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## Eshkol Proposes Reciprocal Reductions of Troops on Israel-Egyptian Borders

JERUSALEM, May 22, (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, speaking not only as Premier but also as Israel's Minister of Defense, proposed today that Israel and Egypt carry out "reciprocal reductions" of their troop concentrations on each other's borders.

Mr. Eshkol addressed the Knesset (Parliament) at its opening summer session here today. He told the hushed house that he was speaking "with complete confidence in Israel's defensive capacity and her steadfastness" and expressed "readiness at this hour to participate in efforts to reinforce stability and advance peace in our region." Reciprocal reduction of the troop concentrations, said Mr. Eshkol, would constitute "an endeavor to ensure continuation of the quiet that has prevailed on the Israeli-Egyptian frontier for the last 10 years, and would be a concerted international effort to outlaw terrorism and sabotage against any member state of the United Nations."

"If Egypt recalls her reinforcements on Israel's frontier," he pledged, "Israel will do likewise. The purpose of UNEF, according to the General Assembly resolution of 1957, was to contribute to peace in the area. Its existence in some areas, and the duties it performed, were doubtless a positive factor."

### Criticizes U.N. Secretary-General for Hasty Accession to Egypt's Request

Mr. Eshkol told Parliament that he found "perplexing" the "precipitate" action by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant "to conform at once to Egypt's request for withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force." "Israel," said Mr. Eshkol, "was a party to the international agreements in 1957 for the establishment of the Force between Egypt and Israel. But the Secretary-General found it unnecessary to consult Israel before arriving at his hasty decision."

"UNEF has been in its positions in our area for 10 years," he pointed out. "The demand for its withdrawal and the response to that demand signify a weakening of the United Nations' role: a guardian of the peace. The late Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, wrote Israel in February of 1957 that the Secretary-General would consult with his consultative committee on UNEF if any demand were made for the withdrawal of the Force, and that the committee would decide whether the request should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. (The consultative committee is composed of the states that contributed troops to UNEF. These were Brazil, Canada, India, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.)

"Israel was led to believe that any such request would only be acceded to after serious deliberation, during which all sides to the problem would be heard. But, according to Israel's information, Mr. Thant did not bring this matter to the attention of the committee and, thus, to a General Assembly debate," Mr. Eshkol stressed. The Premier urged that the major powers "should now use their influence toward reducing the danger of an explosion in the Middle East." He said that the Soviet Union now has "a special responsibility for using its influence in Cairo and Damascus, but, so far, the USSR has not publicly dissociated itself from Syria's policy toward Israel."

All of the major parties on the Knesset were united, during the debate, in their appreciation of the dangers now facing Israel and the need for action in case Israel's vital interests were harmed by Egypt or Syria. Only the Communists warned against Israel's possible involvement in an "imperialist plot." Agudath Israel, an Orthodox group, urged caution and prudence in the present situation. Shimon Peres, Mr. Ben-Gurion's co-leader of Rafi, was expected to criticize the Government's handling of the current crisis.

## France Reported Reneging on Tripartite Declaration Guaranteeing Israel-Arab Borders

PARIS, May 22, (JTA) -- Officials of the French Government were reported here today to have said that France has no plans at present to abide by the 1950 Tripartite Declaration which France, the United States and Britain had issued, guaranteeing the territorial integrity of all the Arab-Israeli borders.

Instead of relying on the Tripartite Declaration, the French officials were quoted as saying that France hopes that the United Nations would safeguard the peace in the Near East. The Government officials were reported as saying that France no longer contemplates intervention on the Middle East issue with the U.S.A. and Britain "because relationships have changed since 1950."

## White House Reaffirms Commitment to Maintain Peace in Middle East; Warns on Tiran

WASHINGTON, May 22. (JTA) -- The White House today reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to maintaining peace in the Middle East. In response to reporters' questions on whether President Johnson sees a commitment of the United States to maintain peace on the borders, White House spokesman George Christian said: "This country is, of course, committed to the principle of maintaining peace in the Middle East. This has been our position over the years. It is still our position."

