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ESHKOL REPORTS TO CABINET ON SYRIAN THREATS; AIR PATROLS INCREASED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told his Cabinet here today that the Government is determined to defend itself "by all available means" against the threats to the peace on the northern border, arising from Syrian provocations in the Lake Tiberias area.

Mr. Eshkol reported at the Cabinet meeting on the situation along the Syrian border, where Syria has been massing troops and increasing tensions just beyond Lake Tiberias -- the body of water lying entirely within Israel's territory, where Israel shot down a Syrian-owned Soviet-built MIG-17 jet fighter last week, downing not only the plane but also its pilot.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported at the Cabinet meeting today on the developments of the diplomatic front in regard to the Syrian issue. Israel has notified every friendly power, through its diplomats in the various capitals and through conversations with foreign ambassadors here, of the tense situation along the Syrian border, Mr. Eban told the Cabinet,

Two huge searchlights atop the hills in Syria near the northeastern corner of Lake Tiberias turned their illumination on that area all through the night, last night. When daylight came, it was noted that there was intense military activity, on the ground and in the air, by both sides along the entire Tiberias area. Both Syrian and Israeli planes seemed to have increased their air patrols, each side alert but carefully staying within its own air space.

An Israeli Coast Guard vessel is still stranded on sandbanks in Lake Tiberias, about 200 yards from the far shore near the Syrian border. Syria has refused to lift its threats to bomb the Israeli salvage operations in the lake, unless Israel allows Syria to fish in Israel's lake for the lost airplane and the drowned pilot. Israel has refused, and still refuses, to permit Syria to fish for the plane and pilot in Israeli waters, although Israel has assured Syria, through the United Nations, that it would turn over to Syria both the plane and the pilot's body, after these are recovered by Israel.

Israel to Present to Moscow Full Background on Clash with Syria

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Katriel Katz, the Israeli Ambassador in Moscow, was instructed today to call at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and inform it fully of the background of the clash on August 15 between Syria and Israel at Lake Tiberias.

The envoy also was instructed to transmit to the Soviet officials the text of the recent Syrian statements declaring that Syria was changing its tactics toward Israel "from defensive to offensive."

Israel made some pertinent material on the situation available to the Soviets earlier this week when it invited the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv to the Israel Foreign Ministry as part of a general Israeli program to inform foreign diplomats about its views on the ground and air clash.

Syrians Set on War Against Israel, Damascus Report Says

LONDON, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The Syrians are set to make war against Israel, The Sunday Observer reported here today in a dispatch by its correspondent in Damascus. "Only a miracle," cabled the correspondent from the Syrian capital, "can now save the Syrian-Israeli border from exploding into fresh violence. Troops and planes are poised to strike on both sides of the line."

"The mood in Syria," the report continued, "is dangerously inflammable." The correspondent stressed that for the first time in many years, experienced observers believe large-scale warfare on the Syrian-Israeli frontier is possible.

According to The Sunday Observer's Damascus report, the new Syrian posture, changing from defensive to offensive, "is not a bluff or a mere propaganda exercise." The policy, the correspondent asserted, represents the "passionately held beliefs of the Syrian revolutionaries and the Baath Party extremists, who now run Syria." These younger men, he declared, are "profoundly impatient" with the "cautious Palestine policy" of Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt, and "went to carry war into Israel, whatever the cost."

INTERNATIONAL JURISTS BODY ASKED TO PROBE SOVIET 'ECONOMIC' TRIALS

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The sentencing to death last week in Moscow of a Jew accused of "economic crimes" prompted the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry today to ask the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, to determine if the Soviet Government has embarked on a new series of such trials and convictions as were held in 1961-64, which had anti-Semitic connotations.

The Jew sentenced to death by a Moscow court was an industrial engineer, M. Rabinovich. The announcement of the sentence raised the question of anti-Semitism among Soviet newspaper readers as well as among various Jewish and non-Jewish groups abroad. Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry wrote to the International Commission, as the agency which conducted a study of the economic crimes trials in the Soviet Union in the 1961-64 period.

(A Moscow dispatch printed today by The New York Times also reported that Soviet newspaper readers, reacting to the death sentence against Mr. Rabinovich, wonder whether there has been a revival of the practice under the Premiership of Nikita Khrushchev of using the Jews as scapegoats in economic trials. The dispatch attributes many of the 1961-64 death sentences against Jews convicted of economic crimes to the known fact that Khrushchev was personally anti-Semitic. The Times report reveals that Khrushchev had often referred to Jews as "Zhid," an insulting term equal to the word "Yid" or "Kike.")

The International Commission of Jurists is an association of more than 45,000 highly distinguished and respected judges, lawyers and jurists from countries throughout the world. Its exclusive concern is the investigation of problems and violations of the rule of law in all nations. Fearful that "Soviet authorities may once again embark on a road of scapegoating," Rabbi Miller recalled the Commission's concern that "it is a tragedy for the Soviet Jewish people that they have been made the scapegoat for the transgressions of those whose guilt it would be dangerous to make public."

The American Jewish Conference pointed out to the International Commission that the Commission reported that there had been, during the 1961-64 trials, "an insidious and sometimes subtle propaganda campaign directed against the Jewish people of the Soviet Union, specifically against those charged with economic crimes and also against the supposed general characteristics of Jews that have been reiterated for centuries. They (Jews) have been made the target of a dangerous propaganda campaign, and Jewish participation in economic crimes has been highlighted if not actually magnified."

In an assessment on Soviet Jewry published by the Conference earlier this year, it was reported that, in that period, at least 250 persons were executed for economic crimes. "More than 50 percent of these were Jews, and in some parts of the country -- for example, the Ukraine -- the percentage rose to 80," the Conference asserted. "These trials and death sentences were carried out to the accompaniment of an extraordinary press campaign that purveyed the most vicious anti-Semitic stereotypes. By mid-1964, the campaign ground to a halt, and with it the anti-Jewish press campaign and the singling out of Jews for capital punishment."

U.S. COMMUNISTS ADMIT MOSCOW SUPPRESSES JEWISH CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A draft resolution prepared by the national education department of the Communist Party of the United States, disclosed today, would call on the Government of the Soviet Union for "the restoration of the administratively suppressed Jewish cultural institutions." The draft was made public here in "Political Affairs," the theoretical monthly journal of the U.S. Communist Party. It stressed that it was prepared in response to proposals "relative to the Jewish question" made at the party's last national convention, last June.

A preface to the draft resolution indicated clearly that there is, as yet, no unanimity among the party's leaders on the approach to the Soviet Union regarding the Jewish question. The preface noted that the last convention ordered that a national conference "on work among the Jewish people and the fight against anti-Semitism" be convened. It is stated now that such a conference is tentatively scheduled for November 12 and 13 when the draft resolution is to be debated. "This procedure was decided upon because of the existence of differing views on a number of important questions and the need to thresh them out thoroughly, the preface stated.

The draft resolution would refer to reports of "Soviet anti-Semitism" as a "slander and outright fraud which must be rejected and fought." It would blame "suppression of Jewish cultural institutions and executions of cultural figures" on the Stalin regime, and would declare that there is "no official policy of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union" since "anti-Semitism and all other forms of national discrimination or privilege are prohibited by the Constitution of the USSR."

While thus defending the present USSR regime, the draft resolution was seen as conceding most of the criticisms leveled against the USSR in regard to anti-Jewish practices. It conceded: 1. "The existence of such shortcomings as the crude, fallacious, anti-religious

propaganda embodied in books of the Kichko or Schachnowitz varieties; 2. "Continued limitations such as lack of prayer books experienced by religious Jewish people; 3. "The absence of a campaign against persistent expressions of remnants of anti-Semitism; 4. "The slowness of restoration of Jewish culture." "All these have enabled the cold war instigators of the campaign regarding 'fraudulent Soviet anti-Semitism' to meet with a considerable degree of success in these efforts," the draft resolution said.

The draft resolution condemned "political Zionism," but claimed that Communists supported the establishment of Israel. It condemned the Israeli Government for the 1956 Sinai attack against Egypt, blaming Israel's "military aggression" on the policies of the then Israel Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, charging Mr. Ben-Gurion with oppressing the Arab minority in Israel and with "refusal to recognize the rights of the more than 1,000,000 Arab refugees." It blamed Ben-Gurion for entering into economic and diplomatic relations with West Germany, and said that the people of Israel have given up the "activist" Ben-Gurion "pro-Imperialist" policies, crediting the current Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol, with "bettering relations with the Socialist countries."

The draft also blamed "regrettably a number of Arab leaders, some of them outright reactionaries" for advocating war against Israel. It called on both Israel and the Arab states to reach agreement "in the spirit of Tashkent" as "essential to peace in the Middle East."

ISRAEL PONDERES OVER PERMITTING WESTERN EXAMINATION OF SOVIET MIG

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Official Israeli sources said today that Israel had not yet received any official request from any country for permission to examine the Soviet-built MIG-21 flown to Israel last Tuesday by an Iraqi Air Force captain in a bid for political asylum.

The Israel Government was continuing to examine the issue from all angles against a background of reports that several western governments were interested in a close look at the first Soviet MIG ever to land in a non-Communist or non-Arab country. There were reports that the Government might prepare an official communique on the matter. This was expected to stress that the MIG-21 belongs to Israel and that Israel alone is entitled to examine and study it.

The Israeli press continued today to be split on whether technical information about the advanced Soviet fighter jet should be made available to the United States and other friendly countries. The leftist newspapers remained adamant in opposition to such action on grounds that it would cause further deterioration of Israeli-Soviet relations.

Independent newspapers, such as Haaretz and Yediot Ahronot, recalled that the Soviet Union recently adopted a more hostile stand toward Israel while the United States was actively cooperating with Israel in the field of aviation. Those newspapers contended that if the United States trained Israeli technicians in the use of Hawk supersonic ground-to-air anti-aircraft missiles to fight Soviet-supplied MIGs, it was only fair that Israel should share with the United States information useful in fighting such Soviet-built planes, the main air weapon used by North Viet Nam against American military forces.

Informed sources said there was no chance whatever that Israel would return to Iraq the pilot and the MIG-21. They noted that Iraq had not even signed an armistice agreement with Israel.

HISTADRUT COUNCIL MEETS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF NAMING CONTROLLER

TEL AVIV, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The central council of the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, held a two-day meeting this weekend without being able to reach a decision on the controversial issue of electing a controller and left the issue for later action by the Histadrut executive council.

Delegates from Mapam, former Premier David Ben-Gurion's dissident Israel Workers Party (Rafi) and of Gahal, the Eretz-Liberal alignment had opposed such a post which had been urged as a means of more effective control of Histadrut enterprises. Under pressure of the dominant Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment, Mapam delegates withdrew their adamant opposition. However, every party was divided on both the proposal for a controller and on means of electing one.

Aharon Becker, Histadrut secretary-general, told the first session that the conclave would deal with three problems. One was that of unifying control of the institutions of Histadrut, the second was changing the current system of election of work committees, and the third would be introducing changes in the Histadrut constitution to update the "decade-old" clauses governing the convening of the management body.

He also stressed the Histadrut's growing concern over growing joblessness in Israel and said a special session of the Histadrut executive would consider unemployment and Government economic policy.

ARGENTINE BISHOP DENIES HE SAID JEWISH DOCTORS MAY LOSE HOSPITAL JOBS

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- An Argentine bishop who was quoted by an Uruguay newspaper of having said that Jewish doctors in this country may lose their positions in hospitals denied today that he was quoted accurately.

The clergyman, Bishop Jeronimo Jose Podesta, of suburban Avellandea, was quoted as making that statement in an interview printed in the Uruguayan weekly, *Marcha*. That weekly has been barred by the new military regime ruling Argentina. Today, Bishop Podesta said that the weekly had completely misinterpreted him, declaring the statement in *Marcha* was "unauthorized." The statement in *Marcha*, he said, "creates regrettable confusion."

An Argentine leader scheduled to become Ambassador to the United States said here today that he had found on a recent tour of the United States that "some opinion media" were "developing a campaign to create the impression that in Argentina there exists an anti-Semitic attitude."

Alvaro Alsogaray discussed his tour of the United States and several European capitals made on an assignment from the new Government of Lt. Gen. Juan Carlos Onganía to explain that government. He said he believed that this "campaign" would continue "for some time yet." He said that "in informed circles" in the United States, "not too much importance is assigned to this campaign" but that "it has damaged us."

N. Y. STATE COURT RULES AGAINST LENDING TEXTBOOKS TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A ruling that a New York state law which mandates public school systems to lend textbooks to Christian and Jewish religious schools is unconstitutional was seen today as setting the stage for a final court test of the controversial law. The ruling was issued this weekend.

The Ferrall-Mangano law, which was enacted in 1965 and amended at the last legislative session, was to have gone into effect September 1. The law would give school districts up to \$15 for each pupil annually in state funds for three years for the purchase of textbooks to be "loaned" to pupils of both public and non-public schools. After three years, the pupil allowance would drop to a \$10 limit. The state grants were set for all pupils, public and non-public, in grades seven through 12.

A split between Jewish groups on the issue of government aid to religious schools marked debate on the measure during its enactment and after it was signed into law. Orthodox Jewish groups supported the measure and hailed its enactment. Jewish civil rights groups assailed the measure. It was estimated that non-public school pupils in New York City were to have received about \$1,250,000 worth of books this year under the Ferrall-Mangano Act.

The ruling on the law was made by State Supreme Court Justice T. Paul Kane, who held that the law violated both the New York State and federal constitutional provisions on separation of church and state. He held that "pupils are part of the school" and that aid to pupils was the same as aid to schools. Both federal and state programs of such aid were based on the premise that since the aid was directed to children, and not to the institutions they attended, the program did not violate the constitutional ban on aid to religion.

Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., New York State Education Commissioner, said he expected the ruling would be appealed. The decision on such action will be made by New York State Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz. Mr. Allen said "we have long needed legal clarification in this field of public policy and I expect this case will be appealed so that a final court decision will be available for future guidance."

IRISH JEWS DEDICATE FOREST IN ISRAEL IN TRIBUTE TO DE VALERA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A delegation of Jews from Ireland dedicated a forest near Nazareth being planted as a tribute to President Eamon de Valera by Ireland's Jewish community.

The delegation was headed by Prof. Marvin Abrahamson, a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, acting as personal representative of Mr. de Valera. Others attending were representatives of the Jewish National Fund which is planting 15,000 trees on JNF land.

The ceremony took place in rockstrewn foothills a few miles from Kfar Hianna. A message was read from Premier Levi Eshkol in which he declared that he saw in the planting a "fitting expression of the traditional friendship between Ireland and Israel, which have so much in common."