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U.N. Secretary General Sharply Condemns Syrian-Backed Terrorism Against Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 11. (JTA) -- Secretary General U Thant sharply condemned today recent anti-Israel activities of the Syrian-backed El Fatah terrorists as "insidious, contrary to armistice agreements" and said that they "menace the peace of the Middle East."

Holding his annual press conference before the United Nations Correspondents Association, Mr. Thant described as "very deplorable" the "unfortunate" increase in activities by the El Fatah commandos during the past few weeks. These recent activities, he said, "seem to indicate that those responsible for them have specialized training for this type of activity." He said there was an obligation on the part of all states in the Middle East to keep the peace.

Replying to a question on the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with various world problems, Mr. Thant said that he felt that the fact that Israel and the Arab states are members of the United Nations has enabled the world body to play a significant role in keeping the peace in that area. Observers here noted that Mr. Thant's statement today on the El Fatah terrorism was the strongest ever voiced by the Secretary General on the incursions by Arab marauders into Israel.

Israel Surprised at Failure of U.N. Head to Blame Syria for Breakdown of Talks

JERUSALEM, May 11. (JTA) -- Israeli officials were surprised today by the fact that United Nations Secretary General U Thant abstained yesterday in a report to the Security Council, from placing blame on Syria for the breakdown in his efforts to arrange talks between Israel and Syria through the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission. However, the officials withheld formal comment for the time being.

Mr. Thant sent a message yesterday to the Security Council, in which he expressed fears of new fighting between Israel and Syria on the scale of the April 7 land, sea and air clash in which Israeli fighter planes shot down six Syrian Soviet-made MIG jet planes. His communication contained the text of a message he sent Monday to Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization. Mr. Thant instructed Gen. Bull to start "as soon as possible" separate talks with Israel and Syria "to achieve understanding on practical arrangements for cultivation problems along the armistice demarcation line" between the two countries.

Mr. Thant told Gen. Bull that such action had to be started because "it is not possible for the time being to expect any fruitful convening of a meeting" of the MAC. However, he made no reference to the fact that the extraordinary session of the commission, which he arranged for last January when border clashes had reached a dangerous peak, were indefinitely suspended by Gen. Bull in February because of Syrian insistence that the agreed-upon agenda -- discussion of the cultivation area -- be broadened to include other issues.

U.N. Truce -- Chief and High Israeli Confer on Security Situation

Gen. Bull met last night with Moshe Sasson, head of the armistice affairs division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, where the U.N. official formally notified Israel that he would not attend Israel's 19th Independence Day parade here on Monday. Mr. Sasson refrained from comment on Mr. Thant's report and on the breakdown of the MAC talks, saying a reply would be made only after the Foreign Ministry had had an opportunity for thorough study of Mr. Thant's statement.

The General did not reply to Mr. Sasson's expression of Israel's surprise over the U.N. official's disclosure he would not attend the parade. Mr. Sasson pointed out to Gen. Bull that the parade would not include any armor and would conform strictly to the limitations on arms in Jerusalem required by the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement.

The talk between Gen. Bull and Mr. Sasson centered mainly on Israel's northern border security situation and the increased number of Arab armed incursions into Israel. Gen. Bull arrived at the meeting after he consulted in Beirut with Lebanese Chief of Staff Gen. Boustani, who reportedly expressed to Gen. Bull his country's concern over recent Israeli warnings. The warnings followed a new Syrian border tactic of shooting at an Israeli settlement from Lebanese territory near Syria. It was also reported that Lebanon intended to police its border with Israel more effectively to prevent infiltration from its territory into Israel by El Fatah terrorists based in Syria.

Israel's Representative at U.N. Warns Security Council on Gravity at Syrian Border

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 11. (JTA) -- Ambassador Gideon Rafael, Israel's Chief Delegate to the United Nations, warned the Security Council today of the "very grave situation on the northern borders of Israel" as the direct consequence "of the ever increasing number and intensity of the acts of sabotage, violence and armed intervention" by the El Fatah terrorists "at the instigation and with the operational planning and participation of the Syrian authorities."

