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Eshkol Warns Arabs of Immediate Retaliation for Shelling of Israeli Settlements

TEL AVIV, April 30, (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol warned today that Israel will not tolerate Arab shelling of Israeli settlements, and, when such attacks take place, "If there be no mistake -- we shall reply and our reaction will be immediate and unhesitant."

The Premier made Israel's position clear in an interview in Maariv, Israel's leading evening newspaper. Referring to the continuing acts of sabotage along the borders, he declared: "We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of reacting to every act of mining or other type of sabotage. But we shall not tolerate the shelling of our settlements. If they are shelled, there will be reaction. I cannot say what form it will take, but the Syrians will get the reaction."

Mr. Eshkol recalled in that connection Israel's action against Syria, on April 7, when Israel's Air Force downed six Soviet-made MIG-21 jet fighters flown by Syrians, after the Syrians had shelled Israeli settlements in the north. He revealed that he had himself sat in Israel's Air Force operating room that day, and had given instructions for Israel's Air Force to go into action "in order to counter Syria's superiority -- due to Syria's superior topographical positions -- in operating its guns and mortars against the Israeli settlements." He said he had given the orders to pursue the Syrian-flown MIGs. Mr. Eshkol is not only the Premier but is also Minister of Defense.

In reply to questions on other issues related to Arab hostility, Mr. Eshkol said: "Our invitation to Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser to come to peace talks with Israel still stands. The same is true also regarding the leaders of Syria. I told an interviewer for U.S. News and World Report (a weekly newsmagazine published in Washington) recently that, whenever we ask for American arms, we are told we cannot spend money for this purpose because the American Sixth Fleet is there (in the Mediterranean). My reply is that the Sixth Fleet might be too late, for some reason or other, when it is needed. Therefore, Israel must rely on her own strength."

Regarding Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, he stated "I think there is some slight change for the better in the Russian attitude. But one must have a sensitive ear to monitor it." Asked for his reaction to Israel's trade agreement with Rumania, concluded last week, he said: "It is an impressive achievement reached after prolonged negotiations. It might open the door for us to the East European bloc."

As for Israel's internal economic situation, Mr. Eshkol said "there are already signs of increased production and export, which are the real aims of our policy of restraint."

Acts of Arab Sabotage Continue in Israel; Bridge Blasted

TEL AVIV, April 30, (JTA) -- Another act of sabotage was committed in Israel early today, when an explosive blew up under an old bridge on the Beersheba-Hebron road, a few miles south of the Jordanian border. The action was the third during the current Passover week, and the 106th act of sabotage inside Israel since 1965. No one was injured in the blast, and the bridge suffered only minor damage.

A waterpipe was blown up Friday near Kibbutz Hagoshrim, about a mile from the Syrian border. Explosives had been placed at that site at three different points. Here, too, no one was injured. Israeli army patrols here found three sets of footprints leading to the Syrian border.

The sabotage action near Jordan was also attributed by Israeli army investigators to terrorist gangs organized in or directed from Syria. Near the blasted bridge, investigators found stenciled pamphlets signed by "Al Assifa," one of the terrorist groups organized under the sabotage bands of El Fatah. The pamphlets had been stenciled on the same paper as others found in the Lachish and Arad areas, after recent acts of sabotage had been committed there.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, renewed today his efforts to resume meetings of an extraordinary session of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, which was adjourned indefinitely in February.

U.S. Instructs Ambassador Not to Attend Israel Parade in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, April 30. (JTA) -- Informed sources said here today it was increasingly doubtful whether envoys of most foreign countries represented in Israel would attend Israel's Independence Day parade here on May 15.

Reports indicated that the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union have already sent instructions to their representatives here to stay away from the event, though Israel has indicated it will adhere strictly to bans on display of weapons in Jerusalem as required by the armistice agreements. For example, there will be no tanks in this year's parade.

The Israel Foreign Ministry has not as yet issued formal invitations to the parade, and it is therefore not known which countries will attend and which will not. However, it was believed that representatives of some of the African and Latin American states and some East European countries may attend. Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, was not expected to attend.

Israel Delegation Leaves for Leningrad; Israel Diplomat Confers in Moscow

TEL AVIV, April 30. (JTA) -- Israel's Labor Minister, Yigal Allon, left here today for Leningrad to head Israel's delegation to the International Conference on Social Security, convened in the Soviet city. It will be the first visit ever paid by a member of Israel's Cabinet to the USSR. Israel's delegation to the parley includes, in addition to Mr. Allon, representatives of various Israeli sick funds and the national social security administration.

Meanwhile it was reported here today that Ambassador Gideon Raphael, Israel's new permanent representative at the United Nations, met in Moscow this week with Vladimir Emionov, the Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. The two diplomats reportedly discussed the United Nations and Middle East affairs. Israeli Ambassador Katriel Katz took part in the talk.

Mr. Raphael has been in Moscow 10 days. He went there before going to the United States to take up his duties at the U.N., after he was informed that Soviet officials were willing to meet with him informally. The session with Mr. Emionov was his first meeting with a Soviet official. Mr. Raphael will leave Russia for the United States in a few days.

Passover Vigil for Soviet Jewry Held in 16 U.S. Cities; Continues All Night

NEW YORK, April 30. (JTA) -- Thirty-eight Jewish communal, religious and youth organizations from every part of New York, joined by many prominent civic leaders representing the state and city, held a Passover Vigil for Soviet Jewry here today. Similar vigils were held in 15 other cities throughout the United States.

The New York vigil was a 24-hour event which started yesterday after sundown with a Havdalah service, after which Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, addressed an open-air rally. It continued through the night, when about 75 youths held an all-night "pray-in." It was concluded with ceremonies late this afternoon, with addresses by prominent personalities and the formal signing of a proclamation, carrying thousands of signatures, to be presented to Soviet Government and United Nations officials, calling upon the Soviet Government to end discriminatory regulations and practices directed at Soviet Jewry in the religious, educational, social and economic fields, and to permit the emigration of Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union for the purpose of family reunifications.

During the daylight hours today, the number of participants varied between several hundred and several thousand, the crowd increasing considerably during the afternoon. The proceedings were held in Hammarcksjöla Plaza, a park-like area facing the United Nations complex, where a "Freedom Tent" flanked a platform from which addresses were delivered.

Among those who addressed the closing rally this afternoon were Rep. Jonathan Bingham, New York Democrat, who is sponsoring a Congressional resolution in behalf of Soviet Jewry; New York City Building Commissioner Charles G. Moerdler, representing Mayor Lindsay; David Ross, vice-chairman of New York's City Council; the Rev. Charles Thorne, representing the Protestant Council of New York; Norman Thomas, the Socialist leader, representing the International League for the Rights of Man; and Dr. Jacob Sable, director of the New York State Office of Economic Opportunity.

Rabbi Jacob Goldberg, chairman of the New York Coordinating Committee of the Passover Vigil for Soviet Jewry, said similar rallies were held today in Atlanta, Boston, Camden, N.J., Charleston, S.C., Cincinnati, Detroit, Hartford, Conn., Highland Park, Ill., Indianapolis, Newark, N.J., New Brunswick, N.J., New Orleans, Springfield, Mass., Utica and Waterbury, Conn.

(The Associated Press reported today from the Soviet port city of Odessa, which once had about 90 synagogues, that there is only one synagogue existing today in the city, where an estimated quarter of a million Jews still live. The synagogue has a rabbi, Israel B. Szwarzblatt, who is 54 years old, but it has no prayer books. It has 800 seats, but on high holidays as many as 10,000 worshippers seek entrance there. The report quoted Jewish sources in the Soviet Union as stating that Kiev, the capital of Soviet Ukraine, where 250,000 Jews reside, has no rabbi. Nor are there rabbis in Riga, capital of Soviet Latvia, where 30,000 Jews live; in Kishinev, capital of Soviet Moldavia, with 100,000 Jews; and Vilnz, capital of Soviet Lithuania, where 5,000 Jews reside.)

Holland Will Not Release Nazis Sentenced for Deportation of Jews

AMSTERDAM, April 30. (JTA) -- Three of the four Nazi criminals sentenced to life terms in prison for participation in the deportation of Dutch Jews to Nazi death camps during the war, for whom release has been sought repeatedly in recent years, will remain in prison, it was reported here today, quoting Dr. Carel Polak, a Jewish Liberal who is the new Justice Minister. In saying that the Nazis would not be released, Dr. Polak cited opposition from most of the Dutch people to the release of the war criminals.

