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U.S. DECISION TO SELL JET BOMBERS TO ISRAEL GREETED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 22. (JTA) -- The official announcement this weekend of the United States agreement to sell Israel some tactical jet bombers was greeted here with deep satisfaction and gratification.

In a brief statement, the Israel Government said it considered the transaction a positive step toward maintenance of stability in the Middle East. The agreement provides the first United States supply of military aircraft to Israel. Competent observers here stressed that the agreement and the official announcement of the pact were proof of the clear and concrete intentions of the United States to preserve the balance of power in the Middle East as the key to regional peace.

Sources here said that the decision for the sale was made personally by President Johnson during a meeting with Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Washington last February. Mr. Eban also met with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. One of the conditions which the United States attached to the transaction was a pledge of strict secrecy on the part of Israel to prevent American involvements.

Eban Reports to Cabinet on U.S. Deal; Says No Conditions Attached

At the weekly meeting of Israel's Cabinet today, Mr. Eban reported about the steps leading to the plane agreement with Washington. He said the negotiations for U.S. sale of the jet bombers to Israel were first begun by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, when he visited Washington in 1964. The talks, he said, were continued by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's ex-Foreign Minister, then by Israel's deputy Minister of Defense, Shimon Peres, and by President Johnson's Ambassador-at-large, Averell Harriman.

The negotiations, said Mr. Eban, were furthered by Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Avraham Harman, and clinched by himself when he visited Washington in February of this year.

The Foreign Minister denied there were any conditions attached to the agreement with the United States Government except those required by U.S. law, requiring Israel not to use the planes for attack purposes but only for defense. The agreement, he reported, specified the manner of Israel's payments for the aircraft and prohibits the resale of the planes by Israel without prior approval by the United States.

Soviet Arming of Arabs Prompted U.S. Sale of Jets to Israel

WASHINGTON, May 22. (JTA) -- Large scale Soviet arms sales to Egypt and Syria -- Israel's most dangerous neighbors -- had convinced the United States that, to leave Israel without adequate defenses, would tend to encourage the Arab neighboring states to start a "second round" against the Jewish State.

This was considered here today as the motive behind the announcement this weekend of an agreement by the United States to sell "tactical" military aircraft to Israel. Robert McCloskey, State Department spokesman, told newsmen that the decision to sell a limited number of tactical aircraft to Israel reflected "our due consideration for security" in the Middle East. He said that the U.S. intention was "to avoid a serious arms imbalance that would jeopardize stability."

The State Department official did not specify the model or number of the planes to be provided to Israel. However the planes were identified as older models of the A-4 Skyhawk, a mainstay of the U.S. Navy's carrier striking force in Vietnam. It is believed that attack bombers capable of striking at Arab bases would provide a needed deterrent against use by the Arab rulers of the advanced Russian MIG-21's being supplied by Moscow to Egypt and Syria.

Recalling the general U.S. "restraint" concerning military equipment supply to the Middle East, Mr. McCloskey told reporters of the "continued, massive Soviet sales of arms to certain countries in the Middle East, which have tended to intensify the arms imbalance." He added that there was no connection between the sale of the jet craft to Israel and similar sales to Jordan and Saudia Arabia.

He said that the Israeli transaction grew out of legitimate defense needs of Israel. He said that the conditions governing the sale to Israel were the usual commitments under United States laws pertaining to assurances that arms will not be used aggressively or transferred to a third party.

PALESTINE ARABS RECEIVING ARMS FROM COMMUNIST CHINA TO FIGHT ISRAEL

LONDON, May 22. (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization, the group formed by the Arab League to conduct war against Israel, is receiving arms and training from Communist China, according to a statement by Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Shukairy said in a speech delivered yesterday in Gaza, which is under Egyptian jurisdiction, that Communist China is sending arms into the "Arab world for use against Israel." He added that "some Palestinians are receiving military training in China." The "Palestinians" of whom Shukairy spoke are presumably Arab refugees housed in camps on Israel's borders by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Dispatches from Cairo received here today also said that Egypt may turn to China for aid in development of nuclear capability and in general help toward fighting Israel. Communist sources in the Egyptian capital were reported here to have said that Egypt's President Nasser would raise the question when Communist China's Premier Chou En-lai visits Cairo next month.

ESHKOL TELLS WORKERS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RAISES AND FULL EMPLOYMENT

TEL AVIV, May 22. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol warned Israel's workers yesterday that they could not have both an increase in their cost-of-living allowances and full employment.

Speaking at a rally of factory workers organized by the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, the Premier said the workers would have to choose. He promised immediate efforts to alleviate unemployment in Israel's development areas and pledged, in response to criticisms of government bureaucracy, that there would soon be dismissals in the civil service.

Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Zadok caused an uproar when he told his labor audience that price increases were often caused by wages rising faster than output. He said the crucial question was whether wage increases "will impair our export drive." He said it was incorrect to compare wages earned in Israel with those earned in the United States.

CONVENTION OF BEN-GURION'S PARTY DEMANDS ELECTORAL REFORMS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 22. (JTA) -- The founding convention of former Premier David Ben-Gurion's dissident Israel Workers Party (Rafi) ended here this weekend with a demand for electoral reform along the lines of Britain's constituency system. Shimon Peres was unanimously reelected party secretary-general and a 210-member central committee was elected.

The delegates reiterated the party's support for Mr. Ben-Gurion's persistent demand for a judicial inquiry into the Lavon Affair. Pinhas Lavon, a one-time power in the ranks of the Mapai, was ousted as Defense Minister as the result of a security mishap. He was cleared of responsibility in a series of investigations despite Mr. Ben-Gurion's vehement protests, and invited to return to Mapai by Premier Levi Eshkol. This was one of the issues on which Mr. Ben-Gurion split with Mr. Eshkol.

GERMAN-ISRAEL SOCIETY FORMED IN BERLIN; 2,000 ATTEND FIRST MEETING

BERLIN, May 22. (JTA) -- Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's first Ambassador to West Germany, told the founding meeting of the German-Israel Society in West Berlin this weekend that there were still persons in Germany who had learned nothing and who were hostile to anything relating to Israel.

He told the 2,000 persons present in the Hall of the Academy of Art that he was pleased at the opportunity to speak amid a large number of friends and people who themselves had suffered at the hands of the Nazis. He said there were Germans whom one could not forgive but that there were others who had done nothing and should not be subject to blame.

Dr. Heinrich Grueber, a long-time foe of the Nazis, was named honorary president of the Society. The president is Dr. Gerhard Jahn, a Social Democratic member of the Bundestag, the West German lower house of Parliament. The Society board includes former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Dr. Eugen Gerstenmair, president of the Bundestag, Dr. Carlo Schmidt, vice-president of the Bundestag, Munich Mayor Hans Fogel and other West German leaders. One of the vice-presidents is Ernst Bender, who initiated the successful effort to extend the deadline for prosecution of Nazi war criminals last year.

Other speakers, in addition to the Israel Ambassador, were Dr. Grueber, Mayor Willy Brandt of West Berlin, Ernst Lemmer of the Christian Democratic Party, and Dr. Adolf Arndt, a Social Democratic Member of Parliament, who outlined the tasks of the Society. A special choir of Cologne students who had worked in a kibbutz in Israel sang songs fluently in Hebrew as part of the program of the meeting.

COURT RULES AGAINST GERMAN MUNICIPALITY BANNING RIGHTIST CONVENTION

BONN, May 22. (JTA) -- The City of Karlsruhe has been forbidden by a local court to interfere with plans of the National Democratic Party to hold its national congress in that city, scheduled to be conducted there from June 17 to June 19.

Under the court order, the city will be obligated not only to permit the convening of the NDP congress, but also to designate a site for the conclave. The NDP is a fusion of various right-wing political parties, including some outright anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi groupings.

Karlsruhe's municipality has forbidden the holding of the NDP congress, and the lower court's ruling in favor of the party is being appealed to a higher court. However, there is doubt here whether the higher court will support the city, since the NDP is a legally established party. The NDP has scored significant successes throughout Germany in recent municipal and state elections.

LIBERALIZED IMMIGRATION LAW IS BEING SNARLED, SEN. KENNEDY CHARGES

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- The spirit of the Immigration Act of 1965, which liberalized United States entry requirements by eliminating the old national origins quota system, is being snarled by "red tape" and U.S. Labor Department regulations, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, charged here.

In an address during the weekend before the American Immigration and Citizenship Conference, Sen. Kennedy said that the Labor Department's interpretation of some of the clauses in the 1965 Act are "working a hardship on hundreds of thousands of people" whose entry could "fill a need in the United States." He said he had discussed the matter with Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz who "recognizes the situation and, I believe, will make every effort to find reasonable and cooperative answers to the undeniable problems which exist."

Sen. Kennedy, who was one of the principal backers of the Immigration Act of 1965, said that the chief problem concerns Labor Department regulations setting up categories of "open" and "closed" occupations. Would-be immigrants whose occupations are in "closed" categories will "almost certainly" be denied admission, even if they can get a job in the United States, Sen. Kennedy said.

NINE GROUPS SEEK VETO TO PREVENT LENDING BOOKS TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- Leaders of nine civic, religious and school groups -- including non-Jewish as well as Jewish organizations -- sent an appeal to Gov. Rockefeller today, requesting him to veto a bill passed last week by the New York State Legislature on aid to private and parochial schools in the provision of textbooks to pupils.

Under the measure as adopted, local school boards in New York State would be required to lend textbooks to pupils in parochial and private schools, with state funds reimbursing the local boards for such expenditures.

According to the appellants, the textbook "lending" bill would: "1) threaten the integrity of the public school system; 2) imperil the constitutional safeguards of separation of church and state; 3) delay further progress to end segregation in the public schools."

A number of Jewish Orthodox organizations supported the bill adopted in Albany. Among the opponents who asked Gov. Rockefeller to veto the measure are the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Protestant Council of the City of New York, United Parents Association, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Citizens Committee for Children of New York, the Public Education Association, and the Urban League of Greater New York.

N.Y. LEGISLATURE PASSES SABBATH BILL ON CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

ALBANY, N.Y., May 22. (JTA) -- A bill providing that Sabbath observers or those who observe a religious holiday need not take civil service examinations that conflict with their religious practices was passed finally this weekend by the New York State Legislature. The measure has been forwarded to Gov. Rockefeller for his signature.

The bill has been sponsored by three Bronx Democrats, Assemblyman Alexander Channau and State Senators Jerome Schutzer and Archie A. Gorfinkel. It provides that Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, or others whose religious practices forbid taking examinations on certain days, be permitted to "take such examinations on some other, mutually convenient day without any additional fee or penalty."

Until now, the sponsors told the Legislature, the New York City Municipal Civil Service Commission discriminated against Sabbatarians when examinations were scheduled on Saturdays. The sponsors of the legislation pointed out that Federal law and U.S. civil service regulations already provide relief for applicants taking Federal examination on religious holidays.

N.J. YOUNG REPUBLICANS GET DEADLINE TO RID THEMSELVES OF 'RAT FINKS'

WASHINGTON, May 22. (JTA) -- Sen. Clifford Case, New Jersey Republican, revealed this weekend that the New Jersey Republican Congressional delegation had given the New Jersey Young Republican Organization a June 1 deadline to rid itself of the extremist anti-Semitic "Rat Fink" element or face joint action by the Congressional delegation and the state Republican Party.

The "Rat Finks" have been under investigation by state and national G. O. P. bodies since January. Sen. Case made the disclosure on a television news program on "Extremism in America Today."

U.A.F.C. ANNOUNCES PLAN TO PUBLISH 'LIBERAL' COMMENTARY ON THE TORAH

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations announced plans here today for the publication of a "liberal" commentary on the Torah "to meet the problems and perplexities the Bible poses to modern man." The project, the first of its kind in the history of Reform Judaism, will be under the supervision of the Commission on Education of Reform Judaism, a joint body of the UAHC and the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, who reported details of the plan at the annual meeting of the UAHC's board of trustees, estimated that the project would take three to five years to complete and would involve expenditures of some \$250,000. He said that, "while drawing richly on the insights offered by traditional interpretations," the commentary "will seek to reinterpret the Bible in the light of contemporary scientific discoveries." He said the work "will use a bilingual -- Hebrew and English -- approach to the Biblical text."

ARGENTINE OFFICE OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PUBLISHES YEARBOOK

BUENOS AIRES, May 22. (JTA) -- A yearbook, the first of its kind providing comprehensive information on Jewish life in Latin America, has been published by the Buenos Aires office of the American Jewish Committee, it was announced here today.

The 200-page book includes data on the South American Jewish communities, their history, demography, educational, cultural and religious life, the Jewish press, community organizations and intergroup relations as well as a number of research articles and a directory of the major Jewish institutions. A major portion of the work is devoted to Argentine Jewish life.

JEWISH THEATER EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- The deadline for the submission of manuscripts to the 10th annual Golden Pen Playwriting Contest sponsored by the Jewish Theater for Children here has been extended to September 20, 1966, it was announced here today by Dr. Samuel Citron, executive secretary of the contest. A prize of \$1,000 is offered for the best full-length play for children in English on a Jewish theme and prize-winning manuscripts are given a professional production.

EX-PUBLISHER OF 'NATIONAL JEWISH LEDGER' LEAVES \$100,000 FOR CHARITY

WASHINGTON, May 22. (JTA) -- The late Thomas Gerber, former editor and publisher of the National Jewish Ledger, a local weekly, left an estate valued at an estimated \$250,000, bequeathing \$100,000 of the total to a new foundation to be devoted to research into advanced surgical methods for repairing heart damage, it was disclosed here this weekend prior to the probate of the will.

Mr. Gerber died recently of a heart attack at the age of 61. His wife, Kay, died at 58 last fall. They had operated the Ledger which, last summer, was sold to a new corporation that now publishes the Jewish Week here. The new heart foundation, the will provided, is to be headed by Dr. Charles Hufnagel, chief of heart surgery at Georgetown University and, when he surrenders that post, by the Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, in New York.

RABBI EISENDRATH HONORED ON 40th YEAR OF SERVICE IN THE RABBINATE

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson paid tribute to Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on the occasion of his 40th year in the rabbinate.

The head of the 660 Reform synagogue body in the United States and Canada was honored last night at a dinner by lay and rabbinic representatives at the Hotel Delmonico in New York City. President Johnson had Congressman Abraham Multer present Dr. Eisendrath with a personally inscribed color photograph paying tribute to the rabbi's four decades of "devoted religious and community service." Mr. Multer is a member of the UAHC's Board of Trustees.