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Arab-Israel War Breaks Out; Israel Cuts Off Gaza from Egypt; Jerusalem Shelled

TEL AVIV, June 5, (JTA) -- The wail of airraid sirens broke the news to Israelis this morning that the long-anticipated Arab attack had begun. A few minutes later the Israeli Army spokesman announced to the country that severe fighting, involving armor and air forces, had broken out on Israel's southern borders and that the Israeli forces had entered into action to halt the advancing enemy forces.

At 11:45 A.M., Jerusalem Time (5:45 A.M. New York DST) Jordanian artillery opened fire on Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, Eyal, Ramat Rahel, Wadi Ara, Mai Ami and other settlements, Israeli artillery returned the fire. The Jordanians also brought the settlement of Bochan and the kibbutz of Ramat Hakovesh under flat trajectory fire. The large coastal town of Natanya came under attack from fighter planes this morning. Three Syrian MIGs attacked Megiddo and two of the Syrian jets were shot down by Israeli fighters. Enemy planes also attacked Kfar Sirkin and Ein Nami-fratz and Kurdani in the Haifa area as well as the Arab village of Eilabun.

Israeli forces, counter-attacking on the Sinai-Gaza strip border, occupied the town of Khan Yunis in the strip late today, cutting off the strip from Egypt, Israeli military sources said here this evening as the first day of the new war neared its close. The sources said Israeli troops and armor was continuing the Gaza Strip attack, cutting off the Palestine Liberation Army forces which were stationed in the Strip by Egypt.

Israel rejected Egyptian claims of having penetrated the Negev, asserting that not an inch of Israeli territory had been occupied by the Arab forces, which included elements from Jordan, Syria and Iraq. Kuwait and Algeria also declared they were at war with Israel but there was no information that troops from those countries were involved in the three-nation Arab attack on Israel.

Egyptian and Syrian Forces Suffer Severe Losses; Arab Airfields Bombed

Egyptian and Syrian forces were reported to have suffered severe losses but no official information on the air clashes was released. It was reported that Israeli planes bombed airfields at Cairo, Damascus and Jordan. Israeli troops drove Jordanian forces out of the Government House between old and new Jerusalem where the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization has its headquarters. Jordanian troops seized the building early in the fighting but Israeli troops attacked and routed the Jordanians.

The Jordanians shelled the Mea Shearim and Musrara sections of new Jerusalem as well as the Arab village of Kafr Kassem. Israeli units returned the fire. For the time being, Israeli officials imposed a complete blackout on the military actions, particularly those of the armored units but optimism was reported. Kol Israel, the official radio, broadcasting in Arabic, claimed that Israeli pilots had destroyed 120 Egyptian planes, but there was no confirmation.

Israel's Supremacy in Air War with Egypt Reported to Knesset by Eshkol

JERUSALEM, June 5, (JTA) -- Premier Levi Eshkol told a special session of Parliament tonight that Israel had complete supremacy in the air war with Egypt, Syria and Jordan and that Israeli land forces were "proceeding according to plan."

The Premier also declared that Israel's military forces were strong enough to "frustrate the schemes of the aggressor." He said Israel sought peace but "to protect the peace, we have built a mighty military arm equipped with top quality modern weapons." He warned that the distinction between front and rear might become blurred in the coming days of armed struggle and that "cruel and bloody campaigns" might be coming. He said that in the present crisis, the entire nation was an army and all of Israel was the front line.

White House Repudiates State Department; Denies 'Neutrality' in Arab-Israel War

WASHINGTON, June 5, (JTA) -- White House press spokesman George Christian indicated today that the Department of State misrepresented United States policy by a statement issued earlier today that the United States was "neutral" in the Arab-Israel war. (See the State Department's statement on Page 2.) Mr. Christian said the United States remains firmly committed as President Johnson has stated, to the independence and territorial integrity of all the states of the region.

U.S. Government Declares Itself 'Neutral' in the Arab War Against Israel

WASHINGTON, June 5. (JTA) -- The United States Government today officially declared itself "neutral" in the war that broke out this morning when the Arab states launched an all-out land and air war against Israel.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey announced that "our position is neutral in thought, word and deed." All American military and other aid programs to the Middle East, he said, had been brought "urgently under review." American policy on the war, he asserted, was to "try to steer an even-handed course." Asked if the United States would remain neutral no matter how the war developed, he said, "that is our effort."

The Department spokesman said he did not know if the United States had abandoned its efforts to get the signatures of the maritime nations to a declaration affirming that the Gulf of Akaba and Strait of Tiran were international waterways in which all nations had transit rights. The State Department's surprising declaration followed an earlier statement from the White House asserting that responsibility for the start of the fighting was "not clear." The statement appealed to both sides for a cease-fire.

White House spokesman George Christian said that the United States had been "deeply distressed to learn that large-scale fighting had broken out in the Middle East, an eventuality we had sought to prevent." His statement noted that "each side has accused the other of launching aggression" and asserted that "at this time, the facts are not clear but we do know that the tragic consequences will flow from the needless and destructive struggle if the fighting does not cease immediately."

The White House statement added that "the United States will devote all its energies to bring about an end to the fighting and a new beginning of programs to assure the peace and development of the entire area." It noted that the United Nations Security Council had been called into urgent session and revealed that Secretary of State Rusk and Secretary of Defense McNamara had been asked to brief Senate and House leaders on the situation.

Ambassadors of All Arab States in Washington Summoned by State Dept.

In a broad diplomatic move to halt the Middle East conflagration, all Arab state ambassadors in Washington were called to an urgent meeting at the State Department with Eugene V. Rostow, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, and were requested to accept a cease-fire. According to Dr. Mostafa Kamel, the Egyptian envoy, Mr. Rostow promised a "new look" at the whole Middle East if the Arabs helped restore peace. Later, Mr. Rostow received the Israeli charge d'affaires, Ephraim Evron, at Mr. Rostow's request, for a 30-minute conference.

The State Department issued orders today banning all travel by American citizens to Israel and 13 Moslem states. Exception was made for persons whose travel is examined and found in the national interest of the United States. All other passports have been declared invalid for travel to Israel and the Moslem states. American citizens in Israel and the Arab states have been advised to leave at once unless their presence is necessitated by U.S. Government interests.

The Defense Department announced that no action orders had been given to the United States Sixth Fleet, now in the Eastern Mediterranean, and denied reports that planes from Sixth Fleet carriers had been flown to Israeli airfields. The Department said "all such reports are erroneous. All the Sixth Fleet aircraft are and have been several hundred miles away from the area of conflict." It was indicated that the Sixth Fleet was avoiding the immediate war zone.

Chairman J.W. Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said today, after briefings by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, that there was still no information on what triggered the fighting now under way in the Middle East. Sen. Fulbright and Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said that in their briefing today, the Executive Department gave "very qualified" assurances that Congress would be consulted on further American moves in the Middle East war. Sen. Fulbright termed the Arab action "an outgrowth of our involvement in South Viet Nam." Chairman L. Mendel Rivers of the House Armed Services Committee said that in the Israel situation, "we've got to keep cool."

Britain Intends to be Neutral in the Arab-Israeli War, Minister Says

LONDON, June 5. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary George Brown told a crowded House of Commons today that Britain must not take sides in the war between the Arab countries and Israel but seek to assure a peaceful solution.

He reported that instructions had been issued to British forces in the area to refrain from becoming involved in the fighting. He added that the "right thing to do" was to get a "straight-forward solution" through the Security Council as soon as possible, calling for a ceasefire.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, leader of the Opposition, asked for a debate on the Middle East war. Mr. Brown said he would try to arrange such a debate.

U.S. Security Council Hears Israel and Egypt on the Outbreak of Warfare

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 5. (JTA) -- After a brief urgent meeting of the Security Council this morning during which the Council heard a report about the outbreak of warfare on the Israel-Arab borders from Israel Ambassador Gideon Rafael and from Secretary-General U Thant, strenuous efforts were started by Council members to work out a resolution that might result in a call for a cease fire by all parties in the conflict.

The United States delegation was pressing hard for what one of its top spokesmen called "just a simple resolution" calling upon the Arab states and Israel to cease fire. On the other hand, the Soviet Union, after consultation with the Arab bloc, proposed behind the scenes a three-part resolution which would call for: An immediate cease fire; return of all the armed forces to their demarcation lines; and an immediate effort by the Security Council to assess the guilt as to who had started the conflagration.

Denmark's Ambassador Hans Tabor, this month's president of the Council, announced that at 3:10 a.m., Mr. Rafael had informed him officially that "fierce fighting" had broken out on Israel's borders after Egyptian land and air forces had moved against Israel, and that Israel was engaged in repelling the Egyptian forces. In response to Mr. Rafael's request, Ambassador Tabor gave the floor to Israel.

Mr. Rafael told the Council the "grave news" that Egypt had started action on Israel's frontiers and that Israel was repelling the Egyptian forces. He reported that Egyptian planes from Sinai had "struck out against Israel" and that, among the places bombed inside Israel was Natanya. Mr. Rafael quoted the commander of the Egyptian armies as having announced to his forces on Saturday that Egypt was prepared to fight "a holy war for restoring the rights of the Arabs in your land."

At the same time, Mr. Rafael said that Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel's new Minister of Defense, had told his troops that Israel's sole objective has no aim of conquest." Mr. Rafael said that Gen. Dayan had told the Israeli troops that "though the numbers of those who are attacking us are greater than ours, we are a brave people and will know how to defend ourselves."

Egypt's Ambassador Mohamed El-Kony, addressing the Council, claimed that one Israeli air force pilot, captured by the Egyptians, had appeared this morning on the Cairo television station and had admitted that his orders had been to start bombing Cairo at six o'clock this morning.

Jordan Occupies U.N. Truce Headquarters in Jerusalem; Is Repelled by Israelis

Mr. Thant reported that Jordan had fired against Government House, located in no-man's land between the Old and New cities of Jerusalem, where the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization has maintained headquarters since the Armistice agreements were signed by the Arab states and Israel in 1949. A company of Jordanian soldiers, he told the Council, occupied Government House against a personal protest by Gen. Odd Bull, UNTSO chief of staff. Mr. Thant reported that he had sent an urgent cable to Jordan's King Hussein requesting "the immediate removal of Jordanian troops from the grounds and buildings of the Government House compound in Jerusalem."

Later it was reported here that Israeli troops had chased Jordanian soldiers out of Government House and were guarding the UNTSO headquarters.

The Secretary-General said that after the Jordanians had occupied UNTSO headquarters, U.N. headquarters in New York lost communication with UNTSO's radio transmitter in Government House. Mr. Thant went on to say that at 13:30 local time after a second cease-fire appeal by Gen. Bull, both Jordan and Israel had agreed to stop shooting.

In the north, Mr. Thant reported, U.N. military observers reported that Syrian jet fighters had overflown Israeli territory, resulting in "air battles, anti-aircraft fire and explosions from aircraft bombing." He said that "the senior Israel delegate to the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission informed the UNTSO officer in charge at Tiberias at 12:18 hours local time that Israel considers herself in a state of war with Syria." Mr. Thant also said that the chairman of ISMAC, who is a UNTSO military observer "reported that Damascus airport was being attacked by Israel aircraft" at 11:10 local time.

During the behind-the-scenes negotiations in an effort to frame a resolution acceptable to all sides, the United States was reportedly insistent that the Council should not call for the Arab military forces and Israel to roll back to their original lines unless the rollback were to go back to the period when Egypt started to blockade the Strait of Tiran.

Most diplomatic observers here felt that the Soviet insistence on a rollback, backed by India, which is also a member of the Council, indicated that they must have received word from the Egyptians that Israel had apparently made considerable advances during the brief period of open warfare.

New York U.J.A. Campaign Leaders Pledge \$15,000,000 to Israel Emergency Fund

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA) -- At an extraordinary emergency meeting of more than 400 campaign leaders of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, most of whom had already made their contributions to the current UJA campaign, pledges totaling an additional \$15,000,000 were announced for the Israel Emergency Fund of the UJA. The meeting was addressed by Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the UJA. Jack D. Weiler, national UJA chairman, presided.

Reporting on Israel's urgent economic needs in the light of the war started by the Arabs today against Israel, Mr. Pincus said: "According to the latest information, we will have to go it alone. We have no illusions -- Nasser must have known he would succeed in his political maneuvers. But this is something here to take back with me -- the memory of this meeting. No Jew who wants to be a Jew will be denied the chance. Together, Israel will be secure."

Bond Leaders Return from Emergency Consultations in Israel on Economic Aid

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA) -- Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, and Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization, returned last night from Israel where they held emergency discussions with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol on the extraordinary economic burdens of the present crisis. In a statement calling for an immediate and unparalleled outpouring of economic support, the Israel Bond leaders reported that the State of Israel was looking to American Jewry "to bolster its beleaguered economy in a period of gravest challenge and danger."

"The outbreak of hostilities has placed the future existence of Israel in jeopardy," Mr. Rothberg and Mr. Boyar declared. "Through the Israel Bond Organization American Jewry has provided the sinews of economic growth and development during the past sixteen years. At this critical time we must redouble our efforts and our sales of Israel Bonds to preserve the country's economic gains and to help its economic structure sustain the severe stresses and losses of the present situation."

Messrs. Rothberg and Boyar added that in their conferences with the Israeli Prime Minister, they pledged themselves and the Israel Bond Organization to a full-scale effort on a maximum basis to enlist a record number of individuals in a special drive to maintain Israel's economic strength during the current emergency.

Major American Jewish Organizations Back Israel; Urge U.S. Government Support

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA) -- Solidarity with Israel was expressed today by the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations following the news that Israel has been attacked by Arab armed forces. Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the Conference which represents 21 Jewish groups, issued the following declaration:

"Arab armed forces have attacked Israel -- the inevitable culmination of 20 years of aggression aimed at destroying the state and people of Israel. Our hearts are with our brethren in Israel in this desperate hour. To them we pledge everything that is within our power to give, to the end that peace and justice may be restored to the promised land.

"Our own Government has a grave responsibility in this hour. America's vital interests in the Middle East are at stake. To protect these interests, we call on our own Government to employ whatever means may be necessary to support the people of Israel in their struggle for survival. We stand in solidarity with them, proud of their courage and determined that they shall live in their own land and in peace."

The Conference today announced plans for a massive rally in Lafayette Park in Washington Thursday afternoon. The rally will climax a two-day "National Leadership Emergency Conference for Israel" under the auspices of the Conference beginning this Wednesday in the Sheraton Park Hotel. The Washington meeting will be coordinated with visits to members of the Senate and House as part of the Conference program of "mobilizing public support for vigorous U.S. action to support Israel in its struggle to survive and to protect America's own vital interests in the Middle East." Invitations to the meeting would also be extended to groups not affiliated with the Presidents Conference.

Hadassah Reports Dismantling of Chagall's Stained Glass Windows in Jerusalem

NEW YORK, June 5. (JTA) -- Charles Marq of the Atelier Simon in Reims, France, arrived in Jerusalem to dismantle the 12 stained glass windows Marc Chagall created for Hadassah. Mr. Marq's arrival over the weekend was revealed today by Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, President of Hadassah, who said that the windows constitute "one of the world's great art treasures and they must be protected in this time of crisis."

The windows, depicting the 12 tribes of Israel, have been housed in the synagogue of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in the Judean Hills since 1962. They were installed following exhibition in Paris and New York. The windows were originally assembled at the Atelier Simon, where Marc Chagall proceeded to paint, etch and scratch each pane of glass.

French Jewry to Raise \$10,000,000 for Israel; Baron Rothschild Goes to Israel

PARIS, June 5. (JTA) -- French Jewry will raise \$10 million for aid to Israel by July 1, and deliver the money to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol personally, Baron Edmond de Rothschild announced here today at a special meeting of 1,000 leaders of French Jewish communities from all parts of France.

Baron de Rothschild said that he and Theo Klein, accompanied by several other French Jewish leaders, will leave for Israel for a brief "visit of solidarity." Mr. Klein, an attorney, is secretary-general of the Committee for Coordination of Solidarity with Israel, which convened today's meeting.

Fiery speeches expressing support for Israel in the present crisis were delivered at the meeting by Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, Prof. Andre Neher, of Strasburg, Alain de Rothschild, and Israel Ambassador Walter Eytan. Mr. Klein reported the details of a vast campaign in support of Israel, including not only the collection of funds but also mobilization of widest public opinion through the press, radio and television.

The meeting was also informed that a group of members of the French Chamber of Deputies, representing various political parties, will go to Israel next week as representatives of the French Parliament's committee on foreign policy.

Jews in South Africa to Conduct Emergency Fund-Raising Campaign for Israel

JOHANNESBURG, June 5. (JTA) -- An emergency fund-raising campaign to aid Israel during the current Middle East crisis was decided upon here today at a mass rally attended by 1,000 leaders of South African Jewry from all over the country.

Judge Israel A. Maisels, president of the South African Zionist Federation, who was chairman, announced that the Federation offices had been "inundated" by offers of South Africans, including non-Jews, who wanted to volunteer for non-combatant duty in Israel. He said the first contingent of South African volunteers would leave for Israel tomorrow, under the leadership of Joseph Daleski, veteran vice-chairman of the Zionist Federation.

As the "blitz" fund-raising campaign was announced at the rally, record-size pledges were made by many of the leaders attending the rally, preparatory to the formal launching of the drive to aid Israel.

Jews in Belgium Will Send \$5,000,000 and Ambulances to Israel; Collect Blood

BRUSSELS, June 5. (JTA) -- A Fund for Solidarity with Israel announced today that initial efforts in Brussels and Antwerp had raised \$1,700,000 and that \$5,000,000 would be sent to Israel within a few days.

Collection of blood for Israel was held yesterday, with the participation of the Red Cross of Belgium and the volunteer assistance of physicians and nurses and with more collections scheduled later. The Committee for Action for Israel has collected sufficient funds to buy 12 ambulances which will be sent to Israel in a few days. Large quantities of medicine also will be shipped.

Jews in Germany to Raise \$5,000,000 for Israel's Emergency Needs

BONN, June 5. (JTA) -- All Jewish organizations in West Germany were represented in an emergency conference on Israel yesterday in Wiesbaden which agreed unanimously to call on every Jew in West Germany to contribute a share of his capital for Israeli emergency needs.

Leaders of the conference estimated that the appeal would raise about \$5,000,000. There are about 25,000 Jews in West Germany, many of them old people living on government pensions.

Argentine Jews Hold Emergency Conference; Pledge Material Aid to Israel

BUENOS AIRES, June 5. (JTA) -- Declaring "absolute and unconditional" solidarity with Israel during the current Israeli-Arab crisis, representatives of virtually every national and local Jewish organization in Argentina pledged here today to implement their solidarity "through material means and otherwise."

The statement and the pledge were adopted unanimously by several hundred Jewish leaders who attended a special Israel emergency assembly here today. The meeting was sponsored by DAIA, the central body of organized Argentine Jewry, the Zionist Organization, the United Jewish Campaign, and other major bodies.

One of Argentina's most famous writers, Jorge Luis Borges, issued a statement here today declaring his personal solidarity with Israel "in view of the current dangerous situation." He lauded Israel as a country that "represents the causes of freedom and culture which are the aspirations of millions of men."

Non-Jews in Switzerland Support Solidarity of Swiss Jews with Israel

GENEVA, June 5. (JTA) -- Mass rallies expressing Swiss Jewish solidarity with Israel, supported also by many non-Jews, were held today in virtually every large center in Switzerland.

In Geneva, the largest synagogue was packed to overflowing, and a second meeting was announced, to be held later this week, in Geneva's largest auditorium.

In Zurich, largest city in the country, 2,000 persons attended a "solidarity with Israel" rally sponsored by the newly-formed Pro-Israel Committee. After the meeting, the 2,000 marched en masse to the Israeli Consulate in Zurich, demonstrating silently on behalf of support for Israel during the current crisis. A similar mass rally was held at Lausanne.

Meanwhile, it was announced at all the rallies that increasing numbers of Swiss Jews, in some cases supplemented by non-Jews, are volunteering for non-combatant, civilian service in Israel. In a number of Swiss centers, blood banks for aid to Israel have also been opened.

Jews in Various Lands Volunteer to Go to Israel for Noncombatant Service

PARIS, June 5. (JTA) -- More than 6,000 volunteers for civilian service in Israel have been registered here at the Israeli Embassy and at special offices opened for this purpose in the French capital. The first group of volunteers is expected to leave here for Israel tomorrow.

TORONTO, June 5. (JTA) -- More than 200 young Canadians, some of them non-Jews, have thus far volunteered here to go to Israel to help during the current crisis in non-military capacities, it was announced here today. The volunteers include electricians, lawyers, nurses and other medical personnel. They will work in industry, agriculture and in other capacities, freeing Israelis for military service.

LOS ANGELES, June 5. (JTA) -- Some 200 volunteers to join the summer work in Israel program in the kibbutzim to replace those entering the armed forces enrolled at a rally in the Institute of Jewish Education. A number of rabbis aided in the interview of applicants for the service. Noted author Michael Blankfort, a member of the audience, told of his son-in-law, daughter and three grandchildren now in an Israeli kibbutz. His son-in-law has already been called up.

LONDON, June 5. (JTA) -- A first group of 70 volunteers left by air tonight for Israel as officials reported that at least 1,000 persons, many of them non-Jews had offered their services. A Jewish Agency spokesman said production, services and education in collective settlements and border settlement camps in Israel were affected by the callup of the armed services. More volunteers would be sent soon.

JOHANNESBURG, June 5. (JTA) -- Fifty young South African Jews left for Israel last night and another group will leave tomorrow as the vanguard of some 2,000 South African Jews who plan to go to Israel in the immediate future. They include students and experts in farming and medicine and they plan to take over non-combatant duties to ease Israel's critical shortages of manpower on the home front.

AMSTERDAM, June 5. (JTA) -- Jewish officials said today that a first group of Dutch Jewish volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30 will leave today for service in Israel settlements. Hundreds of Jewish and non-Jewish would-be volunteers have come to the Israel Embassy at The Hague to offer their services.

BRUSSELS, June 5. (JTA) -- A number of Belgian Jews, not all of them young people, left for Israel yesterday on their own initiative and at their own expense. Another group of volunteers, consisting of 20 young boys and girls were to leave today for Israel and another group of 70 will leave Wednesday.

Yaakov Zerubavel, Veteran Labor Zionist Leader, Dies in Israel; Was 81

TEL AVIV, June 5. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held this morning for Yaakov Zerubavel (Vitkin), veteran journalist and Labor Zionist leader who died here this weekend at the age of 81. A member of the Zionist executive, Mr. Zerubavel was director of the central archives of the Jewish labor movement and coeditor of "Ha'Achdut," a weekly publication.

Born in Poltava, Ukraine, Mr. Zerubavel came to Palestine in 1910 and served as editor of the "Arbeiter Zeitung" and of the "Naye Welt." He was also the author of numerous books.