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ISRAEL READY TO MEET SYRIA AT CONFERENCE TABLE; SYRIA REJECTS BID

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Israel is ready to meet with Syria face-to-face in a special, extraordinary meeting of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission to negotiate over problems of the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian border. Syria, according to Damascus broadcasts today, holds Israel guilty of "aggressive intentions," will continue its present policies, and will "crush any aggression from Israel."

These were the reactions today to an urgent appeal from Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations, addressed directly to both countries with the request for "a prompt and cooperative response." Mr. Thant said he considered the situation so urgent that he had taken the "unusual step" of informing the Security Council members individually of his action. The Secretary-General acted on receipt of reports of a build-up of heavy arms, armor and troops on both sides of the line. He said that "it is clear that the situation threatens to erupt at any moment into a large-scale clash of military forces in overt violation of Security Council resolutions and of the Israel-Syria general armistice agreement."

But even as the Secretary-General was taking these measures, further acts of sabotage and violence were being reported from Israel and on Sunday, Joel Barromi, acting head of the Israel delegation, submitted the fifth note this month to the president of the Security Council protesting against two new weekend outrages: the mine-laying incident at Dishon, which resulted in the death of a soccer game spectator, and a series of shootings on Lake Tiberias. Mr. Barromi met with the president of the Security Council, Jose Maria Ruda, of Argentina, at the Argentine Embassy last night.

Intense Diplomatic Activity in Many Capitals

In Jerusalem, Lieut. Gen. Odd Bull, head of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, called at the Israeli Foreign Ministry this morning to deliver a copy of U Thant's appeal and to discuss its contents.

Later, Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban summoned a press conference to affirm Israel's readiness to meet the Syrians and to warn that Israel would not tolerate further Syrian aggression.

At the United Nations, Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, speaking for the United States Government, announced support of U Thant's peace initiative.

Tonight, Michael S. Comay, permanent representative of Israel, conferred with Mr. Thant after a hurried flight from Jerusalem.

In Washington, Minister Ephraim Evron called on Acting Assistant Secretary of State William Handley and expressed Israel's concern over the continuing pattern of Arab attacks. He voiced hope that the United States and all other governments would use all possible influence with Syria to bring about a cessation of provocations.

Earlier in Washington, a delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was received by Under-Secretary of State Nicholas De B. Katzenbach who, a delegation spokesman reported, indicated a "sympathetic understanding" of the problem imposed on Israel by Syrian provocations.

EBAN SAYS ISRAEL IS READY TO TALK WITH SYRIA ON BORDER CONDITIONS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban warned today that "Israel will not tolerate Syrian aggression" and appealed to world public opinion to express itself fittingly in the wake of the current wave of Syrian terror, minings and shootings.

At the same time, Mr. Eban, who spoke at a press conference in his office, expressed Israel's readiness to negotiate with Syria over the rights to arable lands in the demilitarized zones in a special, extraordinary meeting of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission which has not met for the past 12 years. Mr. Eban promised Israel's participation in such a MAC meeting in spite of the fact that he said it was his firm belief that the current tension and bloodshed along Israel's borders were not connected with any quarrels

over the demilitarized zones as United Nations Secretary-General U Thant had intimated. The Foreign Minister said that such an extraordinary MAC meeting would be convened, however, only with a fixed agenda and with no vote taking. He said it should deal with land rights along the border and would thus be, according to observers here, a sort of direct Israel-Syrian negotiation within United Nations framework.

As one example of Syrian-inspired terrorism, Mr. Eban cited the "ugly and brutal aggression of Dishon" near the Lebanese border, in which an Israeli spectator at a soccer game last Saturday was killed in the explosion of a land mine and two Israeli soccer players were injured.

Replying to questions, Mr. Eban said that Israel does not intend to ask for a meeting of the Security Council on the Syrian-inspired terror. Examination of the Security Council's resolutions on such complaints in the past, the Foreign Minister declared, makes it easy to judge their effects. He said that Israel puts more weight on asking friendly governments to exert their influence on the Damascus regime to lessen the tension, terror and bloodshed in the area.

Mr. Eban explained that although Israel holds Lebanon responsible for the Dishon mining -- MAC regulations place responsibility on the government from whose territory infiltrators and aggressors come -- it realizes that the greatest responsibility rests with Damascus.

Mr. Eban said that one of the most disturbing factors in the recent increased tension was the evident escalation brought about by Syria having brought tanks into defensive zones along the border.

UNITED STATES BACKS U THANT INITIATIVE; ISRAELIS SEEK STRONG U.S. STAND

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, U.S. Chief Delegate to the United Nations, expressed the concern of the U.S. Government today over the recent incidents along the Syrian-Israeli border and "with the apparent recurrence of terrorist activities in the Middle East and the increase of tension in the area."

Ambassador Goldberg declared in a statement today that the U.S. would "welcome any effort which may lead to the alleviation of this tension" and declared that it supports the initiative taken by U.N. Secretary-General U Thant.

"We have consistently endorsed the use of U.N. machinery to maintain peace in that area and continue to do so," the statement said.

In Washington, Minister Ephraim Evron of the Israel Embassy called on Acting Assistant Secretary of State William Handley and expressed the concern of the Israel Government over the continuing pattern of Arab attacks. He also voiced hope that the United States and other governments would use all possible influence with Syria to bring about a cessation of provocations.

Israeli officials in Washington charged that Syria was pursuing a deliberate policy of harassment of Israel and voiced hope that Syria would desist before the situation deteriorated further. It was noted that in the last 24 hours Syrian officials have announced that guerrilla warfare against Israel was being escalated and a "war of national liberation" undertaken.

The Israelis stressed that they had shown great restraint but would have to take action to see that their borders were respected. Israeli sources cited the failure of the U.N. machinery to deal with Syrian violence. There was a suggestion made that the recent one-sided condemnation of Israel by the U.N. gave the Syrians a feeling of immunity.

American Jewish Delegation Finds 'Sympathetic Understanding' at State Dept.

Rabbi Joachim Prinz, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, headed a delegation which conferred for 45 minutes at the State Department today with Under-Secretary of State Nicholas de B. Katzenbach. Members of the delegation indicated that Mr. Katzenbach had shown a "sympathetic understanding" of Israel's situation. Rabbi Prinz said it came away with the impression that Mr. Katzenbach shared "our concern." He depicted Mr. Katzenbach as "very receptive." The rabbi said: "He assured us that the United States Government would consider seriously what we presented."

Rabbi Prinz said the delegation told Mr. Katzenbach of "the concern of the American Jewish community which borders on alarm about daily provocations on Israel's borders. We pointed out to him that Israel might reach the breaking point, finding itself in the cruel dilemma" of having citizens subjected to attack and death.

In a situation such as this, he said, a free and independent country inhabited by "people persecuted and harassed all their lives," who finally had found a haven, "cannot easily be controlled." He expressed hope that the United States Government would encourage

"the stable Government of Israel, under Prime Minister Eshkol, who has shown courageous restraint." The proposed encouragement, he said, should take the form of condemnation "in every way possible of the aggressive acts of Syria."

Rabbi Prinz said the delegation expressed a view that equation of acts of aggression with acts of defense "could not be helpful" in stabilizing the area. He hoped that together with U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, the United States would work for greater stability in the Near East. The delegation wanted the U.S. Government to express abhorrence of the Syrian terrorism and "cease to equate defense with attack."

In addition to Rabbi Prinz, the delegation included Henry Rapaport, president of the United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Herschel Schacter, president of Mizrachi Religious Zionists Organization; and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference.

Foreign Affairs Committee Member Says Israel Has Right of Self-Defense

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Rep. Leonard Farbstein, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, stated in Congress today that "Israel has a basic sovereign right to defend herself against Syrian terrorism and aggression." The New York Democrat said that "Israel has a natural and inherent right to fight back against aggression, the same as the United States or any other law-abiding nation."

Rep. Farbstein added that "Syria's disregard of the representations by the Secretary-General of the United Nations makes evident that Israel has a right to protect herself."

NEW SABOTAGE INCIDENTS REPORTED ALONG LEBANESE, SYRIAN BORDERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Syria's all-out sabotage offensive against Israel continued unabated today with the mining of a water conduit under a road leading to the Israeli village of Vidmit near the Lebanese border in western Galilee. No one was injured in the explosion of the mine which was laid by marauders last night but the road and the conduit were both damaged. Movement along the road was interrupted but resumed later today. The latest incident occurred some 500 yards from the Lebanese border and a mile and a half from the village.

Later three Mark VII anti-vehicle mines were discovered in a field in Tel Katzir near the Syrian border. The field had been cultivated daily in recent weeks and the mines planted last night by Syrians from the nearby Tawfiq position.

Meanwhile, as the investigation proceeded today into the mining of a soccer field at Dishon Saturday in which an Israeli spectator was killed and two soccer players were injured, it became increasingly evident that Syrians were responsible for that murder.

Trackers followed footprints of saboteurs who entered from Lebanon, but after placing anti-personnel mines and explosives at the Dishon water pumping station they continued towards Syria. By nightfall last night, the trackers reached a point two-and-a-half miles from the Syrian border opposite Tel Hilal. Along the route, remains of food were found.

Saudi Arabian Gunboat Repulsed in Attack on Israeli Fishing Vessel

EILAT, Israel, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The first incident in recent years between Israel and Saudi Arabia occurred last night when a Saudi gunboat in the Red Sea attempted to board an Israeli fishing vessel bound for this port at a point 26 miles from here.

As the gunpoint approached the Israeli ship, "Lamerhav," one of the Saudi sailors fired rifle shots at the fishing vessel but no one on board was hit. The Saudi gunboat fled, however, when the skipper of the Israeli boat fired two pistol shots at it, one of the bullets penetrating a glass window on the gunboat's bridge.

An Israeli patrol boat was dispatched to aid the fishing craft but the latter was already nearing Eilat and both boats entered the port during the night. The crew members of the Israeli fishing boat are all Ethiopians except for the skipper and the engineer, who are Israelis.

IRAQI MILITARY DELEGATION INVITED FOR THREE-WEEK VISIT TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- An Iraqi military delegation has been invited to the United States for a three-week visit to tour military installations and possibly discuss acquisition of U.S. arms. The Iraqi delegation will be headed by Maj. Gen. Hassan Sabri Mohammed Ali, assistant army chief-of-staff, who left Baghdad for Washington Monday accompanied by a delegation of high-ranking Iraqi officers.

The visit will be "official." The group includes the commanding officers of the Iraqi military academy, the presidential group and two field divisions. U.S. sources said it was hoped that Iraq might develop a closer relationship with the United States in the military area to balance its present almost total dependence on the Soviet Union.

ZIONISTS URGE SOVIET TO RELAX JEWISH POLICY; WARN OF NAZI REVIVAL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Zionist Actions Committee, the ruling body of the world Zionist movement between Congresses, concluded its weeklong session here last night by adopting resolutions urging the Soviet Union to remedy the situation of Jews in the USSR and calling for increased vigilance against neo-Nazi tendencies in West Germany.

The resolution on Soviet Jewry welcomed Premier Alexei Kosygin's recent statement promising that the USSR Government would do everything possible to facilitate the reunification of Russian Jews with relatives abroad and expressed satisfaction over certain positive steps taken to ameliorate the cultural and religious life of Russian Jews.

It stressed, however, that Russian Jewry was "still bereft of essential media and institutions required to transmit Jewish culture to the younger generations and to maintain contacts with their brethren throughout the world." The Actions Committee delegates urgently called on the Soviet Union to remedy this situation and expressed hope that the USSR would also use its influence to ease tensions in the Middle East.

The resolution on Germany, which was approved after a stronger Mapam proposal was rejected, also condemned the refusal by East Germany to make restitution to Nazi victims and expressed dismay over that country's support of Arab hostility toward Israel. Representatives of Mapam and Achdut Avedah voted against the majority resolution and Ezerut abstained.

Resolution Stresses Primacy of Immigration for Zionists

In a resolution on immigration, the Actions Committee delegates reasserted once again that immigration to Israel was the main basis of the Zionist movement. It called on Zionist organizations throughout the world to encourage emigration to Israel and urged individual members themselves to settle in Israel. The resolution also stressed immigration from Western countries, which, it said, would contribute to Israel's economic recovery, but called upon Israel to make a greater contribution towards the social and economic integration of the immigrants, with particular emphasis on the first arrivals from the Soviet Union already in Israel under the reunification of families scheme.

Another resolution called for the creation of a "Zionist Council for Israel" whose task would be to develop the consciousness of Jewish unity and Zionism within Israel. The resolution called on the proposed Council to "propagate knowledge and information about the Diaspora in Israel and to encourage all actions liable to aid the social and cultural absorption of immigrants within Israeli society."

Foreign Minister Eban Cites Objectives of Israel Policy

In an address on Israel's foreign policy, Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban listed as the country's four main objectives: a closer integration into the European Economic Community; an extension of technical cooperation with other developing countries; the stimulation of "realistic attitudes" in the Middle East; and efforts to achieve agreement among the four major world powers to support the status quo in the area. Israel's foreign policy, Mr. Eban stressed, must be geared not only to immediate problems but also to more distant objectives.

In an address at the concluding session of the Actions Committee, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, called upon Jews throughout the world to rally around Israel and to come to her assistance with all possible means at this difficult moment in her existence.

"No Jewish problem anywhere in the world can be solved unless Israel's existence and strengthening is first assured," Dr. Goldmann declared, adding: "We must give Israel the feeling that it can securely count on Jews throughout the world."

Earlier in the debate, Dr. Goldmann reasserted his own intention of maintaining contact with West Germany's Government and with its head whoever he might be, as a necessity for the Jewish people and its institutions.

S. Z. Shragai, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, disclosed during the Actions Committee sessions that a total of 140,000 persons or 12 percent of all of Israel's immigrants, had left the country. Only a very small minority of those leaving, he said, had been new immigrants -- less than five years in the country. The overwhelming majority, he pointed out, were either Israeli-born or old settlers who were here before the establishment of the State.

More than 10 percent of those immigrants who left the country or 15,000 of the emigres, had since returned to Israel, mainly because of requests by their children or for sentimental reasons, Mr. Shragai noted.

U.N. AGENCY ASKED TO STUDY NEO-NAZI RISE; ALERT WORLD TO BIAS CASES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Isaac Lewin, representing the Agudath Israel World Organization, urged the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities today to take immediate steps to combat neo-Nazism in Germany.

Dr. Lewin told the subcommittee that "in the country where the cancer of racial discrimination grew to unparalleled dimensions until it caused World War II, suddenly the movement has been revived." He stressed that neo-Nazism in Germany was connected with racist organizations in other countries and urged the subcommittee to include in its study of racial discrimination, a special chapter dealing with neo-Nazism and its relation to Nazism. "Ways have to be found," Dr. Lewin declared, "particularly in education, to counteract the influence of writings advocating racism."

(Israel Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan, speaking in Goettingen, Germany, warned that the fact that such an organization as the German National Democratic Party existed must be taken seriously. A public opinion poll, revealed over the week-end, confirmed reports of the growing popularity of the neo-Nazi party. The poll estimated that the party could win 15 percent of the vote if elections were to be held now in a number of West German states.)

(At Ottawa, the leaders of the Conservative and Social Credit Parties asked the government in the House of Commons to advise the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation against a scheduled television appearance of Adolf von Thadden, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party. The president of the Canadian Labor Congress also protested. The Canadian Jewish Congress had previously warned that von Thadden's appearance would result in massive protests.)

In a related development, Dr. William Korey, speaking for the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, urged the subcommittee to establish a system of annual "work-in-progress" reports "to alert world opinion to specific instances of incitement to hate." Dr. Korey drew the attention of the subcommittee to "incitatory hate propaganda" conducted against the Jews in Guatemala by Vice-President Clemente Marroquin Rojas, a newspaper publisher. This incitement, Dr. Korey said, had taken on a "menacing character." Disclosure of such developments in a "work-in-progress" report by the subcommittee, he said "could go a long way to counteract and halt indicated dangers."

ICA LEADER SEES NO DANGER TO ARGENTINE JEWS UNDER ONGANIA REGIME

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Sir Henry D'Avigdor Goldsmid, president of the Jewish Colonization Association, said here today that "after a short visit here, my impression is that as long as Gen. (Juan Carlos) Ongania remains in power, the Jewish community need not fear outbreaks of persecution, and discrimination." Sir Henry, who came here with Victor Girmounsky, director-general of ICA, to study the situation of the ICA Jewish settlements, said he had found conditions more stable than people believed. He noted that the Ongania regime had gotten off to "a bad start" and that "there was a feeling of a floating anti-Semitic character" but he added that "President Ongania realized this would have been a mistake."

Continued inflation in Argentina, Sir Henry said, had compelled ICA to revise some of its plans. He noted, however, that the Jewish colonists enjoyed a higher standard of living than ever before and said they were a stable element, remaining on their farms rather than seeking city life as was the case some years ago.

UJA LEADERS WARN OF 'MOST DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS' PERIOD FACING ISRAEL

CHICAGO, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas urged governmental and voluntary agencies engaged in foreign aid to emulate the United Jewish Appeal by placing greater emphasis on aiding people to raise their standard of living. Justice Fortas spoke before the UJA Midwest Leadership Institute.

Others who addressed the two-day conference were Max M. Fisher, Detroit, UJA general chairman; Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman; Leonard D. Bell of Lewiston, Me., chairman, UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet; and Mrs. Harry L. Jones, Detroit, national chairman, UJA Women's Division.

Mayor Kollek revealed that both Israel and the municipalities were desperately short of the tax revenues needed to undertake the monumental job of bringing Israel's immigrants to a state of self-support.

Mr. Fisher and Rabbi Friedman declared that Israel was entering one of the most difficult and dangerous periods in its brief history, and warned that unless American Jews came forth with a renewed burst of generous aid, many of the gains Israel has recorded over the past 18 years may be lost due to economic recession, huge unresolved immigrant absorption problems and the threat of Arab aggression. A warning that the unabsorbed immigrant is a greater danger to Israel than Arab guerrilla fighters was made by Rabbi Friedman.

PRESIDENT NAMES THREE JEWISH JURISTS TO FEDERAL BENCH

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- President Johnson has nominated Prof. Jack B. Weinstein, of New York, and Justice Myron L. Gordon, of Madison, Wisc., to fill vacancies in the Federal District Courts of New York and Wisconsin. He has also designated Milton D. Korman, an instructor at Southeastern University, as an associate justice of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions.

Prof. Weinstein was named to the bench in the Eastern District of New York. Justice Gordon, a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, will serve as Federal judge for eastern Wisconsin.

ASK FCC TO RECONSIDER RULING ON ANTI-SEMITIC BROADCASTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union and the United Church of Christ have joined with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in petitions to the Federal Communications Commission to reconsider its decision of last June renewing the license of Radio Station KTYM of Inglewood, Cal. The station was accused of broadcasting false and defamatory material of an anti-Semitic nature. The FCC held that the station had fulfilled its obligations by offering radio time for replies to those mentioned in its broadcasts.

In his petition today to the FCC which is shortly to decide whether to reopen the Station KTYM case, Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, urged the Commission to "reaffirm its long-standing policy and hold that a licensee has an affirmative duty to screen out and withhold from the air material promoting religious prejudice which he knows, or on reasonable inquiry should know, is false." As it stands, Mr. Abram said, the FCC ruling permits stations to carry programs "which promote religious prejudice as a regular and continuous policy."

The American Civil Liberties Union argued that the mere chance to reply to a broadcast slander did not necessarily meet the need for balanced programming of controversial issues.

KATZ SAYS JEWISH CENTERS MUST RETAIN SECTARIAN CHARACTER

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Jewish community centers should maintain their sectarian character "in order to achieve the stated aim of developing a positive attitude toward our Judaism and a commitment to the meaningful continuity of Jewish life in our community," Label A. Katz, former international president of B'nai B'rith, affirmed here last night.

Mr. Katz called for an end to the policy of some Jewish community centers in providing for admission of a limited proportion of non-Jews as members. He charged that this constituted a "silent quota system." Jewish centers, he declared, should declare their membership policies openly.

Mr. Katz told the executive committee of B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge No. 7 that the Jewish Community Center in New Orleans had "deviated from its original purpose and is being converted from a Jewish sectarian agency into a non-sectarian institution." He accused the center of "substituting pseudo-liberalism for their Judaism" and pointed out that, according to its charter, the center had been founded "to assist our Jewish citizens to develop a positive identification with Jewish life."

Mr. Katz recalled that he had been one of 140 members of the New Orleans Jewish Community Center who had protested the admission of 18 non-Jewish families to center membership. The center has since halted admission to non-Jewish families pending the report of a study committee, but present non-Jewish members may retain their membership "at their option." This was, said Mr. Katz, "a silent and subtle quota system which is violative of our Jewish heritage and of our democratic legacy." If the center is to adopt an open membership policy, he said, "then it must be a true open-membership policy. That is, admit all applications irrespective of race, color or creed, without limitation."

EDWARD M.M. WARBURG TO HEAD NEW YORK UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Edward M.M. Warburg, retired chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, was elected president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York here tonight. Mr. Warburg, whose election came at the annual meeting of the organization's board of directors, succeeds Monroe Goldwater, an attorney who has held the position of president for 16 of the past 18 years.

Gustave L. Levy, president of Mount Sinai Hospital, was elected chairman of the board of the organization. Mr. Levy, a senior partner of Goldman, Sachs & Co., succeeds Samuel Hausman, an industrialist who has been chairman of the board since 1957.

Mr. Warburg gave 25 years of service to the Joint Distribution Committee. A member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York since 1958, he was appointed Governor Rockefeller's special assistant on cultural affairs last September.