The four Nazi criminals are Willy Lages, 64, former chief of the German security police in the Netherlands; Ferdinand Aus Der Fuenten, 67, a former SS officer, chief of the Amsterdam branch of Adolf Eichmann's transport operation; Joseph Koatella, 58, head of the Amersfoort concentration camp, who personally killed many inmates; and Franz Fischer, 64, who helped to kill 12,000 Jews. Lages was released for reasons of health and now lives in the Harz mountains.

In 1964 a number of Dutch citizens tried and failed to obtain the release of the Nazi criminals from Breda prison, where they are serving their life terms. Last December, in response to new rumors of such efforts, the then Dutch Justice Minister, Dr. Anton Struycken, assured Dutch Jewish leaders that the then interim Dutch Cabinet would not act to reduce the sentences of the Nazis. He had indicated he favored extraditing them to West Germany.

Weizmann Institute Adopts Operational Budget of 22,000,000 Israeli Pounds

REHOVOT, April 30. (JTA) -- An operational budget of 22,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$7,333,000) was adopted by the board of governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science, which concluded its annual meeting here today. The Institute will receive an additional 9,000,000 pounds (\$3,000,000) in research grants and contracts from various governments and public agencies outside Israel.

In a report presented to the board of governors by a panel of distinguished scientists, the Institute was urged to concentrate on particular areas of research where results in the past have been most encouraging. The scientific commission, headed by Prof. J.B. Wiesner, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, submitted the findings after two-and-a-half years surveying the Institute's work.

Earlier this weekend, groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the Institute for a housing project for new scientists to be named Meanoth Shine, after Mr. and Mrs. Barnett Shine of England who contributed funds for the project. Among those taking part in the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Shine; Charles Clore, a prominent British businessman; and Meyer Weisgal, president of the Weizmann Institute.

Jews in Iran Decide to Form a Central Coordinating Body

TEHERAN, April 30. (JTA) -- Representatives of all Jewish organizations in Teheran have decided to form a council of coordination as the first step toward creation in Iran of a central Jewish coordinating body.

The action was reported by Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who said the decision to create a coordinating body followed discussions between representatives of the Jewish organizations and the JDC during a four-day meeting here, at which he presided. It was attended by members of the JDC overseas headquarters staff in Geneva and JDC personnel in Iran. The meeting was concerned with the JDC program in Iran.

The new coordinating council will discuss jointly with the JDC the need for existing programs which the JDC has provided, and fund-raising activities. The latter are of special significance because of the problems the JDC faces in maintaining its present level of contributions to Jewish welfare programs in Iran, which continue to rise. During his visit, Mr. Jordan met with Abbas Hoveida, the Prime Minister of Iran, who expressed to the JDC official his "warmest appreciation" for the important contribution to Iran's social progress the JDC had made in its 18 years of activity in Iran.

Texas Archbishop Starts Educational Campaign Against Anti-Semitism

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 30. (JTA) -- Denouncing anti-Semitism which he said has roots that are "deep and dark," Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, whose Roman Catholic jurisdiction includes 32 Texas counties, opened an educational drive this weekend, designed to improve Jewish-Christian relations.

In a letter to all the priests in his archdiocese, the Archbishop announced the issuance of a set of six books designed to educate laymen in the spiritual and human aspects of Catholic-Jewish relations. He ordered every parish priest to distribute the material. Noting the "deep and dark" roots of anti-Semitism, he told the priests: "We can never know precisely where they dwell and when they surface. It is vital that all people become informed of the truth about the sin against our Christian conscience."

Differences on Jewish Education in South Africa Bridged at Conference

JOHANNESBURG, April 30. (JTA) -- A joint statement by Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper and Rabbi Isaac Goss, director of the South African Board of Jewish Education, expressed broad agreement on the religious content of Jewish education, following differences between moderates and extremists that threatened for a time to deadlock the national conference of the S. A. Board of Jewish Education. Attending the conference, at which Louis Sachs was unanimously reelected chairman, were 370 delegates from all parts of the country. Max Greenstein, a Board of Deputies leader, was elected president.

