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Israel Takes 'Appropriate Measures' to Counteract Egyptian Troop Concentrations

TEL AVIV, May 18, (JTA) -- The Israel army spokesman said today, in a special communique, that Israel had taken "appropriate measures" during the past 24 hours because of Egyptian troop concentration in Sinai.

The announcement came against a background of indications that Israeli officials remained convinced that there would not be any significant changes in the present calm on Israel's Egyptian border. However, it was said, that the precautionary measures were taken to avoid any Egyptian surprise move of a "prestige operation." The nature of the appropriate measures was not disclosed.

Informed sources here said that Egyptian troops have taken up positions in Sinai which in some locations are not far from positions of the United Nations Emergency Force units patrolling the Israeli-Egyptian border. They added that this was a move similar to that in 1960 when Egypt demonstratively posted troops near Israel's southern border after Israel mounted an action against Syria at Nuqel, east of Lake Tiberias.

In another development in the tense Middle East situation, Syria was reported today by authoritative sources here to have rejected a proposal that the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization inspect both sides of the Israel-Syrian border for possible troop concentration. The request was made by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, UNTSO Chief of Staff. Israel approved the request on condition Syria also did so.

Gen. Bull proposed a comprehensive inspection of the demilitarized zone as well as of areas adjacent to the border for heavy military equipment, new positions and troop concentrations. Gen. Bull first made the proposals on April 18 and then repeated them recently because of the area's growing tension. Observers here said Syria probably refused because of the strong arms and troop concentrations the Syrians have moved to Israel's border.

Calm Prevails in Israel; Population Shows Unperturbed Attitude

JERUSALEM, May 18, (JTA) -- The current Middle East tensions, which have provoked headlines and alarm in western capitals, had no reflection today in Israel where life continued at a normal pace.

Few external signs were evident of the "preventive measures." The Israel army spokesman announced this morning that Israel had taken as a counter to the widely-publicized Egyptian troop concentrations in Sinai. Both the man on the street and Israeli authorities maintained an unperturbed and detached attitude to convey the idea that "the initiative belongs to the Arabs; let them decide what they want to do -- we are ready for both peace and war."

In such major cities as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, conditions appeared normal. People sat in cafes, lined up before movie theaters and proceeded with their routine shopping. Officials said there had been no rush on food shops or unusual banking transactions. The only visible indications of the increased tenseness on Israel's borders was an increase in newspaper circulation and more people walking the streets with transistor radios held at their ears during news broadcasts.

The most significant fact, many observers felt, was that none of the Embassies had evacuated dependents of diplomats stationed in Israel. This included the United States, which was the first to withdraw dependents on the eve of Israel's 1956 Sinai campaign.

The Israeli general mood of calm readiness did not bar a close watch on Arab troop movements. It was generally felt here that Egyptian troop movements in Sinai had serious implications for Israel's security and that the very presence of the troops in that area had changed the status quo and required a new appraisal by Israel of the overall situation.

It was assumed that the special precautions announced today by the Army spokesman referred to a callup of certain categories of reservists but no general mobilization has been ordered. Such measures would conform to Israel's stand of caution but no fear.

Egypt Presents Request to U.N. to Withdraw Its Troops from Egyptian Territory

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 18. (JTA) -- Egypt filed today a formal request with Secretary-General U Thant calling upon the United Nations to withdraw the United Nations Emergency Force from the territory of the United Arab Republic and the Gaza Strip "as soon as possible."

The request, signed by Egypt's Foreign Minister Riad, was handed to the Secretary-General at noon today by Egypt's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Mohamed A. El-Kony. Mr. Thant assured the Egyptian Ambassador that he would reply to the Egyptian request "during the course of this day." Mr. Thant was scheduled to meet late today with the seven member states that have contributed military personnel to the 3,400-man UNEF.

Immediately after announcing the Egyptian request, the Secretary-General reported that Israeli aircraft this morning intercepted a UNEF plane carrying Major General Indar Jet Rikhye on a flight from El-Arish to Gaza. Mr. Thant said that he met this morning with Israel's Permanent Representative here, Ambassador Gideon Rafael, and handed him a strong protest against the incident plus a request that Israel see to it that no similar incident occurred. Confirming his receipt of the protest from the Secretary-General, Ambassador Rafael said in reply to a question that he was certain a mistake had been made and that there had been no intention on Israel's part to attack a UNEF plane.

Arthur J. Goldberg, the chief U.S. delegate to the U.N. said after a conference today with Mr. Thant: "The Secretary-General and I reviewed the present situation in the Middle East. I stressed the deep concern of the United States over reports of increased tension and military movements. I assured the Secretary-General that the United States will support any United Nations action required to keep the peace. We have been and remain strongly opposed to the use of force and violence in the area and any intimations to the contrary are totally without foundation. It is the considered view of the United States, which I expressed to the Secretary-General, that the United Nations has a continuing and critical role in keeping the peace in the area and that all member states should cooperate to that end."

Mr. Goldberg added that the United States had made diplomatic representations to all countries concerned regarding the tension in the Middle East and that the United States Mission was carrying on conversations with all member states, including those which are members of the U.N. Security Council, regarding the situation. Just before Mr. Goldberg's meeting with Mr. Thant, the Secretary-General held a 30-minute talk with Ambassador Rafael. The Israeli diplomat repeated Israel's pledge "not to start hostilities." He declared "UNEF fulfils an important role in the area but its job is not yet completed." He called attention to the fact that several months ago, Mr. Thant told the General Assembly that if UNEF was withdrawn, "war would follow."

Israelis Take Issue With Stand of U.N. Secretary-General on Withdrawal of Troops

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- Authoritative Israeli sources here today challenged United Nations Secretary-General U Thant's position that U.N. Emergency Force units were subject to removal at Egypt's demand. Mr. Thant said in a statement yesterday that UNEF could not remain on Egyptian territory if "consent was withdrawn."

The sources said that only the U.N. General Assembly, which voted establishment of UNEF, had authority to decide on its withdrawal. The sources indicated that Israel considered any withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Sharm-El-Sheikh a grave breach of the status quo and would act diplomatically and politically to prevent such a withdrawal. Sharm-El-Sheikh commands a transit between the Gulf of Akaba and the Red Sea and is vital to Israeli shipping from its Eilat port to Asia.

The Israeli views were this afternoon conveyed by Foreign Minister Abba Eban to the Ambassadors of the United States, Britain and France who met Mr. Eban at his invitation. He also told the envoys that Syria must bear full responsibility for the current tension and all of its implications.

According to Israeli officials, the stationing of UNEF units was not undertaken at Egypt's invitation but was a compromise to obtain Israel's withdrawal from territory it occupied in the 1956 Sinai campaign. The stationing of UNEF troops was described by then President Eisenhower as a "two way contract." Israelis then felt that the opening of the sealanes at Sharm-El-Sheikh to Israeli navigation was practically the only benefit of their victorious Sinai campaign. It was made plain that Israel could not and would not tolerate the cutting off of this lifeline to Asia and Africa by replacement of UNEF troops with Egyptian units.

It was reported here today that the Egyptian troop concentration in Sinai was the largest in Egyptian-Israeli history, even larger than the concentration during the Sinai campaign. However, the feeling prevailed here that the massing of troops was not an immediate danger to Israel on the premise that for a war against Israel, Egypt would need all of its armed forces, including those now based in Yemen in the undeclared war there. Mr. Eban told the ambassadors also that the Egyptian troop concentration had launched an escalation "which we know where it starts but cannot know where it will end."

American Jewish Committee Opens Four-Day Meeting; Slawson Fund Announced

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Plans to raise a special fund to be named in honor of Dr. John Slawson in connection with his impending retirement after 24 years as executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, were announced here tonight at the 61st annual dinner of the organization which marked the opening of the four-day annual meeting of the AJCommittee. The dinner was dedicated to Dr. Slawson and the fund will be used for research, training and education.

