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Congressman Sees USSR Building 'Second Front' in Mideast to Offset Viet Nam War

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, (JTA) — The Soviet Union may have caused the sinking of the Israeli destroyer Elath and otherwise escalated tensions to establish "a second front in the Middle East, to take the heat off North Viet Nam," Rep. Edward J. Derwinski, Illinois Republican, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said today.

In a weekend statement issued here, the Congressman charged that Russia might have used guided missiles against the Elath "as an answer to the increased American aerial activity in North Viet Nam. The sinking rekindled the Arab-Israeli conflict and made Egypt more dependent on Soviet military forces. There is much more to this crisis than a mere Arab-Israeli confrontation," Rep. Derwinski urged the Administration to "take cognizance of Russian efforts to establish air and naval bases in Egypt and other Mideast lands to neutralize the U.S. Sixth Fleet."

The Congressman demanded that the Administration disclose "the extent of recent Soviet actions in the Middle East and the serious implications for American policy." He said: "It is high time that we had some indication from the Administration of these sinister developments. The Russians are obviously exploiting our preoccupation with Viet Nam and troubles in NATO to pull a dangerous sneak end-run into the Mediterranean."

Rep. Derwinski charged that "Russia is rapidly building bases for their military establishment in both Egypt and Syria. He said Soviet strategists are trying to outmaneuver the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean through conversion of Egypt and Syria into "unsinkable carriers." He noted that the sinking of the Elath caused "a predictable flare-up quickly exploited by the Russians to send additional Red navy ships, military equipment, and technicians to Egypt. Soviet military specialists are now attached to every important Egyptian naval, air, missile, armored, and artillery unit."

The Congressman said the Russians were penetrating every level of command in Egypt. "We may next hear of the arrival of Soviet, naval long-range jet bombers, allegedly to protect Egypt, manned by Russian crews." He said that "there is more Russian weaponry in Syria now than before the June war," and a Soviet base has been established at Latakia.

Dayan Insists Cease-Fire with Egypt Continues Despite Last Week's Actions

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29, (JTA) — Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister, told a crowded press conference here this weekend that Israel still considers itself bound by the cease-fire agreement with Egypt despite the Egyptians' unwarranted attack on and sinking of the Elath" on October 21 off Port Said.

He told more than 200 newspaper and television reporters that the sinking of the destroyer was not only a "flagrant violation" of the cease-fire agreement but was in fact also the "most serious challenge to the cease-fire as such." He declared that the destroyer had not entered Egyptian territorial waters, had not opened fire, and that its course was not in the direction of Egypt when the Egyptians opened fire with Soviet-made Styx guided missiles.

The Defense Minister's press conference was the first in several weeks. He had rejected all requests for such interviews for several weeks after he was sharply criticized by Premier Levi Eshkol for his wide-ranging statements to newsmen. He said Israel's view was that the cease-fire should not only be observed but also that it was to the interest of both parties to keep it until some better arrangement was achieved, such as a peace agreement.

Gen. Dayan welcomed the proposal by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant to increase U.N. observer facilities and men along the Suez Canal. He said this would mean "objectively reporting on happenings there." Asked about the growing number of Soviet naval vessels coming to Port Said and Alexandria on the Sinai coast, he replied there was "nothing against such visits" as long as the Egyptians did not use the Soviet fleet's presence as "a cover for their aggressive actions." He also said, in reply to another question, that Israel "tried and is trying" to acquire new modern weapons.

Israel's Cabinet Examines Security Problems; Eshkol Reports to Knesset Today

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29, (JTA) — Israel's Cabinet heard reports today from Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defense, about last week's hostilities between Israel and Egypt, including Egypt's sinking of the Israeli destroyer Elath and Israel's massive artillery attacks on Egypt's oil refinery complex at Port Suez, which destroyed 80 percent of Cairo's oil refining capacity.

Mr. Eshkol also reported about the developments at the United Nations Security Council last week, Foreign Minister Abba Eban's conference with President Johnson and Britain's Foreign Secretary George Brown, and Mr. Eshkol's own conferences here with the British diplomatic mission to Israel. The reports to the Cabinet were a prelude to detailed reports which Mr. Eshkol will give tomorrow to the Knesset (Parliament), as the latter body reconvenes after its summer recess.

Meanwhile, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's chief of staff of the armed forces, announced today that he has named his deputy, Brig. Chaim Barlev, as investigator of the Elath disaster. While it is routine for the head of the armed forces to appoint an investigator whenever an incident results in loss of life, this is the first time the investigator selected was such a high officer of the army.

In addition to discussing security affairs and most recent Arab hostilities, the Cabinet also examined next year's budget, and named a committee to draw up a detailed budget for 1968 to be presented to the Knesset about the end of December.

Egyptians Reported Giving Tumultuous Welcome to Russian Fleet at Port Said

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29. (JTA) — A tumultuous welcome was given Soviet naval ships that arrived in Port Said, Egypt, last week, it was reported here. Egyptian censorship permitted Western newsmen to say only that two were "big" warships, another a frigate, and a fourth an auxiliary supply ship. It was announced in Cairo that Egyptian War Minister Amin Huweidi is soon to visit Moscow to discuss Russian-Egyptian military matters.

Wilson Reveals High Cost to Britain of Shutdown of Suez Canal

LONDON, Oct. 29. (JTA) — The continued shut down of the Suez Canal is costing Britain an average of \$56 million a month, or more than \$200 million since the Six-Day War last June. This information was given to Parliament by Prime Minister Harold Wilson whose Government is planning new relations with Egypt after a three-year hiatus. Most of the money has been spent in precious hard currency for oil to replace Middle Eastern supplies, contributing to Britain's already precarious balance of payments situation, it was disclosed.

French Ex-Foreign Minister Sees People Favoring Israel Despite de Gaulle

PARIS, Oct. 29. (JTA) — French-Israeli friendship continues, despite the position of the head of state — meaning President de Gaulle — according to Christian Pineau, former Foreign Minister. He made that statement in an article today in the newspaper *Droit et Liberté*.

M. Pineau saw two reasons for the French people's "revulsion" against Gen. de Gaulle's Middle East policy. First, he wrote, de Gaulle wanted to speak out against the United States. Secondly, he "wants to keep the Algerian oil." In spite of these attitudes, however, M. Pineau declared, the French-Israeli friendship not only continues but offers the opportunity of continuing in the future.

Hussein Arrives in Bonn to See German Leaders; Erhard Goes to Israel

BONN, Oct. 29. (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan arrived here late tonight for meetings with West German government leaders. He brought a so-called "peace plan" which diplomatic observers believe calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, big power guarantees of Israel's borders, and free passage through international waterways. The Jordanian ruler will meet with President Heinrich Lübke, Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Willy Brandt. Diplomats here say there is considerable sympathy for Hussein in West Germany and that, while Bonn holds to a line of neutrality in the Israel-Arab dispute, his "peace plan" may have some influence.

Former Chancellor Ludwig Erhard will leave on a 10-day visit tomorrow to Israel, where he is scheduled to meet President Shazar, Prime Minister Eshkol, Finance Minister Sapir and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization.

Eshkol Warns Lack of Western Immigration May Hamper 'Greater Israel'

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29. (JTA) — Prime Minister Levi Eshkol warned an audience of B'nai B'rith leaders here last night that poor prospects of further immigration of Jews to Israel, particularly from Western countries, could seriously hamper Israel in any future negotiations with the Arabs over boundaries and an eventual peace settlement.

Addressing the opening session of the B'nai B'rith Israel Commission, the Prime Minister referred to a "greater Israel" including the occupied parts of Jordan, Syria and Egypt, and to the "new opportunities" that faced his nation in the aftermath of its victory in the Six-Day War last June. He noted that "greater" Israel's population today numbers 3.8 million, of which 64 percent are Jews and 36 percent non-Jews. "If you were to ask me what is required to realize these opportunities, I would answer in one simple phrase: 'We need Jews,'" he said.

Mr. Eshkol said he did not want to predict now what the population figures and percentages would be in five, 10 or 15 years. "That depends on too many factors," including "borders, relations with the Arabs, internal developments in the Arab states and internal developments here." However, he warned, whatever political decisions are made eventually, they must not be determined by a situation in which there is no aliyah or prospect of aliyah.

The Prime Minister conceded that the immigration outlook is bleak. He noted that only a few more tens of thousands will come from Middle Eastern countries and that Russian Jewry is behind the Iron Curtain, which "is getting thicker and more impenetrable." The only serious source of Jewish immigration today is from the West, he said, although he recognized that prospects of large-scale immigration from Western countries are not too good. He said that Israel on its part will do everything to streamline the process of immigration and eliminate red tape.

20,000 Defiant Jews Celebrate Simhath Torah in Moscow Demonstration

LONDON, Oct. 29. (JTA) — More than 20,000 Moscow Jews — including many young people and women — danced with Torah scrolls, sang Israeli songs and danced the horah in a Simhath Torah demonstration held in front of Moscow's Central Synagogue last Thursday night, according to information reaching here today. While Simhath Torah has for years been the occasion for Moscow Jewry to display its Jewishness through song and dance on Arkhipova Street, fronting the Central Synagogue, this year's demonstration was seen by foreign correspondents in Moscow as Russian Jewry's answer to the Kremlin's official anti-Israeli policy which has been intensified since last June's Six-Day War and has spilled over in the controlled press to efforts to intimidate Russian Jewry. This year's Simhath Torah crowds were the largest seen by foreigners in Moscow in many years.

Even while the Jews thus showed their solidarity with the Jewish Faith — and with Israel — further attacks against Jews appeared in the Soviet press this weekend. A well-known writer named Mikola Bikun, who had previously written many anti-Semitic articles, authored an article in the satirical Ukrainian journal, "Pepper," accusing "Aryan" Jewish bankers and "Zionists" in Nazi Germany of having financed the gas chambers which ultimately were to be used for murdering European Jewry.

But the anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli attacks in the Soviet press did not deter the many thousands of Jews who celebrated Simhath Torah. They gathered at sundown and the singing and dancing continued until well after midnight. Young people kissed the Torah and competed for the privilege of dancing with the holy scroll. Some of the young men were in army uniform. Western correspondents observing the scene said the demonstrators seemed more defiant than usual as the Jews participated in the Simhath Torah celebration.

3,000 Observe Simhath Torah in N.Y., Cite Russian Jewry's 'Daring'

NEW YORK, Oct. 29. (JTA) — A spirited display of religious fervor — and a pointed demonstration of solidarity with Russian Jews — took place in New York last night, at the conclusion of Simhath Torah, when 3,000 persons, a majority of them high school and college students, danced and sang in the street one block from the headquarters of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations.

The demonstration was sponsored by the New York Coordinating Committee for Soviet Jewry, the New York Board of Rabbis and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The program distributed by the sponsors called it an expression of unity with the 20,000 Jews who danced and sang in front of the Central Synagogue in Moscow on Simhath Torah, daring "to express their will to be Jews in spite of religious and cultural starvation by the (Soviet) Government." Signs carried by the New York demonstrators obviously for the benefit of the Soviet mission officials nearby, read "Stop Burying Judaism" and "Justice for Jews."

Largest Crowd in Modern Israel History Dances 'Hakafoth' at Jaffa Gate

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29. (JTA) — The largest crowd in Jerusalem's modern history, estimated at more than 100,000 persons, assembled this weekend opposite the walls of Old Jerusalem, at the Jaffa Gate, to join in the traditional Hakafoth, the ceremonial round observed at the service at the end of Sukkoth. The ceremony was led by President Zalman Shazar.

All methods of counting people known to Israeli police failed and officials could only say that the assembly must have exceeded 100,000. The previous record was set on November 30, 1947, when 30,000 Jews assembled in the Jewish Agency courtyard to celebrate the United Nations partition of Palestine recommendation.

President Shazar, carrying a Torah scroll, danced to Hassidic melodies played by a band, his head moving ecstatically to and fro to the rhythm of the melodies. Dancing with him in the traditional circle were Chief Rabbis Issar Yehuda Unterman and Yitzhak Nissim, Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro, Religious Affairs Minister Zorah Warhaftig, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, British-Jewish philanthropist Sir Isaac Wolfson, and many other dignitaries.

Moscow Radio to Transmit Programs in Yiddish, Hebrew; For Foreign Ears Only

LONDON, Oct. 29. (JTA) — Moscow Radio's "Peace and Progress" program has announced two broadcasts to be transmitted in Yiddish and Hebrew, it was learned here today. Both broadcasts, however, will be beamed only to foreign listeners.

According to a new schedule announced by Moscow Radio, the Yiddish-Hebrew broadcasts will be beamed from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., local Moscow time (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., EST). Moscow radio said the purpose of the broadcasts will be "to acquaint Jewish listeners with all aspects of Soviet life." It was clear to communications experts here, however, that the transmissions are not intended for domestic listeners in the Soviet Union but only for foreign consumption. The two broadcasts, according to the announcement, will be on the 16kc, 19kc and 25kc wavelengths.

Reform Movement Joins Opposition to N.Y. State's Draft Constitution

NEW YORK, Oct. 29. (JTA) — The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical association, joined this weekend the growing number of Jewish organizations opposing approval of the new New York State constitution because of its projected repeal of the Blaine Amendment in the present charter, which bars state aid to church-oriented schools.

Rabbi Edward E. Klein, chairman of the church-state committee of the CCAR, said in the announcement calling for a negative vote on the charter in the November 7 referendum, that repeal would make "a shambles out of any public school integration program."

Israel Emergency Fund of UJA to Continue Through 1968, Max Fisher Pledges

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29, (JTA) — The United Jewish Appeal will continue in 1968 its Israel Emergency campaign in addition to its regular drive, UJA general chairman Max Fisher announced here this weekend at a dinner given in honor of Premier Levi Eshkol by the current UJA study mission.

Mr. Eshkol told the almost 600 UJA leaders that "the emergency is still with us," adding that, while the Six-Day June War "saved Israel from extinction, it had not solved Israel's problems of the future." He also said that Israel must still spend "hundreds of millions of dollars every year on security, leaving other fields of development without funds." He then asked the UJA leaders to extend the Israel Emergency Fund into 1968.

He said the emergency funds would be needed for the absorption, welfare aid and other humanitarian tasks for Israel's newcomers which Israel's people could not provide. In response, Mr. Fisher said "you said the emergency continues. Our answer is that the Emergency Fund also continues."

Jewish Poor in Brooklyn Section Urged to Vote Today in Anti-Poverty Elections

NEW YORK, Oct. 29, (JTA) — Jewish residents of the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn will have their first opportunity tomorrow to help create machinery through which the area's poor Jews will be able to benefit from New York City's anti-poverty programs.

The occasion will be an election to choose a planning council which will subsequently organize a Community Corporation to represent the Crown Heights residents in seeking funds for anti-poverty projects. The Crown Heights section is one of the city's 24 designated poverty areas, but it has no community-wide structure to seek poverty funds.

Crown Heights has 225,000 residents, of whom a majority are Jews. A substantial, but unknown, number of the area's estimated 125,000 Jews are in income categories defined as "poor" by the Community Development Agency, a unit in the city's Human Resources Administration, which is the central agency for all city anti-poverty programs. Negroes and Puerto Ricans are the major non-white elements in Crown Heights.

The election tomorrow, to be held in three Crown Heights public schools, will choose 24 members of the planning council which, pending creation of the Community Corporation, will serve as an interim corporation, with authority to review all pending anti-poverty projects for the area.

Under direction of a recently-organized Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, three slates of Jewish candidates, out of a total of six planned slates, will be offered at the election. Under CDA guidelines, each of the six districts into which the area is divided must elect one high income member to the planning council, two low income members and one youth member. The three Jewish slates will offer 12 candidates.

Anti-poverty officials arranged circulars about the election in English, Spanish and French for the area's non-Jewish residents. The Crown Heights JCC assumed responsibility for leaflets in English and Yiddish for the area's Jews, distributing them by the thousand. The principal effort by the JCC to inform Crown Heights Jews about the election, and its importance has been emphasized through the area's 75 synagogues.

The Crown Heights JCC is a volunteer organization, which uses donated space in the synagogue of Young Israel of Eastern Parkway as its headquarters.

1,000 AMPAL Investors, Friends Hear Report on Israel's Economic Situation

NEW YORK, Oct. 29, (JTA) — More than a thousand investors and friends of AMPAL—American Israel Corporation and its affiliate, Israel Development Corporation, attended the annual meeting of the AMPAL group of corporations here today. The meeting featured an address by Israel's Economic Minister, Nahum Shamir, and introduction by him of Shimon Alexandroni, who is scheduled to replace Mr. Shamir this year upon the conclusion of the latter's tour of duty.

Abraham Dickenstein, president-founder of AMPAL, and Ralph Cohen, resident vice-president in Israel, reported on the economic situation and prospects of Israel following the Six-Day War. Mr. Dickenstein returned this week after four months in Israel, during which he conducted negotiations for substantial new investments and loans. The AMPAL group today has over \$53 million committed in about 70 separate Israeli enterprises.

Philip Kalbfeld, Brith Abraham Grand Master, Dies at Age of 70

YONKERS, Oct. 29, (JTA) — Philip Kalbfeld, grand master of Brith Abraham, a national Jewish fraternal order, died in New Rochelle Hospital yesterday at the age of 70. He was a founder of the Northeast Jewish Center here and a member of the Yonkers Mayor's Community Relations Committee. Brith Abraham, organized in 1887, fosters brotherhood, Jewish ideals and traditions, and concern for the welfare of the Jews; provides fraternal benefits to members; and supports camps for underprivileged children and aged persons.