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Egypt Moves Troops Closer to Israel; Jordan Places Army on War Status

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA)--The Knesset (Parliament) Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held an emergency meeting here today to discuss the following series of swift aggravations of tensions in the area: 1) Egypt demanded the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from the Gaza Strip border; 2) Egypt vastly increased its troop and armored concentrations in the Sinai Peninsula; 3) Jordan declared a state of emergency, placing its armed forces on a war status; and 4) Syria continued building up its forces along its borders adjoining Israel. Attending the Knesset committee's emergency meeting were Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of all of Israel's armed forces.

The gravest view here was focused on Egypt's demand regarding UNEF's withdrawal. The uneff has been stationed on the Egyptian side of the Gaza Strip border and at Sharm e-Sheikh by a decision of the United Nations. Should the U.N. Secretariat now accede to Egypt's demand, the development would be viewed here as the gravest breach of the status quo. It was stressed here that Egypt's demand regarding UNEF is not clear. It seemed that Egypt demanded only that the U.N. troops be taken away from the border of the Gaza Strip. The belief was expressed here that Egypt wants to enable its army to prepare to move against Israel for war in case Israel should attack Syria or any other Arab state.

Reports received here regarding Egypt's troop concentration, while Cairo was issuing more and more bellicose statements, indicated that Egypt has added 10,000 troops to its forces in the Sinai, to supplement an army division it already had there. Foreign sources also reported that Egypt has considerably increased its tank forces in the Sinai in the last few days, and now has several hundred tanks in that area.

While Jordan was putting its forces on war stand-by, and asserting that Amman would "not stand by with arms folded, should war break out," other reports brought the news that Syria's chief of staff and Defense Minister were carrying out inspections of the massed Syrian troops on Israel's borders.

Israel Is Calm; Eshkol Reports to Cabinet on Nasser's Moves

However, while reports continued pouring in here of Arab army concentrations and troop movements the feeling here is generally calm and confident. Even the man in the street does not seem excessively worried by the Arab moves and the Arab declarations of readiness to come to the aid of any of their brethren who might face war with Israel. It is believed here that Egypt basically, is now engaged in a vast propaganda operation aimed at rebuilding its position in the Arab world and to show the Arabs that it is the major "protective" power in the region.

The critical situation along the Syrian border, and the saber-rattling by Egypt's President Nasser, were reviewed here by Israel's Cabinet last night in discussions led by Mr. Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Mr. Eshkol reported on Egypt's army moves and bellicose statements against Israel of the last few days.

It was learned reliably after the Cabinet meeting that Israel attaches no special significance to the Egyptian army moves. These movements are seen here as designed to bolster Syrian morale and to emphasize Egypt's central role in the Arab world. Past experience has convinced the Israelis that Nasser would not let Syria push him into anti-Israel action which he would consider untimely. This evaluation by authoritative circles here was believed bolstered by the fact that the Cabinet meeting had not been attended by any of Israel's military leaders, indicating that the situation is considered political rather than military.

Mr. Eban told the Cabinet that only Syrian cessation of encouraging and engineering sabotage inside Israel would reduce the tensions in the Middle East. He reported he had sent instructions to Israel's diplomats abroad to make that point clear to the governments to which they are accredited. The Soviet and British governments, he said, were given the same point of view. He reported that Britain was informed through diplomatic contacts in London while the USSR received clarification of Israel's views on the current crisis at a conference at the Foreign Ministry here between Aryeh Levavi, the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, and Dimitri Chuvakhin, the Soviet Ambassador to Israel.

U.N. Head Considers Arab-Israel Situation 'Potentially Grave'; Cancels European Trip

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 17. (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant announced here today that the United Nations has received a request from the Egyptian Government for immediate withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force. Since 1956, UNEF has stood on guard on the Egyptian side of the Gaza Strip border with Israel and at Sharm el-Sheikh in the Sinai Peninsula, watching over Israel's freedom of shipping to and from the Red Sea.

