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Revised Estimates Put Jewish Property Losses in Detroit at \$50 Million

DETROIT, July 26, (JTA) -- Revised estimates today of Jewish property losses in the rioting that devastated this city during the past three days put the total at \$50,000,000 out of overall losses in the city that may range as high as one billion dollars.

A survey today indicated that many stores and shops in outlying areas of the city had been looted and burned and that damage had been suffered in wider areas than had been known yesterday.

A wholesaler serving the 12th Street downtown area, once the Jewish ghetto, said today that 30 Jewish merchants in the area whom he supplied had been completely wiped out, their stores gutted and their stocks looted. None of their loss was covered by insurance since the underwriters have refused for some time to offer coverage in that area.

Victims of the disturbances included a number of aged Jews who had continued to reside in the formerly Jewish Dexter district. This section was heavily damaged in the rioting and these elderly Jews were left without food or the means of getting it. Employees of the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Family and Children's Service and Yeshiva Beth Yahuda prepared packages of groceries today -- a three-day food supply -- for distribution to these people.

A drop-off station for clothing, non-perishable foods and other supplies for victims of the disorders was set up at the Jewish Center at Curtis and Myers. Staff members of the Jewish agencies did volunteer service again today at the downtown interfaith emergency center set up by the Jewish Community Council, the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Protestant Council of Churches to advise and assist the riot victims.

None of the Jewish community buildings was damaged in the conflagrations or by mob action and all Jewish community offices were open and functioning today. Programs in the Jewish community centers, suspended for two days, were resumed today.

Congress Hears Protests on Soviet Treatment of Russian Jews

WASHINGTON, July 26, (JTA) -- The House of Representatives was told today that Soviet authorities were putting pressure on the Jews in Russia to disavow Israel and to organize protests against the Jewish State and the United States Government was urged to counter Soviet exploitation of the racial disturbances in a number of American cities by letting the world know the full story of Soviet treatment of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union.

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, told the House today that the Soviet press had "exploited racial disturbances in Detroit, Newark and other U.S. cities by misrepresentations on the issue of minority rights in America." He said "the world should know the full story of how the Kremlin has cruelly and cynically taken vengeance against Russian Jewry because Israel defeated the Soviet-instigated Arab war."

Rep. Robert Sikes, Florida Democrat, speaking of pressures on Russian Jews, said that "it is not difficult to remember the harsh treatment of the Jews in other days when Russian rulers encouraged pogroms against the Jews." He said that "Russia has much to gain by allowing greater freedom of expression among its Jewish citizens." He said many of Russia's three million Jews would like to emigrate and, "of course, Israel is high on the list of preferred countries."

Envoy Says Jordan-Israel Talks Possible if Israel Withdraws Troops

WASHINGTON, July 26, (JTA) -- An official Jordanian Government spokesman has, for the first time, said that Jordan would be willing to sit down and negotiate a permanent settlement with Israel involving mutual recognition and economic cooperation. A primary condition, however, he said, must be the removal of Israeli forces from the Jordanian territory Israel has occupied.

Ambassador Farhan Shubeilat, of Jordan, said today in an exclusive interview with the Washington Post that "talk between Israel and Jordan would be easy after Israeli troops are withdrawn from Jordan's territory." He said that in the presence and under the guarantee of a third party, "it would even be possible for us to accept the 1947 partition of Palestine and existence of Israel."

He said, however, that Jordan would never negotiate "under the edge of the sword" while Israeli forces remained in disputed areas, and he warned that "we will not accept any agreement that takes away our part of Jerusalem." That part of the partition plan, he said, was not negotiable.

Ambassador Shubeilat, who is leaving Washington to assume another diplomatic post, said that the talks could lead to a settlement of the Akaba Gulf and Suez Canal transit issues. He said "there is no reason why Israel should not have free passage" and predicted that "such issues should not raise much difficulty in future."

Israel Denies Having Made Secret Approaches to King Hussein

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Official Israeli sources denied today as entirely without foundation reports widely published in London that Israel had been having secret talks with King Hussein of Jordan seeking a basis for opening of negotiations.

There have been no secret approaches or offers to Jordan, it was stated. The Israeli position was and remained that Israel was ready to discuss any subject with the Arab states at the negotiating table except the future of Jerusalem.

Egypt Rejects Two Proposals by Gen. Bull for Cease-Fire Observance

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel Defense Minister, accused Egypt today of refusing to respect the Sinai Peninsula cease-fire ordered by the Security Council last month. He made the charge after a meeting today with Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, United Nations Secretary-General U Thant's representative for the cease-fire arrangements between Israel and the defeated Arab countries.

Gen. Bull reported to Gen. Dayan that, on his recent visit to Cairo, the Egyptians rejected two Bull proposals which he had previously submitted to Israel. One proposal called for an agreement for both Egypt and Israel to refrain from using the Suez Canal. When Gen. Dayan was given the proposal he indicated he felt it could be the basis of negotiations if Egypt agreed.

Gen. Bull also said that the Egyptians had rejected a proposal for establishment of a formal demarcation line. Gen. Dayan told Gen. Bull that Israel had already given U.N. observers the exact cease-fire line on the Israeli side. Gen. Dayan stressed that maintenance of the cease-fire was dependent on agreement on the demarcation lines. He said the Egyptian refusal to agree to a demarcation line proved they did not intend to honor the Security Council cease-fire order.

ZOA Convention Urges U.S. to Restore Middle East Arms Balance

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Israel's army is, "man for man, as good as the best armies and soldiers in the world, and can manage against any volunteers who may come to the region," Brigadier Ezer Weizmann, head of the general staff headquarters of the Israeli defense forces, declared here today.

Brig. Weizmann made that statement in an address to the 1,000 delegates to the 70th jubilee convention of the Zionist Organization of America, in session here. He said that Israel's strategic position "was never as good as it is today, and no Arab army in the foreseeable future could manage to expel Israel from its present positions. The only major drawback in our present situation is the lack of large-scale Jewish immigration from the Western world -- a situation which must find an early remedy."

In one of a number of resolutions adopted by the convention today, the ZOA urged the United States Government to restore the arms balances in the Middle East region which, the measure stated, "is rapidly deteriorating in favor of the Arabs through the inflow of large quantities of Russian arms."

The American Zionists also pledged themselves to continue to demand that direct negotiations be held between Israel and the Arab states "as the only means toward a lasting peace." Other resolutions expressed anxiety over the fate of Russian Jewry, demanding that the Soviet Government grant Soviet Jews the same rights given to all other minorities in the USSR; called for "all out efforts" for increased Jewish immigration to Israel and for greater investments in Israel; urged that professionals come to Israel in increasing numbers; and pledged "every possible effort toward deepening Hebrew knowledge and study as well as the mutual Jewish historic heritage."

In connection with immigration, the ZOA expressed the hope that the Israel Government would make all facilities available to American immigrants and investors. Jacques Torczyner was re-elected president of the ZOA for another term. Tonight, the convention adjourned to Tel Aviv where, at a banquet, President Zalman Shazar was given the ZOA Theodor Herzl Award.

Haifa Jew, Held as Spy for Lebanon, Believed Mentally Unbalanced

HAIFA, July 26. (JTA) -- A 25-year-old Israeli Jew, Isaac Benzeev Davidson, was remanded by a Haifa magistrate on charges of espionage for Lebanon. Police indicated a belief that he was mentally unbalanced.

Israelis Propose Direct Talks to Break Bottleneck on West Bank Refugees

JERUSALEM, July 26, (JTA) -- In talks today with Secretary-General U Thant's personal representative, Israeli officials renewed proposals for direct discussion with the Jordanian authorities on measures to facilitate the return to the Israeli-held West Bank area of the Arabs who abandoned their homes and fled to Jordan during the June fighting.

The proposal was made by Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan when they met with Nils-Goran Gussing, the Secretary-General's representative for humanitarian affairs. Mr. Gussing later departed for Cyprus and Egypt.

Jordanian officials thus far have refused to meet with the Israelis. They have also announced that they would not accept for distribution to the refugees in Jordan the identification forms which Israel requires of each applicant for return to Israel-held territory. In a compromise move, the Israelis had agreed to have the papers, which have the name of the State of Israel on them, overprinted with the Red Cross name, but this has not been accepted by the Jordanians. As a result, preparations for the return of the Palestinian Arabs to their homes on the West Bank have been snagged. The Red Cross had previously approved the identification form.

Mindful of the scope of Mr. Gussing's terms of reference, the Israeli officials raised with him today the question of the treatment of the Jews in the Arab countries. So far, Egypt has refused to permit the International Red Cross to visit the estimated 600 Egyptian and stateless Jews held in Alexandria and Cairo prisons. Reports from other Arab countries, with the exception of Tunisia and Morocco, indicate that the Jews there continue to be in physical danger and subject to all forms of harassment.

Israel Accuses Syria of Inhuman Treatment of Prisoners

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 25, (JTA) -- Israel accused Syrian authorities today of being guilty of "inhuman treatment" of Israelis who fell into their hands. The charges were made by Ambassador Rafael in a communication to Secretary-General U Thant in which he related the case of Jacob Mashiach, one of three Israelis kidnapped by Syrian soldiers inside Israel on Sept. 16, 1966. His body was returned to the Israelis earlier this month in a prisoner exchange.

Ambassador Rafael described the efforts to locate the man made through the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, through the Secretary-General's office, the Red Cross and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The Syrians, in response to all queries, had denied knowledge of the prisoner and had insisted there was no Israeli under arrest in Syria.

Documents dealing with interrogations of Mashiach in Sept. 1966 were found in Syrian Army headquarters when Israel forces took Kuneitra. Confronted with these documents, the Syrians admitted that Mashiach had been a prisoner and asserted that he had died on Oct. 8, 1966.

Syrian Religious Leaders Protest Israeli Control of Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 26, (JTA) -- The Syrian delegation transmitted to the Secretary-General today a protest signed by the heads of the Syrian religious communities against Israel's "illegal acts" against the status of Jerusalem. The protest took exception to "Zionist domination of Jerusalem and its holy places" and demanded the return of the city to "the Arabs, its legitimate owners."

New Road Opened Through Latrun Cuts Distance Between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM, July 26, (JTA) -- A new road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which runs through Latrun and territory held by Jordan before the June war, was officially dedicated today. The area had been barred to Israel use since the 1948 war of independence. The ban was in violation of the armistice agreement.

Among those attending the dedication were Labor Minister Yigal Allon, Minister Menahem Beigin, members of Parliament and residents of settlements in the area. The new road shortens the distance between the two cities by six miles.

Egyptian Correspondent for British Press Given Free Run By Israel

TEL AVIV, July 26, (JTA) -- Wahdji Gali, Egyptian journalist and author who has been in exile from Egypt for 10 years, living mainly in London, has arrived in Israel as a correspondent for a number of British newspapers and magazines.

Gali, a Copt, is being given all facilities provided for other foreign journalists or writers here. He is allowed to travel unaccompanied to any place in Israel open to other correspondents, and is given guides whenever other correspondents are provided such aid in covering their assignments.

Dr. Abba Gefen Appointed Israel Consul-General at Toronto

BUENOS AIRES, July 26, (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Gefen, Counsellor of the Israel Embassy in Argentina, has been nominated as Israel Consul-General in Toronto, it was announced today. He will assume his new duties in August.

Russia Refuses to Contribute to UNRWA, Blames Israel for Refugee Plight

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 26. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union, which has never contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, informed Secretary-General U Thant today that it saw "no need" to send aid through that agency and would provide assistance to the Arab peoples "through appropriate channels."

Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko told the Secretary-General in a letter that the Soviet Union "is providing substantial assistance to the Arab countries with a view to eliminating the consequences of aggression committed by Israel." The Soviet Government and welfare agencies, he asserted, were providing aid to Egypt, Syria and Jordan which "have endured suffering as a result of the criminal actions of Israel's armed forces."

The Soviet envoy said aid by other countries "is, of course welcome," but he asserted that "the question of eliminating the consequences of Israel's aggression cannot be in any sense reduced to a simple matter of charity." He repeated Soviet demands that Israel unconditionally withdraw its forces from Arab territories, pay compensation to the Arabs and stand condemned as an aggressor.

He charged that the Arab refugee problem "is obviously not the result of natural disaster of some sort but a direct consequence of Israel's unceasing aggressive actions against the Arab states." The problem still existed, he said, because of Israeli aggression and unwillingness to obey the General Assembly's 1948 resolution on the return of the refugees to their former homes or the payment of compensation. This attitude of Israel's, the Russian said, prevented "a truly effective, drastic solution of the refugee problem in the Middle East."

All the members of the United Nations had been asked to make special contributions this year to UNRWA in view of the extent of the refugee problem. The Fedorenko letter was the Soviet reply to that appeal.

New Jewish Chaplain Takes Over Duties in Saigon

NEW YORK, July 26, (JTA) -- Chaplain Gerry J. Rosenberg has arrived in Saigon to assume new duties as Jewish chaplain of the U.S. Military Advisory Command in Viet Nam, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today. He succeeds Chaplain Alan M. Greenspan who has been reassigned as Jewish chaplain at Ft. Dix, N.J.

A native of Chicago, Chaplain Rosenberg was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1966. His previous post, before reassignment to Saigon, was as Jewish chaplain at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Orthodox Groups Here to Aid in Rebuilding Old City Synagogues

NEW YORK, July 26, (JTA) -- A project aimed at the restoration and reconstruction of the scores of synagogues in the Old City of Jerusalem destroyed or damaged during the Jordanian occupation over the past two decades has been launched by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

The project was announced by Rabbi Joseph Karasick, national president of the synagogue group, following an inspection tour of the holy places. He deplored the widespread destruction of Jewish houses of worship in the Old City where, he said, "all 73 of the major synagogues" were found to be "either completely destroyed during the Arab occupation or converted for such secular use as theaters or even stables."

Rabbi Karasick announced that a drive has already been launched by the UOJCA "to enlist the aid of affiliated congregations in 73 communities in the United States and Canada, each of which would become a patron to rebuild one of the destroyed synagogues in the Old City."

Open Campaign Here for Adult Studies School in Israel

NEW YORK, July 26, (JTA) -- A campaign to raise \$2,000,000 for an endowment fund for the Givat Hariva, a college for adult studies in Israel, was announced here today by the Givat Hariva Educational Foundation.

The school was opened in 1949 to provide adult education for Israelis, particularly for kibbutz members. In 1963, the school added a Kibbutz Research Institute, and a Center for Jewish-Arab and Afro-Asian studies, seeking the furtherance of Jewish-Arab understanding through reciprocal study of the heritage of the two peoples.

The Center also provides instruction for Israeli Arab women in such subjects as family hygiene and planning, the legal and social status of Arab women, child care and general subjects. The school is sponsored by Kibbutz Artzi, the Federation of Hashomer Hatzair collectives in Israel.

Young Israeli Musician Offered Top Australian Post

SYDNEY, Australia, July 26, (JTA) -- Moshe Atzmon, a 36-year-old Israeli conductor, was offered today the positions of musical director of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Atzmon, who is now in London, indicated he was ready to spend up to six months a year here in these posts.