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Egyptians Renew Firing in Suez Area; U.N. Reportedly Fails to Resolve Dispute

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) --- An Israeli soldier was wounded this morning in a renewal of shoot ing across the Suez Canal from Egyptian positions on the west bank of the waterway. The firing was touched off by Egyptian anti-aircraft shooting at an Israeli plane flying over the Israeli-held Sinai territory, near the east bank of the canal.

The 90-minute machinegun duel in the Kantara area ended only after four cease-fire requests by United Nations observers on patrol duty between the Egyptian and Israeli positions on the canal banks. When the Israelis opened small gun fire on the anti-aircraft guns, the Egyptians lowered the weapons for direct trajectory fire at Israeli positions.

Lt, Gen, Odd Bull, United Nations cease-fire observance chief, has reportedly failed in his contacts with the Egyptian Government in efforts to find a solution to the problem of shipping through the Gulf of Suez,

Observers suggested this is the reason behind the general's postponement of a meeting he had scheduled to discuss the question with the Israel Defense Minister, Gen, Moshe Dayan. They believe Gen, Bull has sent his file on the gulf shipping question to United Nations Headquarters in New York where the General Assembly will deal further with Middle East problems, beginning next Monday.

The dispute regarding shipping in the Gulf of Suez involves Israel's principle of mutuality. Under thornmula, Israel insists, either both Israel and Egypt are to be allowed to send their ships through the gulf — or neither.

One Israeli Wounded on Syrian Front; Damascus Building New Defenses

On the Syrian front, an Israeli tractor driver was wounded yesterday in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, when he stepped off a tractor and detonated a mine, near Tewfiq. Many mines are still embedded in the area and engineers have a full time job of clearing the area.

Israeli officials reported today that the Syrians were nearing completion of a new defense deployment along the cease-fire line, east of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, From Israeli positions near the cease-fire line, Syrian workers were seen today rushing construction of new positions and fortifications, the officials said. They added that the Syrians were giving maximum attention to fortifying approaches to Damascus, the Syrian capital. New positions are being placed on all roads leading to Damascus.

(In Washington, State Department sources said today reports had been received that Nurredin al-Atassi had been deposed as President of Syria and jailed. But it was stressed that there had been no confirmation of such reports. One official said such reports had been coming in for a week but called them purely rumors.)

U Thant Reports Jerusalem Situation Calm; Israel Holds Firm on Unification

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant reported here today that hi personal representative, who gathered factual information regarding Israel's unification of Jerusalem, has found the outward conditions fairly normal in East Jerusalem, the section Israel captured from Jordan during the Six-Day War.

Mr. Thant made his report to the emergency special session of the General Assembly, which recessed in July and is scheduled to reconvene next Monday for its final meeting. The special body, which is comprised of all members of the United Nations, is expected to pass on the report, after Monday's debate, to the regular Assembly to open the following day.

Mr. Thant's report — a 78-page document — was based entirely, except for a formal introduction, on a report filed by his personal representative for Jerusalem fact-finding, Ambassador Ernesto Thalmann, a Swiss diplomat, who spent two weeks in Jerusalem.

While observing that the outward appearance of Jerusalem was calm and appeared normal, Mr. Inhalmann also reported that many Arab personalities had given him petitions, memoranda and statements indicating serious opposition to Israel's civil rule over East Jerusalem. He also reported that there was-wide acceptance of Israel's principles, granting free access to all holy places in Jerusalem to all religious persons. However, he found Moslem religious leaders totally dissatisfied, and he reported that, on the whole, the Catholic Church, as embodied in the Vatican, still insisted that Jerusalem must constitute a "corpus separatum."

Mr. Thalmann reported that most of the Arabs who presented him with grievances were either former members of the Jordanian administration or former leaders in the Palestine Liberation Organization, the anti-Israeli fighting arm of the hostile Arabs.

Thalmann Sees Jews, Arabs Mingling; Eban Stresses Free Access to Shrines

Regarding Jerusalem's appearance, Mr. Thalmann said he was struck by the great activity in the streets of the city." "The uniforms," he stated, "were few and the weapons fewer. The military policemen went about their duties in a matter-of-fact way. They appeared to be mostly concerned with directing the traffic, which was quite heavy. The picture of the crowd in the Old City was dominated by the tourists. Arabs and Jews were mingling, To the destruction of the war new destruction had been added, Bulldozers had cleared the walls which separated the firing lines, as well as many houses in the area of the former no man's land, Also in the walled city one could see the debris of leveled houses.

"There was direct access to the Old City through many newly made roads and through the reopened gates. Outside the walled city the scars of battle were more noticeable. Also a number of shops were closed. Most of the hotels had reopened. Before dawn and during the day the muezzin could be heard as well as the church bells."

Since Mr. Thant had appointed his personal representative on Jerusalem by authorization by the Special Assembly, he included also a letter from Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban, dealing with Israel's views regarding Jerusalem unification. The Special Assembly declared Israel's unification of Jerusalem "invalid." In his letter to Mr. Thant, Mr. Eban stated:

"A salient fact of Jerusalem's life today is the intrinsic necessity of ensuring equal rights and opportunities to all the city's residents by extending to them the same public services and facilities. No international or other interest would be served by the institution of divisions and barriers which would only sharpen tension and generate discrimination. This does not foreclose the final settlement of certain important aspects of the Jerusalem situation which lie at the origin of the international interest in the city.

"I refer to the need to secure appropriate expression of the special interest of the three great religions in Jerusalem. It is our urgent desire to promote this objective in cooperation with the universal interests concerned. I am confident that, in an atmosphere of international tranquility, substantial progress could be made towards this aim, which has hitherto had no concrete fulfilment. We are now concentrating on this task. It is our policy to ensure that the Moslem, as well as the Christian and Jewish holy places, should be scrupulously respected and revered, and placed under the responsibility of e. recognized Moslem authority.²¹

Israel Authorities Cooperative; Charges Made by Arab Leaders

The Israeli authorities, whom he found very cooperative, reported Ambassador Thalmann, "stated unequivocally that the process of integration (of the unified city) was irreversible and not negotiable." The Israeli authorities — including Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Mr. Eban, and Israeli Cabinet members responsible for economics, social welfare and religious affairs, "made it very clear." stated Mr. Thalmann, "that Israel was taking every step to place under its sovereignty those parts of the city which were not controlled by Israel before June 1967;"

The Ambassador reported that Israel had already started to apply Israeli laws to East Jerusalem, although implementation of some laws had been delayed by the Israelis until Arab texts of those measures are ready for distribution to the Arab residents. He stated also that Israel had assured him that all attention was being paid to make sure that the Arab residents "would have the opportunity to bring their standard of living up to the level prevailing in Israel."

In general, said Mr. Thalmann, "the Israeli authorities stated that unification had meant that the 'underdeveloped' economy of the eastern sector had come into contact with the more developed economy of the western sector."

The report included copies of the various complaints given to Mr. Thalmann by Arab leaders, lay and religious, and were almost entirely opposed to Israel's civilian rule over East Jerusalem. On the other hand, Mr. Thalmann stated, some Arabs did accept Israel's authority and are trying to live with and under it.

The Arab notables accused Israel of violating both Moslem and Christian holy places --- but no Christian complaints of that nature were included in the Thalmann report. The Arab leaders said that many of Israel's laws are contrary not only to their laws as instituted by Jordan but are also against the precepts of Koranic law. Israel denied the charges.

Differences over Jerusalem Administration Break Out Amona Israelis

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) — Serious differences over administration of East Jerusalem, the recently acquired section of the city, were seen today to have developed between the Interior Ministry and the Jerusalem City Council.

Spokesmen for the Ministry amounced Sunday that an administrative order has been issued, constituting the Old City and its outskirts as a special planning region under the jurisdiction of a subcommittee of the District Town Planning Commission. The latter will be appointed next week and will be given all authority in planning for the Old City and its immediate environs. The subcommittee will consist of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as of other Ministries and of the municipality.

The Jerusalem City Council immediately met in special session to register its unanimous protest against the decision of the Ministry. The Council adopted a resolution declaring the Ministry's action to be an "usurpation of the rights and jurisdictions of the city and of its planning commission."

Further opposition to Government plans to expropriate all parts of the Old City developed today when leaders of the religious parties spoke against them in the Knesset (Parliament). Speakers of both Agudat Israel and the National Religious Party declared that yeshivas and other religious bodies possessing land would be the main sufferers from "upbuilding" proposals for the area.

7,000 More Arab Refugees to be Admitted to West Bank; No Time Limit Set

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Some 7,000 west bank Arab refugees, whose return from Jordan was approved but who missed the August 31 deadline, will start returning to their homes this Sunday. The Israel Ministry of the Interior announced Tuesday that the refugees will be able to make their return without any time limit. Crossings of the Jordan River will be permitted three times weekly, over the Allenby Bridge. The Ministry is expected to announce details next week regarding resumption of a family reunion plan for Arab refugees,

Israel is due shortly to announce its reply to a note by United States Secretary of State Dean Rusk, in which he reiterated the U.S. position supporting the return of all west bank refugees to their former homes. The Israel reply is expected to reformulate the basic position that, on the return of refugees as well as on other matters, direct talks must be initiated between Israel and the Arab nations involved,

Meanwhile, it has been learned that two friendly West European states have informed Israel that the position on refugees at the next essent of the General Assembly, opening next week, will be formulated in accordance with Israel's.

Israel Repatriates 346 Egyptian Civilians, 8 Wounded Nasser Soldiers

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12. (JTA) - Israel repatriated 346 Egyptian civilians and eight wounded soldiers yesterday, under an arrangement negotiated by the International Red Cross, it was announced here. The group was ferried across the Suez Canal at El Quantara. Included were 292 officials and teachers from the Gaza Strip, whose wives and children were returned to Egypt on August 3.

Arab Educators Intensify Resistance Against Schools in East Jerusalem, West Bank

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Four Arab school principals and teachers were detained today by Israel authorities on the administrative order of the west bank military commander, on charges of inciting against the opening of schools on the west bank, in general, and in East Jerusalem in particular,

Agitation against the opening of schools in East Jerusalem is now in full swing. Arab agitators there are continuing their anti-school propaganda in the face of a threat of "strong hand" measures by Israeli authorities.

Arab Oil Boycott Against West Germany Shown to be a Figsco

BONN, Sept. 12. (JTA) — The proclaimed Arab boycott against West Germany during the past year has been far from unanimous, according to the latest official statistics released here today. Only Libya and Iraq pursued the oil boycott, the report said, while other Arab states continued to supply oil to West Germany. Kuwait and Algeria, for example, delivered more oil to Germany in the past year than ever before. The Algerian delivery was up threefold since the proclaimed boycott,

Morocco Calls Up Jews for Army: Political Atmosphere Seen Improving

PARIS, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- A number of Moroccan Jews have received instructions to report for duty in the Moroccan army, it was reported here today from Casablaca. The report also said that the political atmosphere for Jews continued to improve, and that life in the Moroccan Jewish communities was returning to normal despite a continuing general hostile press toward Jews.

The newspaper, Il Opinion, has called for a Moslem boycott of Jewish business, but the effect of the call has been diminishing. The army call-up was expected to act as a contributory factor in increasing Jewish migration from Morocco.

Since Israel's Six-Day War, when Morocco, as a Moslem state, supported the Arabs both at home and at the United Nations, the situation of the Jewish community in Morocco has been steadily deteriorating. Jewish civil servants, some holding high posts, have been dismissed or forced out of their jobs, Leading rabbis and some of the leading Jewish merchants in the country have emigrated, many to intael, some to this country.

Last U.S. Envoy to Cairo Charges Gromyko with 'Engineering' Egyptian War Against Israel

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Andrei A. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, may have "engineered" Egypt's decision last spring to go to war with Israel, according to Washington's last envoy to Cairo.

Richard H, Nolte, named U,S, Ambassador to Cairo last March, but never working at the post since he had not had the opportunity of presenting his letter of credence to Egypt's President Nasser, said here that it was reasonable to speculate that Mr. Grownyko's visit to Cairo last March had had, hand in triggering the confrontation with Israel." The USSR, he said in an interview here yesterday, had apparelly told Nasser that Israel would attack Syria in May, and had encouraged Nasser accordingly to prepare militarily for action against Israel. Mr. Nolte officially resigned from his abortive post last Friday.

Indig's Deputy Premier Says Normal Ties with Israel Would Increase Mideast Tensions

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) — India has not had normal relations with Israel because it did not want to "create tensions in the Middle East," New Delhi's Deputy Prime Minister Shri Moraji Desai, said here today. To avoid "greater tensions" in the region, he stated, "we have adopted the line we adopted."

Mr. Desai, who is also India's Finance Minister, spoke today at the National Press Club, where he made these statements in reply to questions regarding India's attitude toward Israel. India has no diplomatic relations with Israel. During the United Nations debates on the Middle East crisis last summer and spring. India followed the anti-Israeli, pro-Arab policies of the Soviet and Arab blocs.

Israel's Envoy to Chile Reaffirms Government's Stand on Peace Talks with Arabs

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 12. (JTA) — Dr. Uri Naor, Israel's ambassador to Chile, has reaffirmed the basic position on peace with the Arab states, in response to the Yugoslavian Middle East peace proposal submitted to Chile

In a note to the Chilean Government, Dr. Naor said that Yugoslavia had not consulted with Israel before making its proposal. Nevertheless, he declared, Israel was willing to work together "in peace?" with the Arabs in determining its borders. Only in direct negotiations with the Arab states, he said, could the border questions be resolved.

Washington Lifts Travel Curbs to 3 More Arab Countries; Lebanon Relations Resumed

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) — The State Department lifted today restrictions on travel to Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen — thus restoring travel to all Arab states except Egypt and Syria, Travelers may visit Egypt and Syria only if the visits are "in the interests of the United States."

U.S. Ambassador Dwight Porter is returning to Beirut in accordance with a decision by Lebanon to resume relations with the United States on an ambassadorial level.

Dr. Goldstein Predicts Zionist Fund-Raising in 1968 Will Double '66 Results

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA) — A prediction that the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal will, in its 1968 campaign, double the amount raised in 1966 was made today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, world chairman of the Keren Hayesod, on his arrival in this country for his annual Rosh Hashana visit. Keren Hayesod is the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization.

The American-born member of the Jewish Agency executive, who now resides in Jerusalem, was optimistic about future Israel fund-raising throughout the world, which, with the exception for United States, is the responsibility of the Keren Hayesod. He reported that 40 percent of the still unannounced total raised in this year's Israel Emergency Fund was raised outside the United States. This is larger by 10 percent than the usual 70-30 ratio,

Describing the current situation and mood in Israel, Dr. Goldstein said "the country is living under a considerable tension, and will continue to be on the alert, as must Jewish communities everywhere, until there is a definitive peace settlement."

Israeli Architect, Designer of 'Habitat '67,' Adapting Method to Capital

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Moshe Safdie, 28-year-old Israeli architect whose revolutionary concept of design for multiple dwellings attracted world-wide attention through "Habitat '6?" in Montreal has been commissioned to design a 600-unit public housing project in Washington, it was revealed here.

Under Secretary Robert C. Wood, of the Department of Housing and Development, said Mr. Safdie had been authorized to try to adapt his design concepts to see whether they "come within the perimeter of public housing cost," He has been given six sites here to consider for a "feasibility study," "It looks as if we can do it." he said.

Israeli Artists Included Among Exhibitors at International Display in Pittsburgh

PPITTSBURGH, Sept. 12. (JTA) — Artists from Israel are included among 325 painters and sculptors from 34 countries, whose works will be displayed from Oct. 27 through Jan. 7 at the 1967 Pittsburgh International Exhibit of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture.