



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIV - Fiftieth Year

Thursday, June 1, 1967

No. 106

Johnson Confers with Full Cabinet on Arab-Israel Crisis; Hears Report from Rusk

WASHINGTON, May 31, (JTA) -- President Johnson conferred today with the full Cabinet on the Middle East crisis while a White House spokesman said the United States still relied upon the United Nations for a solution. At the Cabinet meeting, Secretary of State Dean Rusk briefed the Cabinet on the latest developments.

White House press secretary George Christian was asked about United States commitments to Israel as a parallel to U.S. commitments in Viet Nam. He replied: "The White House position is to pursue the Middle East matter as thoroughly as possible in the United Nations and we are not drawing any parallels of any kind. All the emphasis is on a U.N. settlement at this point." He stressed that "the President has received and will continue to receive the views of Congress on this question."

United States naval sources said today the United States aircraft carrier, the Intrepid, had orders to proceed directly to the Western Pacific and would not remain in the Gulf of Akaba area. The report followed a Defense Department announcement that the 70-plane carrier was scheduled to pass through the Suez Canal east bound. Robert McCloskey, State Department spokesman, said today he could not give the destination of the Intrepid.

(Reports from abroad said that HMS Hermes, a British carrier, and other naval craft, were in the Red Sea, which is connected with the Akaba Gulf by the Egyptian-blocked Tiran Strait.)

The State Department is awaiting additional information before making a final decision on the Akaba blockade question, it was indicated today by U.S. sources who referred to the pending return of Ambassador Charles W. Yost to Cairo. Sources said the Yost trip to Cairo will enable the Administration to better assess President Nasser's intentions. Mr. Yost is a former envoy to Syria and served as a career diplomat specializing on Middle Eastern affairs.

The return of Ambassador Thompson would also provide a clearer evaluation of Soviet policies pertaining to the Middle East. Officials said that such studies were important while the main emphasis was placed on efforts to obtain Israeli restraint.

The State Department today had "nothing to say" on whether the Jordanian military pact with Egypt would affect the flow of U.S. military assistance to Jordan. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey offered no information when asked about the American freighter "Green Valley," now in the Red Sea en route for Akaba, Jordan, with a consignment of U.S. weapons and ammunition. Mr. McCloskey announced that he had nothing to say on whether the Hussein-Nasser pact would in any way affect American-Jordanian relations.

A White House aide, acting in behalf of President Johnson, accepted today a petition from the Arab Students Organization calling on the United States to discourage and oppose "any new Israeli aggression." A large Arab delegation picketed the White House with signs proclaiming "Palestine is the land of the Arabs" and "Avoid a second Viet Nam." They carried pictures of Nasser and the Egyptian flag.

Israel Sees Need in Speedy Action; Considers Nasser-Hussein Pact as Dangerous

JERUSALEM, May 31, (JTA) -- Signing of a five-year mutual defense pact in Cairo yesterday between Egypt and Jordan evoked the feeling among Israeli officials today that time was running out in the Middle East crisis and that international action to resolve the deadlock must be speeded up.

Informed sources here said that Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who made a hurried tour of Paris, London and Washington last week on the crisis, will leave again for the United States because the situation remained grave and had been possibly complicated by the Egyptian-Jordanian agreement. It was indicated Mr. Eban might depart within 48 hours for possible attendance at the current Security Council meeting in New York and for more conferences with United States officials in Washington.

Israel's Chief Rabbinate today proclaimed a day of fast and prayer tomorrow and called on the entire nation to "close ranks at this crucial hour" as preparations were speeded for home defense in Israel's continuing crisis. Throughout Israel synagogues will be filled tomorrow and

many other Israeli Jews, now on guard duty at the country's borders, were expected to join civilians in prayer.

Preparations to cope with the ultimate contingency were visible today everywhere. In Tel Aviv's streets, housewives and schoolchildren were busy filling sandbags and using them to make improvised air raid shelters. Other pupils began serving as substitute mailmen replacing the mail deliverers called up for reservist duty. Housewives baked cakes by the hundreds for men stationed far away on Israel's borders. Municipalities set up special departments to collect clothing and candy for the men in uniform.

Many workers decided to give up part of their wages despite a substantial increase in the workweek from the normal 47 hours. Even the income tax collector has had some surprises. In recent days many taxpayers have mailed checks in advance payment on their taxes. N.M. Roitman, a Tel Aviv attorney, sent a check for 250,000 pounds (\$83,000) with a note that "with the enemy gathering at the gates, I would like to join the national effort to the best of my ability." More modest contributions came from clerks and other lesser-paid workers.

Many Israeli Arabs were reported taking an active role in the defense of the country. Deputy Mayor Abdul Azzis Zuabi of the all-Arab city of Nazareth volunteered for farm work in neighboring collective settlements. Thirty Arab teachers came to Affula Hospital yesterday to donate blood.

Israel's Chief of Staff Visits Border Troops; Urges Them to Be Patient

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Yitzhal Rabin, called today on troops to be patient during Israel's current crisis. Accompanied by Southern Command and senior army officers, he visited units deployed on the Egyptian border and talked with many of the soldiers.

He told the troops that it was essential that Israel maintain top alertness and preparedness. He expressed satisfaction at the high spirits and combat readiness of the armed forces on the borders. In a broadcast on the Army radio station, Gen. Yitzhak reiterated the need for maximum alertness by all troops in the field in view of the recent developments on the borders.

U.S. Introduces Resolution at Security Council Seeking to Ease Arab-Israeli Crisis

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 31. (JTA) -- A draft resolution intended to ease the current Arab-Israeli crisis was introduced today by the United States at the U.N. Security Council based on the report of the U.N. Secretary-General U Thant stressing the need for a "breathing spell which will allow tension to subside from its present explosive level." Noting that Mr. Thant's report urged all parties concerned "to exercise special restraint to forego belligerence and to avoid all other actions which could increase tension," the U.S. resolution:

"1. Calls on all the parties concerned as a first step to comply with the Secretary-General's appeal; 2. Encourages the immediate pursuit of international diplomacy in the interests of pacifying the situation and seeking reasonable, peaceful and just solutions; 3. Decides to keep this issue under urgent and continuous review so that the Council may determine what further steps it might take in the exercise of its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security."

India introduced a resolution in the Security Council today -- suggested by Egypt -- sharply condemning Israel for "aggressions." Roger Seydoux, the French Ambassador, then proposed an adjournment until Friday morning so that his Government could study both the United States and the Indian resolution. With the agreement of Denmark's Hans Tabor, who will assume the Council presidency tomorrow, it was agreed that the Council would resume debate Friday morning.

Israel's Ambassador Gideon Rafael, replying to charges voiced by representatives of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq at earlier meetings of this session, told the Security Council today that whereas the Arabs claimed that Israel had crossed their borders 12 times since the armistice agreements were signed with four of the Arab countries in 1949, "they have crossed our borders hundreds of times and caused many hundreds of casualties and wide destruction in Israel."

Emergency Meeting in London Raises \$4,900,000 for Israel's Increased Needs

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- A special meeting of the Joint Palestine Appeal was held here today in connection with the newly-created situation in Israel dislocating the economy there. The meeting was brief and resulted in the raising of 1,750,000 pounds (\$4,900,000) for the emergency needs that have arisen in Israel.

30,000 Assemble in Front of Israeli Embassy in Paris; Pledge Support for Israel

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- An estimated 30,000 persons assembled tonight in front of the Israeli Embassy here, bearing French and Israeli flags and placards pledging unstinting aid to Israel in the Middle East crisis. The placards read "We Are With You" and "Nasser Murderer" and "Open Akaba or We Will Fight for Our State." (See Page 3 for more pro-Israel demonstrations in Paris.)

Mass-Meetings Supporting Israel Held in Many Countries; Free Akaba Demanded

MONTREAL, May 31. (JTA) -- Some 14,000 persons attended a rally in support of Israel sponsored by the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada today, jamming the ballroom of the Mount Royal Hotel and spilling into the lobby and onto the street where traffic was blocked for hours. A resolution urged the Canadian Government to use its "best endeavors to prevent the UAR from interfering with freedom of shipping in the Gulf of Akaba which is an international waterway, such interference being in gross violation of international law."

In an address last night at a Jewish National Fund dinner, Paul Martin, Canada's External Affairs Minister, reiterated his support for Israel's right to live in peace and security. "The rejection and repudiation of that basic right has been over the years and is now our source of danger," he declared. Asserting that the United Nations "still has a role to play in restoring equilibrium" in the Middle East, Mr. Martin suggested that the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization replace the U.N. Emergency Force which Egyptian President Nasser ordered out of the Gaza Strip.

- - -

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- More than 7,000 persons joined here last night in the first public demonstration for Israel during the current Middle East crisis. They included 2,000 students who came to the scheduled meeting in the Latin Quarter and another 5,000 who were unable to find seats and remained outside. The speakers gave their addresses twice, once inside the hall and once outside.

Two public declarations of support for Israel were published in the past 48 hours. The first was issued by the philosopher Jean Paul Sartre and about 100 other French intellectuals. A second statement on the same theme was published today, also signed by mostly leftist intellectuals, called "The Group of Twenty-Nine," directed by Fmanuel Dastier de la Vigerie, a close friend of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana.

- - -

ROME, May 31. (JTA) -- More than 7,000 persons took part last night in a nightlong "Vigil of Solidarity With Israel." Speakers paid tribute to Israeli restraint in the face of continuous provocations on the part of the Arabs. An appeal was issued to the Italian Government to take a stand in defense of free navigation in the Gulf of Akaba as proclaimed by 30 seafaring nations in 1957. A similar meeting was held in Milan.

- - -

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- A resolution expressing the solidarity of British Jewry with Israel in the current Middle East crisis and warning against attempts to "appease" Arab rulers was approved unanimously last night at an emergency meeting convened by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovitz and representatives of 14 major British Jewish organizations joined in issuing the call. The resolution demanded immediate and effective action to maintain the Egyptian-blockaded Tiran Strait as an international waterway for ships and cargoes of all nations.

- - -

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 31. (JTA) -- More than 10,000 Jews took part yesterday in what was the largest display of Jewish solidarity with Israel ever seen in this city. The rally, held at Myer Music Bowl, Alexandra Gardens, expressed the determination of Jews to defend Israel against Arab aggression and urged international efforts to remove the grave danger to world peace.

- - -

JOHANNESBURG, May 31. (JTA) -- Plans to send South African Jewish youth volunteers to Israel to serve in non-combatant roles during the current Middle East crisis were approved here last night at a special meeting of the Zionist Federation. The meeting approved a general resolution to provide the utmost aid from South African Jewry to Israel. The meeting also decided to launch immediately an emergency fund-raising effort.

Large numbers of South African Jewish young people have offered their services to Israel. The first group will leave soon.

- - -

SAO PAULO, May 31. (JTA) -- More than 3,000 Brazilian Jews, many of them young persons, held a rally in the huge Hebraica Hall here in which they called for peace in the Middle East. In a wire to Brazilian President Costa e Silva, the participants in the rally asked him to do all in his power to secure a solution to the Mideast impasse in accordance with Brazil's tradition of peace. Special streamers bearing peace slogans were displayed in the Jewish district of Bom-retiro here.

Negotiations for Broadening the Israel Cabinet Resumed; Compromise Sought

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- A new burst of activity among Israel's political parties developed today in a renewal of pressures for a broad Cabinet of national unity.

The renewed talks included not only the National Religious Party, which strongly favored such a Cabinet, in Israel's deepening crisis, but also sections of Premier Levi Eshkol's Mapai Party in major centers. The three religious parties -- the National Religious Party, Agudat Israel and Poalei Agudat Israel -- decided to unite into a single religious bloc and called on the Premier to make every effort to broaden the present coalition government.

However, there was strong opposition to such a plan in the leftist Mapam, a member of the coalition and several leading personalities in Mapai. Although Mapam came under sharp criticism from newspapers editorially today for opposing a wider Cabinet, one of the strongest sources of opposition was Mrs. Golda Meir, Mapai secretary-general. Opposing Mrs. Meir was Abba Khoushy, Mayor of Haifa, who had a meeting with Premier Eshkol in an effort to persuade the Premier to start a unity Cabinet by offering Moshe Dayan the post of Defense Minister. Gen. Dayan is one of the leaders of the National Workers Party (Rafi) formed by former Premier David Ben-Gurion as an opposition party.

Another proposal called for Gen. Dayan to become Defense Minister and Yigal Allon, the present Labor Minister, to be named Deputy Premier. The Premier was reported reluctant about handing over the Defense Ministry to another man because he felt this could be regarded as indicating a lack of confidence in his capacity to handle the Ministry. The Prime Minister has always held the Defense Ministry.

The Mapai central committee scheduled a meeting tonight to discuss the issue. Premier Eshkol was known to favor the idea of a special advisory committee on security affairs with membership for former Chief of Staffs Yigal Yadin, Dayan, Haim Laskov and Allon. Prof. Yadin said he would take any post offered him. It was disclosed that Premier Eshkol had already met with Gen. Yadin on the matter.

Withdrawal of U.N. Forces from Middle East Debated at 'Peace On Earth' Parley

GENEVA, May 31. (JTA) -- A debate on the action of Secretary-General U Thant in withdrawing the United Nations Emergency Force from the Israeli-Egyptian border highlighted deliberations here yesterday of the private Pacem In Terris (Peace on Earth) conference.

The conference was convened by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions of Santa Barbara, California, to seek new approaches to peace. It was boycotted by the Soviet Union. The principal debaters on the issue of the UNEF withdrawal were Rabbi Robert Gordis of New York, a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Arthur S. Lall, former Indian delegate to the U.N., who is now professor of international relations at Columbia University.

Rabbi Gordis called Mr. Thant's compliance with Egyptian President Nasser's demand for the UNEF withdrawal a "capitulation" to Nasser. He said it was a "tragic irony" that the current Middle East crisis should be the "fault" of the U.N. secretariat rather than of the powers directly concerned. Mr. Lall rejected the contention that Mr. Thant could have acted otherwise. Mr. Lall served on the advisory committee which aided the late Dag Hammarskjold, then Secretary-General, in negotiating the UNEF agreement with Egypt in 1957.

Cardinal Shehan Hopes U.N. Will Succeed in Averting Arab-Israel War; Backs Israel

BALTIMORE, May 31. (JTA) -- Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, said here that "Israel has the right to live and to govern unharassed from without." He warned that "to deny this is to invite chaos." The prelate called on Catholics everywhere to pray that the United States Government would be guided to do all in its power to bring understanding and peace and he expressed the hope that the United Nations "will leave no step untaken to avert the catastrophe of open conflict between Israel and the nations of the Arab world."

In a statement to the Baltimore News-American, Cardinal Shehan denounced the acts of aggression committed against Israel and declared that "sovereign states would do well to respect the territorial integrity of others. Border raids, guerrilla warfare and terrorism -- all exacting the lives of innocent civilians -- merit the disgust and indignation of civilized people everywhere. Although I am aware of the complexities of international relations and the subtleties of diplomatic discourse," Cardinal Shehan declared, "I am nevertheless constrained to say that men of goodwill recognize the right of nations to exist and to pursue their legitimate aspirations within their own confines."

The prelate pointed out that "the avenue to settling long-harbored disagreements is not to pursue retaliation and conflict but to engage in an enterprise of justice." He quoted the statement of the Second Vatican Council that "peace is not merely the absence of war nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies." He said the present was "a time for restraint but also a time for evaluation and judgment."

Cardinal Shehan noted somberly that "the land where our Christian faith had its beginning is threatened by war. That the tension between the nations of the Middle East should bring them to the razor's edge is of compelling concern to all mankind."