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Cabinet Studies Dayan Report on Renewed Fighting on Suez Canal

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet devoted the greater part of its meeting today to a report and discussion of the renewal of fighting Saturday on the Suez Canal. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting which began in the morning and continued spasmodically until evening in the same area where fighting took place a week earlier.

Gen. Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defense, reported on the situation to the Cabinet. Later, the Government spokesman who had referred to "local incidents" a week earlier, declined to characterize the latest outbreak. The Government, reportedly, took a most serious view of the developments although they were not believed likely to escalate into a large-scale renewal of the war. Israel, as did Egypt, asked an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider the developments. (For report of Security Council developments, see Page Two.)

Informed sources pointed out here that the fighting was occurring in an area where the cease-fire line was poorly demarcated. Egypt, it was pointed out, had only the Port Fuad area as a bridgehead on the east bank of the Suez Canal and the Egyptian attacks, aimed at dislodging the Israelis from the difficult terrain between Ras al Eish and Port Fuad, could have been aimed at enlarging the Egyptian bridgehead.

Observers here also reported a political motive in the renewal of the Egyptian attacks -- the desire to show the instability of the cease-fire lines and the ever-present danger of clashes before the United Nations General Assembly resumes its emergency sessions on Wednesday. It was also considered likely that Col. Nasser wanted to show the Arab world that Egypt had not given up and that the war was not ended.

Gen. Chaim Herzog, broadcasting over Kol Israel, commented that the border incidents should be of greater concern to Cairo than to Jerusalem. He pointed out that the Israeli forces are now only 100 miles from Cairo and their retention of the Sinai Peninsula gave Israel an additional 18 minutes warning of attack on the radar screens.

Egyptian Artillery Opened Fire on Israeli East Bank Positions

The latest incident began Saturday morning shortly after 9 A.M. when Egyptian artillery and tanks on the west bank of the Suez Canal opened fire on the Israeli positions across the canal in the Ras al Eish area. The Israelis there hold a narrow exposed strip of land between the canal and swamps. The barrage lasted for several hours. While it was in progress, an Egyptian force moved south out of Port Said and set up additional mortar positions on the west bank.

About three hours after the start of the shooting, the Israelis called for air support and Israeli planes overflew the canal to silence the Egyptian batteries which, by this time, had also brought Israeli forces at Kantara, about 23 miles south of Ras al Eish, under fire.

The Egyptian firing was halted for three hours but resumed in the afternoon, with Kantara the main target. The Egyptians also scored hits on a convoy of jeeps carrying the wounded out of Ras al Eish. The firing died out toward evening.

During the afternoon, four Egyptian MIG fighters crossed over the canal into Israeli airspace and were challenged by two Israeli Mirage fighters. One of the invaders was shot down as the other three fled back to Egypt.

Israeli officials denied Egyptian charges that Israeli planes had bombed civilian areas of Port Said and declared that the Israeli attack had been limited to military targets.

Cairo Radio repeatedly broadcast charges over the weekend that the Israeli forces, in violation of the cease-fire agreements, were trying to dislodge the Egyptians from their east bank foothold at Port Fuad and to occupy the area. Port Fuad is directly across the canal from Port Said.

Soviet Union Calls for Condemnation of Israel and Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 9. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union, in a bitter, vitriolic attack on Israel tonight, called on the United Nations Security Council to condemn Israel as the aggressor in Saturday's Suez Canal clashes and to enjoin Israel from further aggression under pain of sanctions. Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko of the Soviet Union told the Council that if it found it necessary to impose sanctions on Israel, the Soviet Union was prepared to participate.

In an abusive, polemical tirade in which he described the Israelis as "the Tel Aviv bandits" and "pirates," the Soviet envoy made slashing attacks on the United States accusing it of supporting Israel in an "imperialistic conspiracy" to prevent the democratic development of the Arab states. Israel would not act so recklessly, the Soviet spokesman said, if it did not have the support of Washington, London, Bonn and others. He insisted that "immediate Israeli withdrawal and the liquidation of the consequences of the aggression" remained the most urgent task before the Council.

The Soviet spokesman was immediately answered by Lord Caradon of Britain and Ambassador Arthur Goldberg of the United States. The British ambassador deplored the Soviet attack and called on the Council for practical measures to further peace. He proposed that the Council authorize the Secretary General to send observers to the Sinai Peninsula and a representative to deal with the parties concerned on all matters involving peace.

Mr. Goldberg, dismissing the Fedorenko charges as "boilerplate," stressed the need for strict observance of the cease-fire by all parties and endorsed Secretary-General U Thant's proposals to send observers to the scene. He said the United States favored in principle the withdrawal of the Israeli forces but said this had to be coupled with the termination of the state of war and belligerency and the agreement for total peace.

The Secretary-General told the Council tonight that Lt. Gen. Odd Bull had informed him he would need 25 additional observers to cover both sides of the Suez Canal, these observers to be supported by technical and logistics staff. He noted that it was advisable to have the approval of the countries concerned as to the countries from which the observers would be drawn.

Mr. Thant's proposals for stationing of observers were favorably received by a majority of the Council. The debate was expected to be concluded tonight with the expression of a consensus supporting the Secretary-General's plan to send in an observer team.

(In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban reported today to the Cabinet on the General Assembly debate on the Middle East situation. He was quoted as saying that the diplomatic battle had not yet ended and Israel must prepare to withstand strong pressures from various directions. The Foreign Minister also reported to the Cabinet on Secretary-General U Thant's proposals to station U.N. observers on both the Israeli and Egyptian sides in the Suez Canal area. The Cabinet did not reach a decision on this question.)

Egypt and Israel Accuse Each Other of Cease-Fire Violations

Both Israel and Egypt lost no time Saturday in seeking an urgent meeting of the Security Council to deal with the situation and the Council was convened Saturday evening at 6 P.M. In his letter to the president of the Security Council, Ambassador Gideon Rafael of Israel charged that its "aggressive actions showed that the UAR policy remained that of maintaining a continued state of belligerence against Israel."

Ambassador Mohammed el-Kony of Egypt, who was permitted to speak first, accused Israel of escalating military activities in violation of the cease-fire agreements in an "overall scheme supported and encouraged by certain powers, aimed at disturbing international peace." He repeated the discredited Egyptian charge that the United States and Britain had participated in the war on June 5 at the side of Israel and said the United States had clearly encouraged Israel "to flout the General Assembly."

Referring to the failure of the Soviet Union and the non-aligned bloc to put through a resolution in the General Assembly to require Israel to withdraw its forces to their pre-June 5 positions, the Egyptian envoy said: "Israel might have interpreted the General Assembly's inaction as an open invitation for it to continue to disregard all ethics." He warned that as long as Israeli forces occupied Arab territory, "there are bound to be violations of the cease-fire."

Ambassador Rafael told the Council that the incidents Saturday were part of a chain of events which began July 1 which had resulted in the death or injury of more than 40 Israeli soldiers. He told the Council that "Israel firmly wishes to observe the cease-fire and see it enforced, but the UAR seems set on eroding it away and adapting the old policy of belligerency to the new circumstances." He said it was clear that Egypt had carefully planned the Saturday attack. At no time, he insisted, had Israeli forces initiated violation of the cease-fire and Israel would continue to operate with the Security Council to ensure an effective cease-fire.

Soviet Has Replaced Half of Planes, Fourth of Tanks Lost by Arabs

WASHINGTON, July 9. (JTA) -- Official American sources said today that the Soviet Union had already replaced one-half the number of jet planes lost by Egypt and Syria during the six-day war with Israel and about one-quarter of the number of tanks and vehicles. The Russians were also believed to have sent additional SAM ground-to-air missile systems to Egypt.

Walt W. Rostow, President Johnson's special assistant on international security affairs, told a nationwide television audience today that the Soviet resupply of arms to the Arab states had been "substantial" but that it was too soon to say flatly that the Soviets had opted for resumption of the arms race. Appearing on the "Meet the Press" program, Mr. Rostow said it had been clear since 1955 that Russia had been trying to expand its influence in the Middle East.

Ambassador Avraham Harman of Israel drew attention to the "massive resupply" of Soviet arms to Egypt and other Arab states when he appeared on a Washington television program today. In response to questions about assurances that the United Nations Security Council would consider other issues after Israeli forces were withdrawn to the pre-June 5 borders, Mr. Harman cited past Soviet vetoes blocking Security Council action, stressed that the countries of the Middle East should not be "pawns in anybody's hands," and said it was up to the people of the region to solve their problems.

Deny Reports Dayan to Resign Following Premier's Criticisms

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- Government circles rejected today widely circulated reports that Gen. Moshe Dayan would resign as Minister of Defense following criticism by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in a newspaper interview published last Friday.

Mr. Eshkol was quoted as saying that the premiership and the defense portfolio should be held by the same person as, but for a brief time it always was prior to Gen. Dayan's assumption of the post last May. Mr. Eshkol was also critical of the fulsome credit being given Gen. Dayan for the conduct of the six-day war, arguing that Gen. Dayan's role in the war was mainly limited to boosting morale and that major credit should go to Gen. Itzhak Rabin, the chief of staff.

Government and Mapai Party circles said today that as long as the present critical situation continued and national unity was so urgent, the government of national union formed by the broadening of the coalition last May, would be continued. Representatives of Mr. Eshkol's Mapai Party and Gen. Dayan's Rafi Party were scheduled to meet today to try to iron out the difficulties which have delayed conclusion of the agreement to merge the two labor parties.

Eshkol to Meet Papal Envoy Today for Talks on Future of Holy Places

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- Msgr. Angelo Felici, the special papal envoy to Israel, completed today a tour of the holy sites in the Old City, both Christian and Moslem. He will meet Prime Minister Levi Eshkol tomorrow to discuss the overall status of the shrines and their protection.

Msgr. Felici, who is the Vatican Undersecretary of State for Extraordinary Affairs, came here on a special mission in connection with Pope Paul's announced desire for the internationalization of Jerusalem to ensure freedom of access to the holy places.

Mr. Eshkol said in a statement last Friday that Israel did not seek ownership of the holy places and was prepared to consider any proposals that Msgr. Felici may have brought from the Vatican.

(The New York Times reported from Aedipsos, Greece, that the new Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Most Reverend Ieronimos Kotsonis, had announced his readiness to support the internationalization of the holy places in Jerusalem. The primate was quoted as saying that "it is better to have the status of the holy places independent of the political situation." He said the problem of whether the internationalization would apply to the entire city or just to the holy places would have to be worked out later, preferably on the initiative of the United Nations.)

The Moslem holy places in the Old City of Jerusalem are again under the supervision of Jerusalem Moslem Committee which exercised that function under the Jordanian regime. It was reported today that the Moslems in the Gaza Strip would be given authorization next week to cross Israel to worship on Friday at the Al-Aksa Mosque in the Old City.

Archbishop George Hakim, head of the Greek Catholic Church in Israel, who returned this weekend from a visit to Rome, told the Jerusalem Post that Pope Paul VI had told him that "we shall do nothing against Israel."

World Jewish Congress Appeals for Increased Immigration into Israel

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- The governing council of the World Jewish Congress concluded its sessions here today with a call on Jewish communities throughout the free world to step up immigration to Israel.

Citing the unprecedented response by world Jewry to the challenge of "Israel's historic victory" in last month's Arab-Israel war, the WJC body declared in a statement: "We call upon all Jewish communities to give substance and significance to their response through aliyah (immigration), intensification of economic cooperation in the upbuilding of Israel and the development of its institutions and to strengthen the spiritual and cultural resources of Jewish tradition by education of children and adults alike."

JDC Reports 'Overwhelming' Problems Raised by Flight from Arab Lands

PARIS, July 9. (JTA) -- A Joint Distribution Committee official told members of the seventh United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Mission here that the impact of the six-day war on Jews forced to leave Arab countries had brought "overwhelming" problems to Jewish welfare agencies.

The 56 men and women in the group constituted the first UJA mission going overseas since the war. In his report, Theodore Feder, deputy director general of the JDC said that 100,000 Jews in Arabian and North African countries were all uneasy although the situation was better in some countries than others.

He said the JDC has assumed responsibility for giving the fleeing Jews food, shelter and eventual transportation to places of resettlement. The UJA members also met with French Jewish leaders here before leaving for Rome. They spent three days in France surveying Jewish welfare and refugee problems.

Canadian Jewish Congress Asks Government to Intervene

MONTREAL, July 9. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress asked Secretary of State for External Affairs Paul Martin today for urgent Canadian Government action in behalf of the Jewish communities in the Arab countries.

In a telegram to Ottawa, the Congress referred to the "physical assaults and despoliation" suffered by the Jewish communities in the Arab League countries and to the refusal of the Egyptian authorities to permit the International Red Cross to visit imprisoned Jews in Egypt. The telegram urged immediate Canadian action on humanitarian grounds to prevent further excesses.

Saul Hayes, executive vice-president of the Congress, and Dr. Joseph Kage of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, met with officials of the Canadian Government's Department of Manpower and Immigration on the question of expediting action on immigration applications from Jews in North Africa.

Interfaith Leader Hits Christian Failure to Speak Out on Israel

NEW YORK, July 9. (JTA) -- The director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee told religious news writers this weekend that "the profound disparity in the respective responses of Jews and Christians to the plight of Israel during the days in which that Jewish community was threatened with extinction reveals that Christians and Jews are still separated by a great abyss of lack of mutual knowledge and understanding."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum told the annual meeting of the Religious Newswriters Association that in future interfaith dialogues, Christians must understand "the profound historical, religious and liturgical meaning of the land of Israel and of Jerusalem to the Jewish people."

The Jews recalled with gratitude the position taken by outstanding individuals, Catholic and Protestant, Rabbi Tanenbaum noted, but he said "the failure of the 'diplomatic' institutions of Christendom to speak an unequivocal word in defense of the preservation of the Jewish people will haunt the agenda of future Jewish-Christian dialogues for years to come."

He said Jews would now be more responsive to the plight of the Arab refugees, "which has become such a preoccupation on the part of so many Christian institutions and leaders" and he urged Christian leaders also to be increasingly aware of the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab countries where Jews "are being subjected to ruthless persecution and oppression."

He said pressure to internationalize all of Jerusalem would "intensify the politicalization of the present problems and increase the difficulties for peaceful settlement." He said Christian leaders, including the Vatican, were concerned about assurance of freedom of access to the Holy Places and noted that Israel had already demonstrated that this "is a basic policy of its government."

Christian Faculty Members Participating in Three 'Ecumenical Institutes'

NEW YORK, July 9. (JTA) -- Three summer "ecumenical institutes" are currently underway in the Midwest in which faculty members of church-related schools, universities and seminaries are taking graduate-level study with Jewish scholars.

The institutes are being held at Dubuque, Iowa; Wheeling, W.Va.; and St. Meinrad, Ind., under the auspices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in cooperation with the Association of Theological Faculties of Iowa, the Wheeling College Institute of Jewish Studies and the St. Meinrad Seminary and the American Benedictine Academy in Indiana.

Participants in the institutes study contemporary Jewish theology, Jewish history, the Jewish Bible, the contemporary Jewish community and the history of Jewish-Christian relations.

Brazil to Honor Dr. Albert Sabin, Polio Conqueror

SAO PAULO, July 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Albert S. Sabin, developer of live polio vaccine which was instrumental in winning the battle over the disease, will be decorated with an Order of Merit by President Costa Silva of Brazil and will be honored by Governor Roberto Abreu Sodre of the State of Sao Paulo with the rare title of "Benefactor of Humanity."