President Johnson, in a message to the 1,200 guests at the dinner, lauded Dr. Slawson as "a man whose gifts of intellect, insight and vision have so greatly benefited all Americans." The services of Dr. Slawson were similarly lauded by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey; Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, head of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations; Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and other leading personalities. Personal tribute to Dr. Slawson was paid by Morris B. Abram, president, and three former presidents of the American Jewish Committee who are now honorary presidents: Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, Jacob Blaustein, and Irving M. Engel. Zachariah Shuster, director of the AJCommittee's European office, paid tribute to Dr. Slawson in behalf of the Committee's staff.

Responding to the tributes, Dr. Slawson characterized the interreligious progress of recent years as "a journey from darkness to light." "Only one lifetime ago," he said, "when France was reeling under the Dreyfus affair, the churchmen who should have spoken for the Jewish victim remained silent. Again, on the eve of the First World War, a Ukrainian Jew named Mendel Beilis was accused by the Czarist authorities of committing a 'ritual blood murder' -- and the 'Oxford and Cambridge Review,' then the mouthpiece of High Church England, would not take sides and begged off with the words, 'We do not know where the truth lies.' Later, when Hitler came to power, the churches failed to take a stand."

Since the end of World War II, Dr. Slawson continued, "organized religion has put itself squarely among the active forces for human brotherhood -- a development that was symbolized for all mankind in that holy man, that zaddik, Pope John XXIII." Dr. Slawson characterized the declaration of Vatican Council II, passed in 1965, which repudiates the idea that Jews are collectively guilty for the death of Jesus and officially outlaws anti-Semitism in the Catholic Church, as "the fairest fruit of the aggiornamento" -- the modernization process that Pope John initiated.

"Nor do we forget," he added, "that as early as 1961 the World Council of Churches, the leading international Protestant group, had taken a parallel step -- affirming that the responsibility for the crucifixion rests with corporate humanity, not with the Jews or any one race or community. Today, Christians' and Jews' attitudes toward each other are being totally transformed."

Mr. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, devoted part of his presidential address to the civil rights struggle, urging American industry to take the lead by mounting "nationwide job training and retraining programs as the first step toward bringing the Negro up to economic parity with his fellow Americans."

Israel President Arrives Today in Canada; Is Guest of Canadian Government

MONTREAL, May 18. (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar of Israel will arrive here tomorrow for a three-day visit before starting his official visit to Canada, which is celebrating its centennial.

After meeting with delegations of Jewish organizations Saturday night, he will be flown to Ottawa on a special plane provided by the Canadian Government where a ceremony in front of the Parliament building Sunday afternoon will mark the formal opening of the President's visit. He and Mrs. Shazar will be welcomed by the Governor General, Prime Minister Lester Pearson and the entire Canadian Cabinet. The Governor General will tender an official dinner Sunday night which will be attended by top Canadian leaders and distinguished guests from all walks of life.

Mr. Shazar will visit Ottawa City Hall on Monday where he will meet with the Prime Minister for a talk. He will then visit the Jewish Community Center and will be guest of honor at a luncheon given by Mr. Pearson before continuing by special train to Montreal for Israel Day at Expo '67 on Tuesday.

Strike by Employees of the Israel Bond Organization Ends; Contract Signed

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- A three-day strike by professional and clerical workers in Israel Bond Organization offices throughout the United States was ended last night with the signing of a new contract between the Bond organization and the union. The agreement, which was ratified this morning by the union membership is for two years. All striking employees were back at their jobs today.

The new contract contains practically the same terms as the previous agreement, which expired May 15. Professional workers will receive an increase of \$550 the first year and \$475 the second year. Salaries of clerical workers will be increased by \$5.25 a week the first year and by \$4.25 a week the second year. Upward adjustments were made in life and health insurance and other fringe benefits and minimums for professional and administrative workers also were increased.

Combined Jewish Campaign in Baltimore to Raise \$3,600,000, Meyerhoff Reports

BALTIMORE, May 18. (JTA) -- Harvey M. Meyerhoff, general chairman of the 1967 Combined Campaign of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund, projected that a total of \$3,600,000, close to seven percent more than was raised last year, would be raised in the current campaign. Speaking at a joint board meeting, last night, of the two organizations which are partners in the drive, Mr. Meyerhoff reported that \$3,230,000 had been subscribed to the campaign to date.