In a letter to the Security Council, Ambassador Rafael warned the Council that as long as the Syrian Government persists in its "aggressive policy" and "its adventurous course of action which is provoking serious tension in the area," Israel "must hold it responsible for all the consequences; and in the face of continuous Syrian provocation and threats, regards itself as fully entitled to act in self-defense as circumstances warrant."

Ambassador Rafael included in the letter a detailed list of seven "grave incidents" perpetrated by the El Fatah terrorists in the last four weeks. These included "sabotage, mining of roads, armed infiltration, mortar shelling of a village, which culminated in the last few days in attacks on traffic along main roads."

The Israeli envoy stressed that batteries used to detonate explosives "carried inscriptions in Arabic to the effect that they were of Syrian make, manufactured by the Syrian Defense Ministry," and that footprints of the perpetrators of the terrorism were found leading to Syrian territory. He also noted that notes carrying the name of El Fatah found near the sites of the incidents stated "that the so called organization will not hesitate to strike at vehicles even if they carry women and children."

U.S. Criticized in Congress for Ignoring Israel's Independence Day Parade

WASHINGTON, May 11. (JTA) -- Congress was today asked how America is acting to deter Arab aggression against Israel "when we don't even recognize that country to the extent of having our ambassador or the U.S. military attaché attend the Independence Day parade in her capital city." Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, speaking on the floor of the House, said he wanted the Administration to explain the boycotting of the parade.

Rep. Halpern said the excuse given was that the State Department "does not recognize the legality, status, or permanence of Jerusalem as the national capital of Israel." He warned that "this can only serve notice to the Arabs that the United States sees Israel as somehow temporary." He said Israel's 19th Anniversary was the time to demonstrate the "permanence" we accord to Israel and "not the time to join in a seeming detente with Russia to shun the Israeli Independence Day parade in the national capital of that nation."

"What we are doing in boycotting the parade undermines all our efforts to keep peace in that troubled part of the world. By appeasing the Arabs in this way, we indicate that we might stand by idle in the face of further Arab pressures against Israel. In effect, our action tells the Russians that they can further exploit Arab anti-Israel passions to penetrate the region," the Congressman said.

Major Jewish U.S. Groups Assail British Airline for Canceling Flight Via Israel

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said today it was "deeply distressed" by the action of the British Overseas Airways Corporation in having "bowed to Arab boycott pressure" in canceling two of its weekly Far East flights via Lydda Airport in Israel. A BOAC spokesman said in London that the cancellation followed a ban by Pakistan on flights over its territory by aircraft en route to and from Israel.

The Presidents Conference said the action by BOAC "repudiates the Chicago Convention of which Pakistan is a signatory." The convention declares that "the skies are free passage for civil airlines." The statement also asserted that the BOAC action was "a challenge to every country" which pledged cooperation to the United Nations in making the 1967 International Tourist Year a great world effort "to stimulate international understanding through the medium of tourism."

"BOAC's compliant acceptance" of the Pakistani ban, the statement declared, "represents a disturbing surrender to Arab boycott pressures. It inhibits tourism and disrupts Israel's communications with the Far East. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has no choice but to bring these facts to the attention of the constituencies of its affiliated organizations across the country. We hope that BOAC will be moved to renew its flights through Israel to the Far East in keeping with the spirit of International Tourist Year."

Anti-Jewish Slogans Appear on Walls of High School in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, May 11. (JTA) -- Swastikas, anti-Jewish slogans, Heil Hitler paintings and a drawing of a gallows hanging a Star of David were found on the wall of National High School Number 8 here today. The smearings were found before morning classes began. Police said that the vandals climbed over the school gates during the night to do the smearings.