Mr. Christian said the United States was in touch with all governments concerned in the present crisis. But he would neither confirm nor deny that the President had sent a personal appeal to Moscow for joint action to protect the Israel-Arab peace.

Top-level official sources of the United States, close to President Johnson, said today that the U.S.A. considers the Straits of Tiran an international waterway and would regard it as a very serious matter if anyone were to try to close passage to Israel's port of Eilat. The Straits of Tiran is a narrow waterway through which all shipping must pass on the way to the Red Sea or from the Red Sea to Eilat. Prior to the 1956-57 war between Israel and Egypt, Egypt barred access of ships to or from Eilat by having artillery atop Sharm el-Sheikh, a promontory in the Sinai Peninsula, overlooking the straits. Since 1957, Sharm el-Sheikh had been occupied by the United Nations Emergency Force, and the Egyptian guns there had been dismantled. Now the UNEF has evacuated Sharm el-Sheikh, and the Egyptians are again in control there.

An official spokesman for the State Department later in the day declined to express publicly the position on freedom of navigation through the Straits of Tiran that had been voiced earlier in the day by a top official in private at the U.S. national foreign policy conference for editors and broadcasters. Officials said they were prevented from going on public record before more carefully considering the matter and the wording.

Washington sees the crisis as extremely tense at present. It also sees terrorist provocations against Israel as a long-term problem. Highly-placed authorities voiced hope that United Nations Secretary-General U Thant's visit to Cairo will produce a solution. The U.S. Government hopes that all governments in the Near East will remain cool and not be led by any particular incident to retaliatory actions. The United States evaluation today is that no government wants war in the Near East. But Washington fears the hazards of irresponsible elements triggering actions leading to a chain reaction.

## American Sixth Fleet Reported Steaming Toward Israel-Arab Waters in Mediterranean

TEL AVIV, May 22. (JTA) -- Airline pilots landing at Lydda International Airport today reported that they had seen ships of the United States Sixth Fleet steaming eastward in the Mediterranean. Most of the fleet, they asserted, was already east of the island of Cyprus, and within easy access of the coast. It was believed here that the fleet was being deployed into strategic positions in the event that diplomatic talks failed to reduce the current Arab-Israel tension, and Washington might want to consider use of elements of its powerful naval force.

(A spokesman for the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Naples declined comment on various reports of possible fleet operations in the Arab-Israel area. Official sources in Washington voiced doubt that orders had been issued, authorizing involvement in Israel's defense under present circumstances.)

## President Shazar, in Ottawa, Asks Canada to Help Restore Stability in Middle East

OTTAWA, May 22. (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar, of Israel, was reported to have told Prime Minister Lester Pearson of Canada today that Israel expected Canada to take the lead with other countries to manifest support for the security of Israel.

Mr. Shazar, on a state visit to Canada to dedicate the Israel pavilion at Expo '67, received Mr. Pearson at Government House this morning. He thanked Mr. Pearson for the statement he had made last night when the Prime Minister welcomed the Israeli President and his party to Ottawa and declared firmly that "Israel has the will to live. She also has the right to live as other states have, in security and peace."

Mr. Shazar pointed out that action was necessary to make it clear to the Arabs that the nations concerned over peace and security in the Middle East were equally committed to the security of Israel and would reject any violation of the 1957 settlements with which Mr. Pearson was closely associated. Later, the President made it clear that he expected Canada and Mr. Pearson to take a lead in seeking to restore stability to the Middle East.

Following his meeting with Mr. Pearson, President Shazar had a conference with Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Minister of Finance, during which they reviewed the bilateral economic ties. Mr. Shazar visited the City Hall where he was greeted by the Mayor of Ottawa and paid a farewell visit to Governor General Roland Michener with whom he exchanged gifts. He attended a ceremony at the Jewish Community Center, where special prayers were said for Israel, and then was Mr. Pearson's guest at the Ottawa Country Club, at an official luncheon, before departing for Montreal.

**U.N. Secretary-General Says He Does Not Plan to Visit Israel; Leaves for Cairo**

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 22. (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant, who is leaving tonight for Cairo, said this morning that, for the time being, he has no plans to go to Israel. Asked specifically whether he intends to go also to Israel during the forthcoming trip, he replied: "I have no such plans for the moment. Right now, I am going to Cairo and will be back here Friday afternoon."

A ranking diplomat representing one of the foremost western major powers here said: "Since the United Arab Republic and Israel are among the principals involved in the current crisis in the Middle East, it seems inconceivable that Mr. Thant would go to Cairo and not, during the same journey visit Israel -- if Israel invites him to come there." An Israeli source pointed out that Mr. Thant has for a long time had "a standing invitation" to visit Israel.

A United Nations spokesman said that an administrative expert from the Secretariat left for Egypt yesterday to work out with Major General Indar Jet Rikhye, commander of UNEF, the technical details regarding the evacuation of UNEF's military personnel and massive equipment. He said that, while in Egypt Mr. Thant would confer with Gen. Rikhye.

Asked whether it was true that some of the Arab refugees in the Gaza area are receiving United Nations relief while they are serving in the Palestine Liberation Organization, the spokesman conceded: "Some of the refugees undoubtedly are on the ration rolls of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees." He said that the United Nations will check UNRWA headquarters in Beirut to obtain the latest information as to the number of Arab refugees in the Gaza area that are currently under UNRWA rolls. In his report to the General Assembly and the Security Council over the weekend, Mr. Thant noted that there are 307,000 Arab refugees in the Gaza area.

**Israel Envoy Confers with U.N. Secretary-General Prior to His Departure**

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 22. (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador Gideon Rafael held a 45-minute meeting here today with Secretary-General U Thant, on the eve of Mr. Thant's scheduled departure for Cairo later today and discussed with him many of the critical problems involved in the current Israel-Arab situation. Following the meeting, Ambassador Rafael said:

"I had this morning a substantive and lengthy discussion with the Secretary-General before his departure for Cairo. I brought to his attention the viewpoint of the Government of Israel on the crisis caused by the recent Syrian incursions into Israel, the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force and the massing of forces on Israel's borders. I reiterated Israel's desire for the restoration of peaceful conditions and for non-belligerency and Israel's desire that no hostile acts be committed. I also stressed Israel's determination to exercise its right of self defense in case of aggression."

In answer to questions, Mr. Rafael said that the matter of a possible visit of Mr. Thant to Israel did not come up at the conference "because Mr. Thant stated earlier that he was going to Cairo." The Israeli diplomat also said that, "Israel is not yet contemplating calling for a meeting of the Security Council."

Asked whether he thought the situation in the Middle East was serious, he replied: "Yes, it is serious." When asked whether the Israel Government would permit the stationing of a U.N. peace force on Israel's side of the borders with the Gaza Strip and Egypt, he replied:

"I would not see the purpose of that. We are not threatening anybody. We have no terrorists. UNEF was withdrawn after having been deployed for 10 years on the Egyptian side. Egypt has made it clear that it wanted UNEF out of the way of Egyptian forces. Egypt's request for withdrawal of UNEF was connected directly with Egypt's aggressive designs. UNEF was stationed where it carried out a useful purpose; it was suddenly evicted, creating an ominous situation." Mr. Rafael added that he felt that, at this point, Secretary-General U Thant "ought to be free to pursue his peaceful aims."

**Arabs and Jews Clash in San Francisco; Arabs Seek to Disrupt Pro-Israel Meeting**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22. (JTA) -- Police were called to break up a disturbance yesterday in Golden Gate Park when about 100 Arabs tried to disrupt an Israel Independence Day celebration. The Arabs marched into the area where 1,500 were celebrating the occasion, carrying anti-Israel placards. Some of the irate Jews tore the placards away from them and destroyed them. A police detail separated the two groups and ended the melee.

**S.Y. Agnon, Israel's Winner of Nobel Prize for Literature Arrives in New York**

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- S.Y. Agnon, 1966 winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, arrived from Israel last night as guest of the American Friends of the Hebrew University which will honor him at a dinner tomorrow at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. During his visit here, he will be awarded honorary degrees by Columbia University and Yeshiva University and will be given a reception by Mayor Lindsay at City Hall here.

## Pittsburgh Jewish Federation Concludes 1967 Campaign; \$1,903,450 Raised

PITTSBURGH, May 22. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Federation campaign for 1967 concluded here last night with a total of \$1,903,450 raised, exceeding its goal by more than \$3,000. It was the second successive year in which Pittsburgh has met its goal.

More than 400 volunteers assembled at Green Oaks Country Club to hear the results of the campaign. Alvin Rogal, UJF president, congratulated Donald M. Robinson, the general chairman of the campaign for leading the community "to a fabulous success." Mr. Robinson complimented the young leadership declaring that "this campaign was in the hands of the young." More than 13,000 persons, including some non-Jews, contributed to this year's campaign. This was the largest number of contributors in UJF campaigns.

## President Johnson Expresses Satisfaction with Federal Aid to Religious Schools Pupils

WASHINGTON, May 22. (JTA) -- President Johnson told a representative of the Hebrew Day School movement, Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, director, School Organization and Professional Services for Torah Umesorah, the National Society For Hebrew Day Schools, that he is proud of the fact that it was the destiny of his administration to enact the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and with this legislation to bypass the Church-State impasse that snarled Federal aid to education through many previous administrations.

As a former teacher himself, the President said, he is most proud of this legislative breakthrough which permits children in need of help and attending all schools to benefit from Federal funding. The President made the statement at a special White House reception for public school superintendents of 52 of the nation's largest cities and representatives of non-public school systems. The nation's leading educators were brought to Washington by the U.S. Office of Education for a two-day conference on Federal Support for Education in urban areas.

## Observance of American Jewish Press Month Started; Proclamation Issued

ATLANTA, May 22. (JTA) -- The period from today until June 17 is being observed as American Jewish Press Month, Adolph Rosenberg, editor and publisher of the Southern Israelite and president of the American Jewish Press Association, announced here today. The occasion will be used "to crystallize the aims and purposes of Jewish newspaper journalism in America, directing attention to the importance for American Jewry to maintain a free, vigorous and vital Jewish press in our pluralistic society." A proclamation issued in the name of the press group stressed the role the Jewish newspaper plays on the American Jewish scene and describes it as "a unifying force in each community, acting as a guardian of our faith and the faith of America."

Mr. Rosenberg is leading a group of American Jewish editors and publishers and their families to Israel this week for the 1967 convention of the association which will open in Jerusalem on May 26 with an address by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Members of the government and of the Jewish Agency for Israel will address sessions of the convention, a feature of which will be a dialogue with the Israeli press, arranged jointly with the Israel Journalists Association.

## Synagogue Council Not Backing Rabbis on Body Giving Advice on Abortions

NEW YORK, May 22. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Synagogue Council of America said here today that that organization, comprising the major Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogue and rabbinic bodies, had nothing to do with the recently established Clergymen's Consultation Service which announced yesterday that it would assist women seeking abortions.

Two New York rabbis were listed today as participants in the Service which is composed mainly of Protestant ministers. The two rabbis listed in the Service were Rabbi Lewis E. Bogache of the Central Synagogue, and Rabbi Israel Margolies of Beth Am-The People's Temple. The Consultation Service will refer women applying for aid to a rabbi or minister for a personal interview. The clergyman will then advise the woman on the need and possibility of obtaining an abortion, in some cases, in a country where it is legal.

## EI Al Delegation Leaves for Rumania to Negotiate for Air Service from Israel

JERUSALEM, May 22. (JTA) -- A delegation representing the El Al Israel National Airlines left here today for Bucharest to open negotiations with the Rumanian national airline for the establishment of air service between the two countries. The air link negotiations follow the recent conclusion of a trade accord between Israel and Rumania and, if success will be the first such air service with an East European country.

Tentative plans call for starting regular weekly flights in both directions. The six-man delegation is headed by Herman Jaffe, deputy director general of El Al.

## President of Uruguay Accepts Invitation to Address Jewish Conference

MONTEVIDEO, May 22. (JTA) -- General Oscar Gestide, president of Uruguay, announced here that he has accepted an invitation to address the fifth annual conference of Latin American Jewish Communities to be convened in this city. The conference is being organized jointly by the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organization, and will honor Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of both organizations.