"However," Mr. Meyerhoff said, "we still have cards outstanding, which we expect to produce \$370,000. Only by realizing the fullest potential of these remaining cards can we hope to raise \$3,600,000, and achieve maximum results from this year's campaign. In other words, despite the fact that the campaign is officially over, we still have a job, a big job, to do if we're to meet our obligations at home and abroad."

Mr. Meyerhoff paid tribute to the generosity of those who had already made their gifts to the campaign, and to the campaign workers who had been so successful in making their contributions available for community needs. He reminded the board members that in line with the new policy of post-campaign budgeting, the budget committees of the Associated Jewish Charities and the Jewish Welfare Fund would be meeting in the next month and a half to determine allocations to the local, national and overseas agencies. Robert I. Hiller is executive director of the Associated Jewish Charities and Jewish Welfare Fund, and Isadore I. Sollid is campaign director.

Jewish Eagle, Montreal's Only Yiddish Newspaper, Ceases Publication

MONTREAL, May 18. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Eagle, the only Yiddish newspaper in Montreal, has ceased publication after nearly 60 years of service to the Jewish community here. The paper appeared daily until four years ago when it began appearing twice weekly. Financial difficulties were blamed for the closing of the paper.

In an announcement on the front page of this week's final edition of the paper, Max Wolofsky, publisher of the Eagle, said that a number of factors had led to the conclusion "that the time had regrettably come to take the step which would bring to a close the long and glorious existence of the Eagle on the threshold of its 60th anniversary."

In the same issue of the paper, the Montreal Committee for Yiddish published an announcement citing the need for a Yiddish publication in Montreal and calling on Jewish organizations and individuals to facilitate the reopening of the paper.

N.Y. Yiddish P.E.N. Center Appeals for Soviet Jewry to Writers Congress in Moscow

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- The Yiddish PEN Club of New York appealed to the Union of Soviet Writers today to intervene on behalf of greater religious and cultural freedoms for Soviet Jewry.

In its cable, the PEN Club here noted that it is an official affiliate of the International PEN society. The message requested that the appeal on behalf of Soviet Jewry be placed on the agenda of the Congress of the Union of Soviet Writers, due to open in Moscow next Sunday.

Soviet Poet Voznesensky Recites Poem in New York on Nazi Massacres of Jews

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Andrei Voznesensky, the Soviet poet, included in a poetry recital here last night, one of his works memorializing the wartime Nazi massacre of Jews near Stanislaw in the western Ukraine.

"The Call of the Lake" deals with the murder of Jews in the bottom of a ravine which was later converted into a lake for vacationers, the water covering the bodies. In one stanza of the poem, the poet recited: "It would be desecrating life/To wash myself in this place/Like smearing Mary or Moishe over my face." The poet's presentation was his final recital of his American tour. He will leave next weekend for Moscow with an invitation to return to the United States next month.

Jewish Book Council Announces Awards for Five Books Published in 1966

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- The Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today the selection of five books as outstanding works of Jewish interest published in 1966 in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. Awards totaling \$1,800 for the books will be presented at the council's annual meeting on May 23.

Hyman G. Bass, president of the book council, said the \$500 Leon Jolson Award for the best book on the Nazi holocaust will go to Abraham Kiln, posthumously, Dr. Mordecai Kosover and Isaiah Trunk, co-editors of the "Algemeine Entsiklopedia: Yidn 77" of the Central Yiddish Cultural Organization. The Frank and Ethel S. Cohen Award of \$400 for the best book on Jewish thought will be given to Dr. Nahum M. Sarda for "Understanding Genesis, the Heritage of Biblical Israel" sponsored by the Melton Research Center of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

S.Y. Agnon, Israeli Nobel Prize Winner, Leaves for U.S.; Will Be Honored

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Nobel prize-winning Israeli author, left for the United States today for a month's stay at the invitation of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. During his visit, he will receive honorary degrees from two universities. He will be accompanied by his daughter and son-in-law.