Israel President Offers 'Hand of Peace' to Arabs in Independence Day Message

JERUSALEM, May 11. (JTA) -- Israel's hand of peace to its Arab neighbors was extended today by President Zalman Shazar in a message of greetings on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Israel's independence which will be celebrated next Monday. Mr Shazar regretfully noted that "the harmony in which we wish to live with our neighbors is very slow in coming" and that border tensions continue. But, he added, "despite the pangs of defense, and in the very midst of defense, let our hand be extended in blessing and peace to all our neighbors."

Reviewing events of the past 12 months, President Shazar said that Israel's relations both with Jewish communities and with many nations of the world had expanded and deepened. The exchange of visitors between Israel and other countries, both on official and unofficial occasions, including diplomats, economists, men of letters and scientists, had proved mutually beneficial, he indicated. And in Jewish communities abroad, contact with modern Israel has "aroused striking manifestations of ardent mass response," Mr. Shazar declared.

Interest in Israel among diaspora Jewry, he said, was associated with "a growing movement toward Hebrew, religious and national education." In addition, he noted that an increasing number of students from abroad were enrolling in Israel's institutions of higher learning. In the period ahead, he said, Israel "must devote ever greater attention to the advancement of education and culture, of traditional learning and knowledge among all sectors of the nations. For if our roots grow weak, our plants may not be strong enough to withstand the storms that assail them and the seasons of temporary distress."

Sees 'Promising Signs' in Israel's Present Economic Situation

Turning to Israel's economic situation, the President observed that there were promising signs on the present economic horizon, including improved balance of payments and narrowing of the import-export gap, expansion of foreign markets, greater agricultural output, and the growing influx of tourists.

Addressing himself to Jews in other countries, Mr. Shazar noted that Israel is "a land of immigration, and that, even though the stream is now weaker, newcomers continue to come; even from affluent countries. May Israel find the defenders of its economy and its continued aliyah (immigration) no less stalwart and no less dependable than the defenders of its national security. This is the hour for its faithful friends in the diaspora to summon up initiative, knowledge and vigor for the reinforcement of our endeavor here."

In concluding his message, the Israeli President said, "We pray it will be given to us to see with our own eyes what the wisest of men declared in his Proverb: 'When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.' May the peace we so hope and long for draw nearer and come to us in this next year, the 20th year of the independence of the State of Israel."

Extensive New York Celebrations of Israel's Anniversary Announced

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- Details of extensive celebrations in New York City marking the 19th anniversary of Israel's independence were announced today by the Israel Consulate General. Israel's independence will be celebrated officially next Monday, May 15.

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller will issue a proclamation designating May 15 as Israel Independence Day in New York State. A similar proclamation will be issued the same day by Mayor John V. Lindsay in ceremonies to be held at City Hall. Michael Arnon, Israel's Consul General in New York, will represent Israel at the ceremony.

During the week beginning tomorrow, the flag of Israel will be flown along New York's Fifth Avenue between 42nd and 60th streets. In addition, several large stores in the city will hold special Israel Independence Day displays. A special celebration will be held on Sunday at the Manhattan Center here for Israelis residing in New York and a children's party will be held the same afternoon at Temple Emanu-El.

On Sunday, May 28, 20,000 youths and adults, including schoolchildren, members of youth organizations and members of Jewish groups in the city's civil service, will hold a parade on Riverside Drive. It will be followed by Israeli folk dancing in Riverside Park. Both events, part of the annual Salute to Israel program, will be sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation, the Jewish Education Committee of New York, Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Civil Service organizations.

Five Israelis to Receive National Prizes on Independence Day

JERUSALEM, May 11. (JTA) -- The winners of this year's Israel Prizes, awarded each year on Independence Day, were announced here today. The recipients, who will receive 3,000 pounds (\$1,000) each, include: the noted poet Avraham Shlonsky; Prof. Akiva Ernst Simon, in the field of jurisprudence; Prof. Aryeh Olitzki in the field of medicine; and the noted painter Marcel Janco in the field of art.

Detroit Jewish Campaign Reports Raising \$5,548,600; Highest Results Since 1957

DETROIT, May 11. (JTA) -- Detroit closed its 1967 Allied Jewish Campaign last night with a record-breaking victory dinner report of \$5,548,600. This is the largest amount ever reported at a closing dinner meeting in the 41-year-history of the Detroit campaigns.

