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Rusk Hits Soviet for Mideast Arms Shipments But Sees Moderating Influence

WASHINGTON, July 19, (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk criticized the Soviet Union today for the major resupply of arms to the Arab states in recent weeks but implied that Moscow might have some effect in influencing the Arabs to moderate their refusal to accept the permanent existence of Israel.

(Agency reports from Moscow indicated that two Arab leaders who had sought Moscow's agreement to a renewal of the Arab war against Israel on a guerrilla basis, left Moscow without having secured pledges of Soviet support for their proposals. The two, Presidents Boumedienne of Algeria and Aref of Syria, are considered the leaders of the extremist war party in the Arab leadership.

(In Amman, King Hussein told newsmen yesterday that if the Western countries did not provide Jordan with arms and equipment to reequip its armies, Jordan would have to turn to the Soviet Union. He said, however, that he hoped the need to ask Russia for arms would never arise.)

Mr. Rusk told a press conference that Russia agreed with the United States on Israel's basic right to exist and he supposed this was a matter of "some consequence." He pointed out, however, that the governments of some Arab states could not at present survive if they made any move towards reconciliation with Israel. He indicated that Israel had a legitimate interest in trying to secure peaceful relations with her neighbors.

The Secretary of State took Russia to task for major munitions shipments to the Arabs following the cease-fire. He said this new arms flow created a problem of security not only for Israel but for other Arab countries not receiving as much military aid. He declared that there should be some understanding between suppliers of arms and recipients "to put some ceiling on the arms race in the Middle East."

Mr. Rusk renewed the appeal, first expressed by President Johnson on June 19 as one of the five principles of a Middle East settlement, for an agreement by all nations supplying arms to the Middle East to report the amounts to the United Nations.

President Johnson Says Middle East Stands at the Crossroads

JERUSALEM, July 19, (JTA) -- President Johnson declared today that "the Middle East stands today at a decisive crossroad poised between great peril and promise." In a message to the jubilee convention of the Zionist Organization of America, Mr. Johnson expressed the belief that "your membership will represent America's fervent wish that all nations of the region seize upon this historic moment with the vision and generosity it demands."

The President said he was confident that "you will advance our belief in the fundamental rights of every nation to live and the accompanying obligation to respect the rights of others to live. And I assure you that as you do your part to secure lasting peace from anxious truce, you have our continuing concern and the concern of all men of good will."

The convention, which will open Thursday evening and will continue until July 26, marks the 70th anniversary of the world Zionist movement and the First World Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl. Many of the 1,000 delegates attending the convention made a pilgrimage today to Dr. Herzl's grave.

Move to Bar Secret Arms Purchase Loans by Export-Import Bank

WASHINGTON, July 19, (JTA) -- Thirteen Republican members of the House Banking and Currency Committee, led by Rep. Seymour Halpern, of New York, disclosed today efforts to redraft legislation authorizing the renewal of the charter of the United States Export-Import Bank to prevent the bank from giving secret loans to subsidize arms shipments to the Arab states.

Several Democratic members of the committee, possibly enough to give the dissenters a majority expressed sympathy with the complaints that led the Republicans to seek to recall a bill extending the life of the bank for five years and to increase its operating authority by \$4.5 billion.

The dissenting action followed disclosures that the Bank had made secret, "Country X" loans in excess of \$2 billion to finance arms purchases. The practice was defended by Chairman Wright Patman, Texas Democrat, who said the Administration should have flexible discretion in dispensing arms to Arabs and others.

Rep. Halpern charged today that the Administration had acted "covertly to finance arms for Arabs forces that resulted in the death of Israelis in the recent Soviet-backed attempt to liquidate Israel." He said it was "shocking that the taxpayers, without their knowledge, were paying for jets and tanks shipped to Arabs who openly avowed that these arms would be used against Israel."

Israel Replies to Gromyko, Proposes Soviet Adopt 'Objective Attitude'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 19. (JTA) -- Israel replied tonight to new Soviet charges that it was guilty of "continued aggression" in the Suez Canal and to demands that it withdraw its forces behind the pre-June 5th lines. It proposed that the Soviet Union "contribute to international peace and stability by adopting a balanced and objective attitude, by supporting the complete termination of belligerency and by repudiating the refusal of Arab states to recognize Israel's right of national existence and by insisting upon their duty to live in peace with Israel."

The new charges had been made by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko in a letter to the Presidents of the Security Council and General Assembly. Ambassador Gideon Rafael replied tonight for Israel.

"In the view of the Government of Israel," he declared, "an integral and inseparable link exists between the withdrawal and disengagement of forces, and the establishment of normal, peaceful and good neighborly relations between the states of the region. Now that the cease-fire has been established and measures for its observance have been instituted with Security Council assistance, conditions are ripe for the Middle Eastern states to reach agreements for the establishment of peaceful conditions free from external intervention and from the effects of Great Power rivalries.

"No state can be expected to yield to the demands and claims of its neighbors while they proclaim a state of war against it, avow their desire to bring about its destruction, and withhold recognition of its sovereign rights," Ambassador Rafael said. "Neither the Soviet Union nor any other country has acted or would act in the way that the Soviet Government is now suggesting that Israel should act."

The Israeli envoy denied that Israel had violated the cease-fire, saying that "there is no international authority or factual basis for that allegation." The allegation of Israeli "aggression," he said "has no foundation whatever, it was put by the Soviet Union to the test of a vote in the Security Council on June 14 and at the General Assembly on July 4 and was emphatically rejected by both organs."

Referring to Mr. Gromyko's warning of "a wider military conflict and renewed hostilities," Mr. Rafael said: "if the cease-fire is observed, and all member states refrain from illicit intervention, the conflict will not be widened but will, on the contrary, be brought to an end."

Assembly Efforts to Agree on Resolution Stalemated

Efforts in the United Nations General Assembly to reach agreement on a basic resolution dealing with the Middle East situation appeared to be at a complete standstill this evening with the collapse of all efforts to arrive at an acceptable compromise solution. The fifth emergency session of the Assembly, by agreement, is to end tomorrow.

The Soviet delegation, which was most active in seeking agreement on a resolution, was not able to overcome the objections of the Latin American states to any resolution which did not link termination of the state of belligerency to the demand for withdrawal of Israeli forces to their pre-June 5th positions. Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin called on Ambassador Arthur Goldberg last night in an attempt to overcome this barrier, but the United States held firm.

Pazhwak Denies Permitting Offensive Anti-Religious Remarks in Assembly

Abdul Rahman Pazhwak of Afghanistan, President of the General Assembly, issued a long statement today denying Israeli charges that he had permitted the rostrum of the General Assembly to be used for "venomous and scurrilous religious incitement." The Israeli complaint followed a long, rambling speech by Jamil Baroodi, Saudi Arabian delegate, in which he expressed regrets, in discussing the holy places that, "this time there will be no Jesus to drive the money-changers from the Temple."

Mr. Pazhwak said that at one point in Mr. Baroodi's speech, he sent him a note of appeal which the speaker ignored. He said he then intervened orally to say that the speaker's statement was irrelevant. "It should be noted that only one reference in the Saudi Arabian statement may be interpreted as offensive to Jewish tradition," Mr. Pazhwak said. "That reference was made at the last stage of his speech."

Israel meanwhile replied to an Egyptian complaint of Israeli cease-fire violations in the Suez Canal area by charging that the complaint was "a clear admission" that Egyptian forces had begun the fighting on July 14-15.

Israel Denies It Sent Captured MIG-21's to U.S. for Inspection

JERUSALEM, July 19. (JTA) -- Official sources here denied today American press reports that Soviet-made MIG-21 jet planes captured by Israel in the June war have been flown to the United States for intelligence evaluations. The sources said that no planes or other captured Arab military equipment had been sent to the United States or any other country.

Jewish National Fund Begins Clearing West Bank Area for Cultivation

JERUSALEM, July 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has started clearing some 11,000 acres of land in the Latrun area and in the former demilitarized zone along the Syrian and Jordanian borders, JNF officials announced today.

The area includes pre-war Israeli territory to which access had been denied by the Arabs. The land is suitable for both pasture and cultivation, JNF officials said. They added that about 10,000,000 pounds (\$3,300,000) would be invested in the project which will be carried out with maximum speed.

Eight Youthful Spies Sentenced in Haifa Court

HAIFA, July 19. (JTA) -- Eight members of an Israeli Arab juvenile spy ring were sentenced yesterday in Haifa Juvenile Court to prison terms. Their ages averaged 14 years. The ringleader, described as a 14-year-old boy who had been active in obtaining security information for Jordan prior to the June war, was ordered confined for six years.

The seven other youthful defendants were given terms ranging from one to three years.

Meanwhile, police reported the arrest of an adult from an Israeli Arab village near Haifa, who was charged with having participated in an espionage ring which was smashed two years ago. The suspect returned to Israel yesterday from a stay in Germany where he reportedly had contact with Syrian intelligence agents.

Expert Predicts One-Million-Case Increase in Citrus Exports

LONDON, July 19. (JTA) -- An increase of at least six percent, or about one million cases, in Israeli citrus exports during the coming season which starts next November has been forecast by Dr. J. Weissburg, commercial director of the Israel Citrus Marketing Board, the Financial Times said today.

Warning that the estimate was "very early and tentative," Dr. Weissburg said that Israel's citrus exports next season were expected to reach 18,500,000 or possibly 19,000,000 cases compared with 17,400,000 cases shipped during the 1966-67 season.

The Israeli citrus official said these figures did not include possible shipments from the Gaza Strip, now held by Israel, where the fruit is generally of a lower quality than that exported by the Citrus Marketing Board. In the past, the Gaza Strip fruit was exported mainly to Eastern Europe.

Moscow Chief Rabbi Complains of Israeli 'Aggression'

JERUSALEM, July 19. (JTA) -- An exchange of letters between the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, Yehuda Leib Levin, and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim of Israel in which Rabbi Levin repeated Soviet charges of aggression against Israel in the June crisis and war, was published here today. Rabbi Levin quoted the Soviet press on such accusations.

In his letter, Rabbi Levin, apparently acting under Soviet pressures, wrote Rabbi Nissim that he had asked Ambassador Katriel Katz to bar Israel diplomats in the Soviet Union from "spreading anti-Soviet literature" in synagogues and thus breaking Soviet laws. This was not the first time that Rabbi Levin approached Israeli envoys in Moscow on such issues but it was believed that this was the most vehement of his interventions.

Rabbi Nissim, in his reply, said the Soviet charges were a defamation. He urged Rabbi Levin, as well as all Russian Jews to join in Israel's "great joy" at the fulfillment of prophecies which followed the six-day June war, an apparent reference to the reunification of New and Old Jerusalem which made the Western Wall in the old city available to Jews for the first time in decades.

Argentine Jews Protest Gomulka's Attack on Jews in Poland

BUENOS AIRES, July 19. (JTA) -- A special convention of Polish Jews living in Argentina adopted a resolution today protesting against an attack on Jews in Poland for having welcomed Israel's victory over the Arabs last month.

The attack had been made by Wladyslaw Gomulka, Communist Party chief in Poland, who denounced these Jews as "fifth columnists."

The convention was addressed by Ambassador Moshe Alon of Israel and Chief Rabbi David Kahane. Abraham Mitelberg, Buenos Aires publisher, presided at the meeting.

Five Prominent Jews Repudiate Position of American Council for Judaism

NEW YORK, July 19, (JTA) -- Four prominent Jewish business and communal leaders and one state government official denounced yesterday the position taken by the American Council for Judaism on Israel and at least two of them resigned from the organization.

The criticism followed an interview with Rabbi Elmer Berger, executive director of the anti-Zionist group, who declared that Israel had been engaged in "aggression" in the Middle East crisis and termed the immense American Jewish support for Israel in the June war as "hysteria." The five leaders were listed as supporting those views.

The five Jewish leaders are Donald S. Klopfer, Random House vice-chairman; John Mosler, chairman of the Mosler Safe Company; Walter N. Rothschild Jr., president of Abraham and Strauss; Stanley Marcus, president of the Neiman-Marcus Company of Dallas; and Joseph H. Louchheim, deputy commissioner in charge of the New York State Department of Welfare's New York City division.

In assailing the position of the anti-Zionist group, the five leaders stressed their sympathy for Israel and declared they had made substantial contributions to Israeli causes during and right after the June war.

Mr. Klopfer said that the Council had "completely misrepresented my views about Israel" and said he was resigning immediately. Mr. Louchheim said he was sending a letter of resignation. Mr. Mosler said he had resigned from the Council's board 20 years ago but that his office had paid dues for him sporadically since. He added that "I do not want to be associated in any way with this movement any more than I would want to belong to the John Birch Society." In a letter to Richard Korn, Council president, he said that use of his name by the Council "without my permission is highly improper and I advise you not to make that mistake again."

Sidney Solomon, chairman of Abraham and Strauss, issued a statement on behalf of Mr. Rothschild who is vacationing in Europe, declaring that Mr. Rothschild would have repudiated the Council's views completely and that Mr. Rothschild "has contributed to the Israel Emergency Fund."

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, said that the criticism was proof that American Jewry was 100 percent behind the present position of Israel. He said that Rabbi Berger had listed the five leaders and a sixth, Henry Loeb of Loeb Rhodes and Co., as endorsing the Council's position.

"With five of the six disavowing Rabbi Berger's use of their name as sponsors of the Council for Judaism's position, the Council for Judaism stands revealed as being irresponsible," He added that the reaction of the five leaders proved that the Council was also "morally bankrupt."

Suit Seeks to Compel Metropolitan Life to Hire Sabbath-Observer

NEW YORK, July 19, (JTA) -- An Orthodox Jewish organization said today it had filed suit against the New York State Human Rights Commission to force it to accept a complaint that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company refused to hire a Sabbath-observing Jew.

The suit naming the insurance company as co-defendant was filed by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs after the state agency twice rejected the complaint on procedural grounds, according to Dr. Marvin Schick, president of the Jewish group. Dr. Schick said that the insurance company, one of the largest in the United States, had not denied the substance of the complaint.

The applicant for the job, Bernard Rubin, a computer programmer, asserted he had been offered a position after completing a series of examinations. He had then informed the Metropolitan Life interviewer that he would not work on the Jewish Sabbath because he was an Orthodox Jew and that, for the same reason, he would have to leave earlier on Fridays during the winter months because of the earlier sundown. Mr. Rubin said he was then informed that the company could not alter its schedule to accommodate him and it refused him the position.

A complaint was filed with the Human Rights Commission in 1965 and was rejected. In 1966, the complainant asked for a review of the rejection and again was turned down. Dr. Schick, in announcing the new suit, said that the Commission had said, in announcing its refusal to consider the Rubin complaint, that under existing law, it could do little to stop discrimination against Sabbath observers. He added that, under new guidelines announced last week by the Federal Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, commercial firms were required to hire such applicants unless they could prove that use of such personnel would do substantial harm to their enterprises. Dr. Schick said that the suit was filed in the hope that this ruling would apply to the Rubin complaint.

A Metropolitan spokesman pointed out that the proceeding was not a suit against the company but an action under civil practice law to compel the Commission to take action. Dr. Schick said the suit had been filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan.