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Battle Flares Up at Suez Canal; One Israeli Killed; Egyptian Torpedo Boat Sunk

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4, (JTA) — After almost five weeks of calm in the Suez Canal area, where Israel holds the east bank of the waterway while Egypt retains the west shore, serious fighting broke out in the region today. Before the exchanges between the two sides were over, one Israeli soldier was killed and another was wounded, the Egyptians hit an Israeli helicopter attempting to pick up wounded, and the Israelis sank an Egyptian torpedo boat.

The shooting started this morning when the Egyptians broke out with heavy artillery fire against Israeli vessels sailing the canal near the eastern shore. Israel fired back from batteries in the vicinity of Port Tewfik. That exchange lasted an hour and a half.

This afternoon, the Egyptians opened fire against the Israelis stationed in the Port Tewfik area. Israel fired back. The United Nations cease-fire observers arranged a halt to the firing, but Egypt broke that agreement within five minutes. It was here that one Israeli lost his life, and another was wounded.

The Egyptians then started shelling Israeli forces in the Sinai, about six and a half miles from Port Tewfik, and continued to fire in spite of two separate cease-fire arrangements reached by the United Nations military observers.

All along the area on and near the canal, the Egyptians kept up steady streams of fire with artillery and mortar. Israel remained in possession of Port Tewfik. The Israeli helicopter had been hit during one of these engagements. The Egyptian torpedo boat had been sunk in the canal.

The situation along the Suez Canal has been relatively quiet since July 27, when the United Nations supervisor of cease-fire operations, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, got both sides to agree to keep their shipping off the canal. Israel had insisted right along that a policy of "either or neither" be implemented, under which both sides would be allowed to use the canal or neither side.

After the July agreement had expired last week, Gen. Bull obtained agreement to continue indefinitely the practice under which neither side would use the canal for its shipping. However, a few days ago, Gen. Bull requested Israel to allow Egypt to run some of its ships through the southern half of the canal along the west bank held by Egypt. Israel's Defense Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, demanded reciprocity, saying Israel would also use that section of the canal if Egypt did.

This morning, when the Egyptian batteries opened fire on Israeli vessels sailing that portion of the canal's east bank, the Egyptians were evidently trying to scare off the Israeli ships. Israel considers the question of reciprocity important because it may have an effect on the future of navigation in the Suez Canal.

Eshkol Castigates Decision of Arab Rulers at Khartoum Not to Recognize Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4, (JTA) — Prime Minister Levi Eshkol last night castigated the Arab summit meeting just concluded at Khartoum, Sudan, as an "irresponsible" body. He expressed Israel's sorrow over the meeting's decision not to recognize Israel or to negotiate with Israel, saying that was "a grave matter which forces Israel to draw her own conclusions in the fields of politics and security."

"This stand of the Arab heads of state," said Mr. Eshkol, "strengthens Israel in her resolution not to permit a return to conditions that enabled her enemies to undermine her security and act against her sovereignty and her very existence. Israel will stand fast in the positions essential to her security and to her unhindered development." The Premier's statement was issued on behalf of the entire Cabinet, which had just met.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said that the proposals for solution of the Middle East crisis, made by Yugoslavian President Tito, were aimed "not at saving the peace but at saving the Arab governments from the need to make peace." "Israel," he said, "categorically opposes any solution not based on agreement by the sides to the dispute." Mr. Eban said that these attitudes will be made known by Israel to all governments with which Israel has diplomatic relations.

Yesterday, Mr. Eban rejected any idea that Israel might accept a "partnership" on Jerusalem affairs between the Jews and Arabs in the city's municipal government. He made that statement in bidding farewell to Ambassador Ernesto Thalmann, United Nations Secretary-General Thant's special representative regarding Jerusalem. The latter left Israel after a two-week fact-finding mission he had undertaken for Mr. Thant.

Israel Develops New Lightweight Mortar; New Weapon is Now in Mass Production

HAIFA, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Israel's Milta plants, which produce armaments, have developed a new, lightweight 120mm mortar, which weighs only 90 kg by comparison with the old type which weighed 250 kg, it was revealed here today. Because of its lighter weight, it was said, the mortar will now be classified a medium weapon, not as a heavy weapon as previously.

The new type of mortar is now in mass production, it was said, and will be exportable to many countries, providing millions of dollars of fresh income for Israel. The new mortar will be capable of using ammunition designed for the old type. However, to avoid diversification, it will not be used by the Israeli army as yet. But it can be introduced without the need for new training.

Israel Cabinet Approves Appointment of Tekoah as Head of Mission to United Nations

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The Cabinet last night approved the appointment of Yosef Tekoah, Shanghai-born deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, to the post of Israel's permanent representative and Ambassador to the United Nations. He will replace Ambassador Gideon Rafael, whose appointment was approved by the Cabinet at the same time as the Foreign Ministry's director-general.

Mr. Tekoah will assume his new post at the United Nations next winter. Meanwhile, the permanent representative at the United Nations will be Michael S. Comay, who had held that post prior to Mr. Rafael's appointment. Mr. Comay will be chairman of Israel's delegation to the next, regular session of the General Assembly, which is to convene September 19.

American Jewish Committee Condemns Negro Extremists for Anti-Israel Resolution

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee, in a statement issued here today sharply assailed a resolution adopted at the National Convention on New Politics in Chicago condemning "the imperialistic Zionist war" with a proviso that "this is not to imply anti-Semitism." The resolution was forced through at the convention by the so-called Black Power Caucus, a group of militant Negroes.

"Anti-Semitism is intolerable, whether it comes from white or Negro, and whether it is expressed by a convention of the so-called new politics in Chicago or by the old politics of Gerald L.K. Smith and the late George Lincoln Rockwell," the American Jewish Committee statement stressed. "Nor is it in any way mitigated by self-serving denials. For those who condemn what they call 'the imperialist Zionist war' between Israel and the Arab states are clearly parroting the discredited line of anti-Semites within the Soviet and Arab worlds.

"This is not to deny that Jews are sympathetic to the plight of the millions of American Negroes. For years now American Jewry, true to the prophetic tradition, has been in the vanguard of those fighting for the rights of all minorities in this country. Today, American Jews are leading in such efforts as the Urban Coalition to seek solutions to the agonizing problems of our cities.

"Expressions of anti-Semitism by Negroes -- whether of those of the new politics or of S.N.C.C. -- are not going to stop American Jews from seeking justice for all. However, we would be remiss if we did not remind Negro anti-Semites that hatred begets hatred, and that they are doing a grave disservice to the very cause they maintain they are struggling for; and that members of the so-called Black Caucus at the Chicago convention seem hell-bent on pushing the United States toward apartheid of the South African type."

Dr. King Claims There is No Anti-Semitism Within the Negro Community

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an outstanding Negro civil rights leader, told an audience of 1,500 persons yesterday in a predominantly Jewish community at the vacation resort of Fire Island that "there is virtually no anti-Semitism within the Negro community." He praised Jews as being among "the nation's strongest allies for social justice."

Among the many writers, artists, professionals and businessmen at the rally, there were two well known American Jewish authors, Herman Wouk and Bel Kaufman. Many of the island's vacation residents had opposed bringing Dr. King to the resort area. Miss Kaufman said that the people who should have been reached by the rally had not shown up.

30 Moroccan Jews in High Government Positions Reported to Have Left Country

PARIS, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- About 30 Moroccan Jews who had held high governmental positions prior to the outbreak of the Israeli-Arab war last June have left Morocco, some of them settling in France while others have gone to Israel, it was learned here today. They left due to the repercussions of the war which had worsened their relations with Moslems in Morocco.

The extremist nationalist press in Morocco has intensified its campaign against Jews during the last weeks, inciting the local Moslem population and criticizing the Government for permitting Jews to hold positions in Government offices.

300 New Cases of Nazi War Criminals Uncovered by Germany Through Prague and Warsaw

BONN, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- A total of 686 war crimes cases, many of them involving several times that number of suspects, are still being probed by the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi War Crimes, it was announced here today by Dr. Adalbert Ruckerl, the new head of the agency, which is located at Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart.

He said the recent scanning of archives on the Nazi era by some of his investigators, who had been given access to documentation in Prague and Warsaw, had resulted in the uncovering of more than 300 new cases. The recent Soviet Government announcement that it would allow West German probes to examine its records in Moscow is expected to produce still more cases, Dr. Ruckerl said.

Ilse Koch, "the beast of Buchenwald," who had been serving a life sentence at a prison at Aichach, Upper Bavaria, committed suicide there this weekend, according to an announcement by the Bavarian Ministry of Justice. Convicted for, among other crimes, making lamp shades out of the skins of Jewish martyrs at the Buchenwald concentration camp, she was 60. She had been found dead, hanging from a noose made of bedsheets attached to the bars of her prison cell.

Manifesto of Intellectuals in Czechoslovakia Asks Government to Abandon Anti-Semitism

LONDON, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- Czechoslovakia was reportedly moving toward an "explosive confrontation" between the country's intellectuals and the Czech Communist Party, the Daily Telegraph reported here today. The newspaper said that an "astonishingly outspoken" manifesto, directed to world public opinion, had been adopted at a Congress of Czech Writers.

That manifesto, which has now reached London, after being smuggled out of Czechoslovakia, accused the party leaders of carrying out "a witchhunt of a pronounced Fascist character," employing terror against dissenting writers who opposed the Government's pro-Arab, anti-Israel policy. The manifesto pleaded for abandonment of "political censorship, anti-Semitism and racism" in the country's official political policies. The manifesto had been signed by 69 artists, 183 writers, 21 television personalities, 56 scientists and publicists and other intellectuals, the newspaper reported.

Synagogue Council of America Offers to Send Rabbis to the Soviet Union

NEW YORK, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America has offered to send rabbis to the Soviet Union where, it has found, the Jews face "the prospect of being without a single rabbi or religious teacher." Announcement of the offer was made by Rabbi Henry Siegelman, executive vice-president of the Council, and Prof. Seymour Siegel, of the Jewish Theological Seminary, both of whom had just returned from a visit to the USSR. Prof. Siegel is a member of the plenum of the Council, which is comprised of the rabbinical and lay organizations of Reform, Orthodox and Conservative Jewry in the United States.

The Council's offer was made in a letter last week to the Soviet Embassy in Washington to which, to date, it has not replied. In the offer, the Council leaders stated the organization was "prepared to guarantee that our rabbis and teachers will not engage in any activities which are frowned upon by the Soviet regime and, of course, by the congregations."

Rabbi Siegelman and Prof. Siegel noted that, with the recent death of the rabbi of Kiev, "less than a handful of rabbis" has been left in the entire Soviet Union "and they are old men, and there is no one to take their place." There are not only very few rabbis, they said, but there were also no facilities for training rabbis and religious teachers. They also noted that the Soviet Union has not carried out its promises to permit publication of Jewish prayer books.

The two Council spokesmen said they had found "evidence of anti-Jewish activities in the wake of the Soviet Government's intense propaganda campaign against Israel."

Jewish Groups Withdraw Petition Seeking Ruling on Wearing Yarmulke in Public Schools

TRENTON, N.J., Sept. 4. (JTA) -- A petition calling on the State Education Commissioner here to issue a ruling permitting yarmulkes to be worn in New Jersey public schools for religious reasons was withdrawn here by the five Jewish organizations that had filed the request.

A spokesman for the five organizations indicated that a disagreement had developed among the groups on the strategy and tactics of handling the yarmulke case. Pending further discussions on procedure, it was felt that the petition to the State Education Commissioner should be withdrawn. The petition as originally filed was signed by the Jewish Community Council of Essex County; East Union County Jewish Council; and the New Jersey regions of the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

World Union of Progressive Judaism to Hold International Conference in Jerusalem

LONDON, Sept. 4. (JTA) -- The World Union of Progressive Judaism -- the organization of the Reform movement -- announced here today that it will hold its 15th biennial, international conference in Jerusalem in 1968. The organization had previously scheduled itself to meet next year in Amsterdam.

Toronto Court Invalidates City Ordinance Banning Park Speeches Inciting Race Hatred

TORONTO, Sept. 4. (JTA) — Justice Patrick Hartt of the Ontario Supreme Court upheld a ruling of a lower court that this city's ordinance against speeches in city parks which incite race hatred is invalid. The ruling affirmed the acquittal of William John Beattie, self-styled Nazi leader, who is currently serving a six-month jail sentence for hanging swastika signs on the homes of leading Jewish citizens of Toronto.

The anti-incitement by-law, enacted by the city, led to Beattie's imprisonment, but Magistrate Charles Oppen had ruled the measure illegal, and the ruling was appealed by the city fathers to the higher court. Justice Hartt, who maintained that the matter was beyond the competence of a municipality's powers, was a member of the three-man bench which had earlier rejected Beattie's appeal on the charge for which he is now imprisoned.

750,000 Children Start School Year in Israel; No 'Comprehensive' Schools in 1967-68

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4. (JTA) — The 1967 academic year opened in Israel's schools yesterday. About 750,000 children entered the schools, including almost 50,000 first-graders and an equal number of children enrolled in kindergartens.

The fear of a partial teachers strike was averted when the Government announced that the opening of "comprehensive" schools had been postponed for a year. That step was taken on the initiative of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who said "this is not the time to start the school year with a serious conflict with the Teachers Union."

ORT Opens Course on Automation for Instructors of its Vocational Schools in Many Lands

GENEVA, Sept. 4. (JTA) — A two-week seminar on automation, devoted to promotion of the teaching of computerized technology in ORT technical schools, was opened today at the suburb of Anieres by the ORT Central Institute there. Attending are 30 instructors from ORT schools in France, Switzerland, Guinea, Iran, Israel, Italy, Mali, Morocco and Tunisia.

Among the participants are also observers from the Israeli Ministry of Education, Geneva's Department of Public Education and the University Center of Economic and Social Cooperation at Nancy, France.

Sao Paulo Jews Commemorate Anniversary of Execution of Jewish Intellectuals in Russia

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Sept. 4. (JTA) — More than 500 persons participated here last night in a solemn service commemorating the 15th anniversary of the execution in the Soviet Union of the USSR's leading Jewish intellectuals purged by the late Josef Stalin.

The event had been arranged by the Federation of Jewish Communities here, under the chairmanship of acting president Marcos Firer. Among the speakers were Prof. Florestan Fernandes, chairman of the sociology department of Sao Paulo University; Dr. Julio Mesquita, director of the newspaper Estado de Sao Paulo; and Meyer Kuczyński, who delivered a moving address in Yiddish. Featuring the program was a reading of the poem "Babi Yar," by Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, rendered by a prominent actor here, Sergio Cardoso.

Prominent Mexican Writers Participate in Book on Arab-Israel 'Six-Day War'

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 4. (JTA) — Twenty-five prominent Mexican writers and journalists participated in a compilation of special articles on the June war between Israel and the Arab states, published in Spanish here today by the Central Jewish Committee. All of the authors endorsed Israel's position prior to and during the Six-Day War, declaring the conflict had been brought about by Arab provocations and aggressions. A foreword to the pamphlet was written by Sergio Nudistejer, the American Jewish Committee's representative on the Central Jewish Committee.

The Mexican Government Ministry of Education, through its National Institute of Fine Arts, is one of the patrons of the annual festival of Jewish music and song, which got under way here this weekend. The second of a series of concerts under that patronage was held here Saturday night at the Government's Palace of Fine Arts. Featured was the American opera star, Jan Peerce, as soloist, in a concert given by Hazamir, the Jewish community choir here, conducted by Abel Eisenberg.

Ehrenburg, Noted Soviet Writer, Dead; Said He is Jewish as Long as There is Anti-Semitism

LONDON, Sept. 4. (JTA) — Ilya Ehrenburg, famous Soviet-Jewish writer, died in Moscow this weekend at the age of 76. Son of a Jewish factory manager, he joined the Russian revolutionary movement when in his youth, and remained faithful to the Communist Party even during the days when Stalin was purging Jewish intellectuals, executing many of them.

He always considered himself publicly as a Jew, stating that as long as there is anti-Semitism in Russia he would be a Jew. At times, he voiced and wrote scurrilous attacks against Zionism and Israel. However, during last June's Arab-Israeli war, he stood aloof from some Jewish writers who, evidently under Government pressure, supported the Soviet Government's anti-Israel, pro-Arab policies.