubavitch world headquarters in New York, for the event. There are several other Lubavitcher housing projects in Israel aside from its network of educational institutions throughout the land.

AGUDAT ISRAEL ELECTS NEW PARTY EXECUTIVE HEADED BY RABBI LEVIN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30: (JTA) -- The ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel elected a new party executive today, comprised of all factions, and headed again by Rabbi I. M. Levin, who had threatened to retire from political activity if the factions did not end internal strife. The factions also agreed on common administration of separate funds held by the different wings, the largest of which are the Hungaro-Romanian and Gur hassidim. The new executive has seven members instead of 18 as in the former executive.

HUMPHREY EQUATES U.S.A. AND ISRAEL ON CONCERN FOR HUMAN WELFARE

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 30. (JTA) -- Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey hailed both Israel and the United States in an address here, for their concern "with the conservation and development of human resources;" Addressing the annual dinner of the Minnesota Trade Union Council for Histadrut, last night, Mr. Humphrey said that such concern by the two nations with human resources was their greatness "and it is the excitement of wanting a better day for everyone that has made Histadrut so great." He lauded the Histadrut for setting a "good example of man's humanity to man."

The Vice President was introduced at the dinner by U. S. Sen. Walter Mondale, his successor in the Senate, who said that "the spirit of Histadrut is embodied in the spirit of Vice President Humphrey." Other speakers included Minnesota Gov. Karl Rolvaag, who had earlier designated the week of August 21 as "Histadrut Week" and urged Minnesotans to mark the observance because of the "humanitarian endeavors which are an inspiration to millions of Americans of all faiths, colors and creeds." Proceeds of the dinner will go toward the establishment of a Kupat Holim clinic in Israel.

TUCSON JEWISH COMMUNITY BUYS ARIZONA POST; CHANIN STAYS AS EDITOR

TUCSON, Ariz., Aug. 30. (JTA) -- The Tucson Jewish Community Council has purchased the Arizona Post, local Jewish newspaper, now in its 20th year of publication. Marvin H. Volk, president of the JCC, declared in an editorial in the current issue of the Arizona Post, that "editorials and columns will continue with independent thought. That may or may not contain the views of the Tucson Jewish Community Council." He said the publication, which is being expanded from 24 issues annually to 30 issues, would be operated "as an independent newspaper under Council sponsorship," effective with the current issue.

Founded in 1946 by Rebecca and M.L. Rutz, the Arizona Post was purchased in 1956 by Mildred and Abe Chanin. Under Chanin direction, the publication won six prizes for general excellence in state-wide contests conducted by the Arizona Newspapers Association.

Mr. Chanin, now in his 25th year as sports editor of the Arizona Daily Star and also publisher of Collegiate Baseball, a national sports publication, said the sale had been made necessary by the growing pressure of other duties. He will continue as editor of the Arizona Post. Mr. Volk named a publications committee for the new ownership, headed by Jack J. Sarver, who served as chairman of a special committee that recommended the purchase.

OSCAR ISRAEL PHILIPP, HEBREW SCHOLAR AND PUBLISHER, DEAD AT 77

GENEVA, Aug. 30. (JTA) -- Oscar Israel Philipp, British metal broker and philanthropist, died here this weekend at the age of 77. Born in Wandsbeck, Germany, Mr. Philipp came in 1909 to England, where he was a former chairman of the Bachad fellowship, a member of the executive committee and council of British ORT, joint treasurer of Jews' College, and treasurer of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. A Hebrew scholar, Mr. Philipp was a founder and director of a Hebrew Publishing House and, later, an active member of the Jewish community in Geneva, where he lived after his retirement.

DR. GIULO RACAH, HEBREW U. RECTOR, PROMINENT SCIENTIST, DEAD AT 56

ROME, Aug. 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Giulo Racah, noted theoretical physicist and rector of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died of a heart attack this weekend in Florence, first stop of a lecture tour of several Italian cities. He was 56.

Born in Florence, the descendant of a family that traced its roots in Italy to the First Century, Dr. Racah fled the country in 1938, when Mussolini adopted his anti-Semitic policies. He joined the faculty of the Hebrew University as professor of theoretical physics, later became dean of the faculty of sciences, and, in 1961, rector of the university. A member of the Jewish underground before the establishment of Israel, he had served as deputy commander of the Haganah on Mount Scopus, where the Hebrew University was then located, during the War of Liberation.

Dr. Racah's field was atomic spectroscopy, the study of various atomic particles. The "Racah coefficient," a geometric quantity connected with atomic structure, is used by scientists the world over. Dr. Racah was chairman of the science section of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and a member of the Israel Research Council. He was a guest member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, N.J., in 1950-51.