Chief Rabbi Casper, who is also honorary president of the Board of Jewish Education, and Rabbi Goss agreed, in their joint statement, that the curricula of Jewish studies at the day schools run by the Board should be so arranged so as to deepen the existing program of religious studies. Rabbi Casper, who introduced the joint statement, assured the conference that "nothing is going to be forced. We don't intend any violence upon the children, nor even upon the teachers." Rabbi Goss said they must remember that the purpose of Jewish education was to induct children into a way of life -- not coerce them. The religious content of studies at the Board's Jewish day schools was already significant, it was a question of working out a practical pedagogical program for deepening it, he said.

The S.A. Rabbinical Association, the Federation of Synagogues and the Mizrahi withdrew resolutions demanding more school time for religious education, more rabbis on the Board's council's, and that Jewish studies be taught only by religiously observant teachers, on the assurance that the incoming executive would give the Casper-Goss declaration "urgent and sympathetic consideration."

The Board's chairman, Mr. Sachs, reviewed, in his address, the outstanding progress made by the Board in all branches of its work, and especially in the Jewish day schools, since the previous conference three years ago. He said 5,500 children were now attending Jewish day schools in South Africa, and a further 6,000 the afternoon schools (Chedorim) and Hebrew nursery schools supervised by the Board. The Board was also deepening the Zionist content of Jewish education and its Ulpan scheme, which took a number of Jewish day school pupils each year on a three-months' study tour, was being extended. But withdrawal of a Jewish Agency subsidy of 36,000 pounds from the end of 1968, owing to Israel's exigencies, would require the mobilization of increased financial resources, and a 1,000,000 pounds national Jewish education fund-raising campaign would have to be launched next year.

2,000 Attend Annual 'Third Seder' of Histadrut in New York

NEW YORK, April 30. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 guests of the 35th annual Histadrut Third Seder paid tribute to the modern pioneers of Israel and called for the "deliverance" of the Jewish people still denied their rights to live freely as Jews. The Passover celebration sponsored by the Greater New York Histadrut Council at the Waldorf-Astoria was addressed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and Israel Consul-General Michael Arnon.

Gov. Rockefeller told the gathering that "for too long and in too many places the Jew was prohibited from the labors that sustain other men. Too often, he could neither own land nor work land. But what happened in Israel when the heavy shackles of a history of oppression were thrown off? A desert was made to bloom, the mines were worked, the fields were tilled and a new nation emerged -- strong and vibrant and proud."

Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, who acted as master of ceremonies, pointed out an empty chair on the dais, "which symbolizes our missing tribe, which is tragically prevented from nurturing our spiritual heritage and from joining hands with us -- I am referring to our brethren behind the Iron Curtain." The audience rose for a moment of silence as a gesture of solidarity with the Jews in the Soviet Union. The fate of European Jewry was also recalled by the lighting of six memorial candles.

Cuban Jewish Congregation Confirms Receipt of Matzoh from Canada

MONTREAL, April 30. (JTA) -- The Adath Israel Congregation of Havana, Cuba, notified the Canadian Jewish Congress here today that Passover supplies sent by the CJC to Cuban Jewry had been received in good condition and in time for distribution prior to Passover. In confirming the arrival of the supplies in proper time, the congregation expressed its gratitude to Canadian Jewry for helping Cuban Jews to have a kosher Passover.

This year, the CJC sent to Havana 8,000 pounds of matzoh, 3,000 pounds of matzoh meal, 1,400 bottles of wine, about 1,000 gallons of Passover oil, 6,000 cans of meat loaf, 250 pounds of tea and 500 pounds of horseradish. Due to limited shipment facilities, the supplies had to be sent via three different boats. In addition, arrangements had to be made for meeting export and import regulations.

Albert B. Adelman Named Head of U.J.A. \$40,000,000 Cash Collection Drive

NEW YORK, April 30. (JTA) -- The appointment of Albert B. Adelman of Milwaukee as national chairman of the United Jewish Appeals \$40,000,000 Cash Collection Campaign was announced today by Max M. Fisher of Detroit, general chairman of the UJA. He said it is imperative that the UJA raise this sum by June 30th.