Mr. Thant said he decided to cancel trips to London and Brussels -- which he scheduled to start tomorrow -- because he considers the growing Arab-Israel tensions as being "potentially very grave." After announcing the cancelation of the trips, the Secretary-General said in a separate statement:

"The situation with respect to UNEF developed suddenly and unexpectedly yesterday. The Secretary-General is being kept fully informed on the situation by Major General Indar J. Rikhye, commander of UNEF. Last evening, the Secretary-General saw Ambassador Mohamed el-Kony, the permanent representative of the United Arab Republic, and asked him to obtain urgently from his Government clarification of the intentions of the Government to the continued presence of UNEF in the area. As yet the Secretary-General has received no response from Ambassador el-Kony.

"The UNEF went into the area 10 years ago with the consent of the Government of the UAR and has continued there on that basis. As a peacekeeping force, it could not remain there if that consent were withdrawn or if the conditions under which it operates were so qualified that the Force was unable to function effectively. The Secretary-General regards the situation as being potentially very grave. On the basis of reports received thus far from Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, the Secretary-General knows of no troop concentrations or movements which should give rise to concern."

UNEF, which at its height had a strength of 5,000 military men, now has a little over 3,000 men and officers contributed by Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia. Gen. Rikhye, the commander, is an Indian. Announcement was made here also that, this afternoon, Mr. Thant would meet with the representatives here of the seven governments which contribute personnel to UNEF.

Meanwhile, the new Tunisian Ambassador here voiced his Government's approval of Egypt's request for UNEF's withdrawal. At the same time, he attacked Egypt for not backing Jordan and Syria in their conflicts with Israel. The new envoy, Mahmoud Mastiri, had just presented his credentials to Mr. Thant and told newsmen here: "If the UAR wants UNEF to leave, we would approve. The U.N. presence merely left Egypt free to go on killing Yemenites and making big speeches against Israel instead of acting, while Syria and Jordan bore the burden of defending the Arabs from the Israelis. The current troop movements in Egypt and the reported request for withdrawal of UNEF from the Gaza Strip is more or less of a maneuver by Egypt to influence Arab public opinion. The Egyptians want to make it clear that they will act if a conflict breaks out on the Syrian border -- but we know they won't."

State Department Opposes Reduction of U.N. Forces in Middle East

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- A State Department spokesman said today that the United States favors "the principle of increasing the effectiveness" of United Nations peacekeeping forces "in the Middle East, rather than reducing such forces."

The Department's expression came in comment on news that Egypt demanded the ousting of UNEF. The spokesman said American concern continues over the Syrian-Israel tensions, and that both sides are being counseled to exercise restraint.

Late this afternoon, Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman will meet with Deputy Under-Secretary of State Eugene Rostow.

Soviet Delegate Demands Deletion of Religious Intolerance Clause from U.N. Draft

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 17. (JTA) -- The situation of Russian Jewry erupted suddenly here Wednesday in the Economic and Social Council when, out of context of other items on the agenda, the Soviet representative demanded that a clause in the draft declaration on elimination of all religious intolerance be deleted so as to make no mention of condemning anti-Semitism.

The religious freedoms draft is on the agenda of the current ECOSOC session but had not been reached as yet when the proposal to delete mention of anti-Semitism was made by Evgeny Nasinovsky, the Russian delegate. He insisted that the religious freedoms draft should mention no "isms."

At that point, the Libyan representative received a formulation proposed in the General Assembly three years ago, calling for condemnation of "anti-Semitism, Nazism and Zionism." Dr. Joel Barromi, Israel's representative, requested the USSR to let the religious freedoms draft stand as drafted, condemning anti-Semitism. Dr. Barromi reminded Nasinovsky that Premier Kosygin himself had condemned anti-Semitism in a speech at Riga a year ago.

Jews in U.S. Encounter Growing Problems in Preserving Jewishness, Study Shows

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- American Jews are encountering growing problems, both internal and external, in preserving their Jewishness, according to a pioneering five-year study of American Jewish life released today by the American Jewish Committee.

Internally, they find difficulty in accepting the traditional Jewish religion with its numerous daily rituals. But they feel that today's Judaism, which stresses the ethical concepts of Judaism almost to the exclusion of the ritual, does not differentiate them sufficiently from the rest of the community. Externally, they are made uneasy by the attitudes of their Gentile neighbors, who see Jewishness as an obstacle to Jewish integration into the general society.

Accordingly, the study reveals, Jews are frequently "tentative and uncertain" about their pattern of life, and they appear to be exploring what the precise role of ritual in the family's religious scheme should be. These findings, detailed in two companion volumes published today by Basic Books, were made public by Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee. The first volume, by Marshall Sklare and Joseph Greenblum, analyzes the life of a Jewish community and its current conceptions of Jewishness. The second volume, by Benjamin B. Ringer, examines the reactions of the community's Gentiles and Jews to each other.

Together, the two books make up "The Lakeville Studies," their findings based on interviews with hundreds of Christians and Jews in "Lakeville," the cover name given a large midwestern suburb that was examined for five years under a project directed by Dr. Sklare and sponsored by the AJCommittee. Dr. Sklare is Professor of Sociology at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work and Ferkauf Graduate School of Humanities and Social Science, Yeshiva University. Dr. Ringer is Associate Professor of Sociology at Hunter College, and chairman of the Sociology Department there, while Mr. Greenblum teaches sociology at Hunter College.

92% of Interviewed Jews Were Native Americans of Three Generations

The particular community was chosen because it showed present-day social and demographic trends within American Jewry in an advanced stage, and thus could serve as an indicator of what lies ahead for much or most of America's Jewish population. Lakeville, according to Dr. Sklare, is typical of prosperous suburban communities in which Jews are a sizeable group, but still a minority. It is a community of 25,000, approximately one-third of whom are Jewish. Most of the Jews interviewed (92 percent) were native Americans. The rest were divided between natives of Eastern Europe and later arrivals from Germany or Austria who came here as refugees from Nazism. Those questioned were predominantly second- and third-generation Americans, with a smaller group representing the fourth generation.

A major section of the study, as reported in the first volume, examined religious beliefs among Lakeville's Jews in terms of their conception of the "good Jew." The typical subject considered himself a "good Jew," even though his daily life in most cases was not in accord with traditional Jewish laws and customs. He revealed a strong desire to survive as a Jew, and he hoped his children would continue as such, but his version of "Jewishness" would hardly be recognizable to members of previous generations.

Jewishness, the study asserts, has become inextricably intermingled with ethics in Lakeville. In other times and places, a typical view was that "being a good Jew makes you a good person"; the modern Lakeville Jew feels that "being a good person makes you a good Jew." The report found that most Jews in Lakeville believed that cultivating good relations with non-Jews and working for the welfare of the town were part of being a "good Jew." Some 93 percent of the Jews questioned felt that in order to qualify, one must "lead an ethical and moral life."

The other attributes most often deemed essential were the following: 1. Accept being a Jew and do not try to hide it, 85%; 2. Support all humanitarian causes, 67%; 3. Promote civic betterment and improvement in the community, 67%; 4. Gain respect of Christian neighbors, 59%; 5. Help the underprivileged improve their lot, 58%; 6. Know the fundamentals of Judaism, 48%.

Only 23% Consider Marrying Within Jewish Faith Essential to Being a 'Good Jew'

Religious piety, the report indicates, was not considered by many to be a prerequisite for being a "good Jew" -- only 24 percent felt that attendance at synagogue services even during the Jewish High Holy Days was required. Marrying within the Jewish faith was considered vital by only 23 percent, and support for Israel by 21 percent. Contribution to Jewish philanthropies was deemed essential by 39 percent, as compared with the 67 percent who were for all humanitarian causes.

In the category of what was considered "desirable" rather than "essential" for being a "good Jew," these were the high-ranking items: 1. Be well-versed in Jewish history and culture, 73%; 2. Marry within the Jewish faith, 51%; 3. Contribute to Jewish philanthropies, 49%; 4. Belong to Jewish organizations, 49%; 5. Know the fundamentals of Judaism, 48%; 6. Support

Israel, 47%; 7. Attend weekly services, 46%; 8. Attend services on High Holy Days, 46%; 9. belong to a synagogue or temple, 44%.

Ninety percent of these interviewed belonged to synagogues, although many agreed their affiliation was largely nominal. Some families joined when their children were ready for Sunday School and dropped out afterwards. Whereas 62 percent of those interviewed were Reform and 26 percent Conservative, only 2 percent were Orthodox. It was not surprising, therefore, that adherence to religious dietary laws, ordinarily the custom of Orthodox and more observant Conservative Jews, was considered unimportant by 86 percent.

This social separation between Christian and Jew, examined in the second Lakeville volume, was found to prevail even though Lakeville Jews and Christians worked together for common goals. The study foresees an uncertain future for Lakeville Jews as Jews, anticipating a large degree of assimilation unless the youth of the community acquire a larger sense of Jewish identity.

NYANA Reports Outstanding Adjustment of Hungarian Jewish Refugees in New York

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- The results of a study of Jewish Hungarian refugees settled in New York in 1957, showing that they have made a remarkable adjustment in the 10 years since they arrived without funds or possessions after fleeing across the Hungarian border during the Hungarian revolution of late 1956, were reported here tonight at the annual meeting of the New York Association for New Americans, a beneficiary agency of the United Jewish Appeal, by Philip Soskis, executive director. Martin Kleinbard, who was reelected to a fourth term as president of the immigrant aid agency, reported that NYANA had resettled 118,000 Jewish refugees in the 18 years since the agency's inception in 1949.

The 200 families, representing 568 individuals, included in the detailed survey, were picked at random from the agency's 1957 case-history files. They constitute 18 percent of the 1,100 Hungarian families aided by NYANA in 1957. The agency provided homes, jobs, training, financial assistance and counseling for the refugees. The study showed that the group had moved ahead fast to become self-supporting and that 40 of the 200 family heads had set up business establishments which today provide employment for 200 persons.

"Most of the adults in the group study had been in concentration or forced labor camps during the war. But the fact that almost all were working up until the day they left Hungary and that this was a physically healthy, skilled and generally well-educated group probably accounts for their adjusting faster than earlier immigrants from the displaced persons camps of Europe," the report stressed. "It was also a young group, with the majority of adults under 40 and only two over 60."

75 Percent of the Refugees Were Self-Supporting Within Four Months

Nearly three-quarters of the Hungarians were completely self-supporting in less than four months, and 41 percent of these were established in less than two months. Only 7 percent required aid by the end of the year, and these were cases involving serious illness or widows with small children. The study showed that 80 percent of the adults had gone beyond elementary school, including 43 university graduates and 28 with some college training. Only two of the men and five of the working women were unskilled. Forty-three were professionals; 53 had owned businesses before the war; 34 were in clerical, sales or minor managerial jobs, and 79 were skilled or semi-skilled.

Although few of the newcomers spoke English, all were literate in one or more languages. The study shows that almost all the adults attended evening English language classes here, and 39 went on with their education, 15 of them in post-graduate work. Among these were eight physicians who were given loans by NYANA to prepare themselves for taking state license examinations. These loans have long since been repaid, and all are practicing in the city today. Currently, another 30 of the professionals have been able to re-establish themselves here, and over 100 are employed in skilled or semi-skilled work.

Starting salaries for most of the families after they arrived in the United States were from \$40 to \$100 a week. Today, 41 percent of the group have incomes over \$9,000 a year, including 11 in the over \$20,000 a year bracket. The median income is between \$5,000 and \$9,000. The majority of the women in the group -- 136 out of 198 -- are adding to the family income, mainly through skilled or semi-skilled work, although 14 are professionals.

Israeli Violinist Wins First Prize in International Competition in New York

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Pinchas Zuckerman, an 18-year-old Israeli violinist, was named one of the two first prize-winners in the 25th International Competition of the Edgar M. Leventritt Foundation. The other first prize-winner was Kyung Wha Chung, a 19-year-old violinist from Korea. They will each get the full \$1,000 prize money and bookings with leading American symphony orchestras.

Mr. Zuckerman, who began playing violin at the age of 8, has held a scholarship from the American-Israel Cultural Foundation since he was 9. Two other finalists, Sergiu Luca, a Rumanian-born Israeli, 24, and Nejma Succari, 27, of Syria, will each receive \$500, and symphony appearances will be arranged for them.