The final figure will reach \$5,761,000, William Avrunin, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation, predicted making it the second largest campaign in Detroit's history. The highest amount the drive has achieved was in 1957 when the total was \$5,918,000. Last year the campaign raised \$5,627,000. Alfred L. Deutsch, campaign chairman, anticipated that there would be more than 24,000 pledges when final results are in. This would exceed the 1966 total by 8,000 contributors.

Speaking to the 350 campaign leaders and workers who attended the victory dinner, Max M. Fisher, Detroit, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, praised his home town for its national leadership. He said that the "Jewish communities which do the greatest job in campaigning also do the best job of providing services for their people at home."

General Motors Acts to Remove Jewish Complaint; Stresses its Anti-Bias Policy

DETROIT, May 11. (JTA) -- General Motors Corporation acted yesterday to meet complaints of a Jewish die-maker, Philip Marlowe, 51, who had complained to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission that he had been refused opportunities for upgrading and harassed by fellow workers because of his religion. He also charged he had been subjected to "excessive and unequal discipline" by GM.

The corporation denied the charges but agreed to remove from the die-maker's record two of three disciplinary suspensions in the last three years and paid him \$307 representing wages he lost during the suspensions. A GM spokesman said he had been disciplined for "failure to perform work to quality standards."

GM also promised to give him full contractual rights for upgrading and to explain to supervisory personnel at the Fisher Body Division, where Marlowe is employed, the corporation's rules banning harassment or discrimination against employees for reasons of race, religion, color, national origin, age or sex. The issue was settled without a public hearing.

J.T.A. Elects Three New Members to its Board; Arnow Stresses Added Strength

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- The election of three new members to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was announced today by Robert H. Arnow, president of the news service. They are Raymond Epstein, a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; George Shapiro, former vice-president of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston and a member of the National Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal, and Irving Schneider, Associate Chairman of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies campaign and member of the executive committee of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

"Their acceptance," Mr. Arnow said, "adds further strength and prestige to a distinguished representative Board and deepens the JTA relationship with the American Jewish communities."

J.D.C. Director, Israeli Official Honored by New York Jewish Social Workers

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- Two hundred leading Jewish social workers turned out at Delmonico's Hotel today for a testimonial luncheon to Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee and chairman of the Commission on Refugees of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. Also honored at the luncheon, as the representative of the professional staff which carries out UJA-financed transportation, reception and resettlement programs for immigrants to Israel, was Yehuda Weissberger, director of the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency in Israel.

More than \$300,000 in contributions to the current campaign of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York was announced at the luncheon held under the sponsorship of its Social Service Division, which is headed by Isadore Hamlin of the Jewish Agency for Israel and Sanford Solender of the National Jewish Welfare Board. New York City Welfare Commissioner Mitchell I. Ginsberg headed a list of speakers which included JDC chairman Louis Broido and Messrs. Hamlin and Solender.

Mr. Hamlin presented to Mr. Jordan a plaque citing his outstanding leadership in humanitarian endeavor during 26 years of service with the JDC. The plaque to Mr. Weissberger was presented by Mr. Broido. Mr. Weissberger accepted his award on behalf of his fellow Jewish Agency workers who, in the words of the citation, "have made possible the resettlement and absorption in Israel of 1,300,000 Jewish immigrants in the past nineteen years."

Abraham Harzfeld, Israeli Leader and Veteran Zionist, Honored in New York

NEW YORK, May 11. (JTA) -- Abraham Harzfeld, the subject of a new biography, "The Village Builder," by Simon Kushner, was the guest of honor at a reception today given by the Herzl Press at the Jewish Agency building on the occasion of the publication of the book in English. Mr. Harzfeld, a pioneer Israeli who went to Palestine in 1914, was praised for the leadership role he played in the development of agricultural villages in Palestine and Israel. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Herzl Press, presided at the reception.