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Soviets Reported To Have Given Egypt New Ground-To-Ground Missiles

LONDON, Oct. 31. (JTA) — Diplomatic sources here asserted today that the Soviet Union had supplied Egypt with a new type of ground-to-ground missiles to strengthen the Arab position against Israel.

According to the reports here, Russia has given Egypt Luna-I type missiles, a medium range weapon. The Soviet Union gave Egypt ground-to-ground missiles before the June war and some of these were captured on their launching pads in the Sinai Peninsula during the Six-Day War. Those weapons were described as of lesser range and not as powerful as the Luna-I type.

Manescu Reiterates Support For Direct Israel-Arab Talks For Settlement

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 31. (JTA) — Corneliu Manescu, president of the United Nations General Assembly and Rumanian Foreign Minister, reiterated today at a press luncheon here that he favored direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states as a means to achieve a settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Mr. Manescu was careful to note, in reply to a question on the subject, that his answer was given as Rumanian Foreign Minister and not in his capacity as Assembly president. He said that "we have to be realistic and take into account the sovereignty and rights of existence of every country in the region." Rumania is the only Communist bloc nation which did not break relations with Israel as a consequence of the Six-Day June war and the only one to publicly support the principle of direct talks.

He added that the Security Council should be allowed more time for consultations on a Middle East resolution before sending the matter back to the Assembly. Behind-the-scenes talks in the Security Council have been underway since October 13 in an effort to reach agreement on a resolution on sending a special UN representative to the Middle East. Disagreement persists on the mandate to be given such a representative.

Diplomats at the United Nations meanwhile interpreted Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's speech in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday as indicating a further hardening of Israel's stand. They indicated they saw little likelihood that the Security Council would be reconvened on the Middle East deadlock. The ten non-permanent members of the Council scheduled another meeting today to try to work out an acceptable resolution but most observers here felt that no agreement would be reached on a resolution and that the whole issue would be handed back to the Assembly next week.

United States Stresses Concern For Close Relations With Arab Nations

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31. (JTA) — Government officials indicated today their concern for friendly relations with Arab countries at a ceremony marking the swearing in of a new United States ambassador to Jordan and in a statement regretting action by the House of Representatives for a ban on further imports of cotton from Egypt and the Sudan.

Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, who participated in the swearing in of career Foreign Service officer Harrison Symmes, stressed in his remarks the importance the United States attached to "warm and close relations" with the Government of Jordan. Mr. Symmes pledged that, as envoy, he would seek to promote "understanding and goodwill" between the United States and Jordan. He said the two countries had "a substantial and enduring interest in ensuring the peace and stability in the Near East." Mr. Katzenbach said Mr. Symmes was being sent to Amman with the "full and complete confidence" of President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

(In Bonn, King Hussein lunched today with President Heinrich Lübke and conferred for one hour with Foreign Minister Willy Brandt. A West German government spokesman said the talks had been frank and covered the King's ideas of a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem which, Hussein stressed, must be resolved speedily. Brandt stressed the Federal Republic's humanitarian attitude toward the refugee problem noting its decision to give 50 million marks toward alleviating the refugees' hardships. Bonn press chief Gunter Von Hase said at a press conference yesterday that arms would not be supplied to Jordan because West German policy was not to send weapons to areas of tension. He also said that West Germany would decline to serve as a mediator in the Middle East dispute if asked to do so.

(King Hussein, addressing German industrialists at the Rhine-Ruhr Club in Dusseldorf, said the June war with Israel had begun unexpectedly and prematurely owing to "Israeli provocations" against Syria and that the joint Arab high command was established too late. He stressed that it was necessary for all sides to find a just and peaceful solution and lamented the fact that the Arabs "did not achieve worldwide understanding of our case.")

The statement on the cotton issue was made by State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey after the House voted yesterday, 274 to 64 to ban further cotton imports from nations like Egypt and the Sudan, which severed diplomatic relations with the United States when they declared war on Israel last June. Mr. McCloskey said the State Department saw "no purpose" in preventing Egypt and the Sudan "from keeping their traditional share of the United States quota for long staple cotton."

Members of the House had objected to allowing the two countries to sell products in the United States. A main factor was given as competition with American cotton but the purchase of Soviet weapons by both countries was cited by many Representatives. The measure now goes to the Senate where the Administration hopes to kill it.

Israeli Officials Await U.N. Notification On Plans To Expand Suez Patrols

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31. (JTA) — Israeli authorities awaited today official notice of plans to strengthen the United Nations cease fire observation machinery in the Middle East, proposed by Secretary General U Thant last week. They are withholding comment pending finalization of the plans between Mr. Thant and his chief U.N. observer, Lt. General Odd Bull.

According to Thant's proposals, the plans include doubling the number of observers and observation posts on both sides of the Suez Canal and equipping the U.N. observers with small patrol craft and helicopters. Israel has informed General Bull that it has no objections to increasing the number of observers but has withheld comment on the boats and helicopters proposals until formal notice is received. Israel in general does not favor giving the U.N. staff further responsibilities.

Meanwhile, U.S. Marine Col. Floyd Johnson, deputy chief of the U.N. observers corps returned here from Cairo where he presumably had talks with Egyptian officials on the Thant proposals.

Arab Marauders From Jordan Flee Under Jordanian Covering Fire

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) — For the second time in less than 24 hours, an Israeli border patrol clashed today in the Beisan Valley with Arab marauders who managed to escape into Jordan, this time under covering machine gun fire from Jordanian positions across the river.

An Army spokesman said the latest clash occurred about a half mile east of Hadiyah when an armed Arab band fired on the patrol which returned the fire. The Israeli border units also returned the fire from the Jordanian side of the river. A search of the area disclosed three anti-vehicle mines which had been hidden by the marauders. Bloodstains on tracks leading toward the river indicated that one or more of the Arabs may have been hit in the exchange.

Dr. Erhard In Israel For Ten-Day Visit; Assailed In Leaflets

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) — Dr. Ludwig Erhard, former Chancellor of West Germany and his wife received a warm welcome on their arrival at Lod Airport last night to begin a 10-day visit to Israel as the guests of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who was on hand to greet them. The West German leader, who came in a private capacity, was pleased with the friendly crowd at the airport and expressed surprise that there were "no anti-Erhard demonstrators" on hand.

In reply to Mr. Eshkol's greetings, he spoke of increasing pro-Israel sentiment in West Germany and sympathy with Israel's "struggle for a lasting peace." The Erhard tour began with visits to the Yad Vashem, a shrine of Jewish martyrs of the Nazi holocaust and to the holy places in Jerusalem. He was guest of honor at a dinner tonight given by Premier Eshkol.

Leaflets signed "Remnants of the Gas Chambers," and addressed to Dr. Erhard were circulated clandestinely tonight. The leaflets asked whether the former Chancellor had not indirectly participated in the slaughter of the six million European Jews by the Nazis and accused him of failing to bring to justice "tens of thousands" of Nazi murderers "still free in the federal republic." Observers said that the leaflets were mild in comparison to similar material distributed in Israel in the past.

Tel Aviv University To Open With Record Enrollment; Wise Reelected President

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) — Tel Aviv University will open its fall term next week with a record enrollment of 8,000 students, 1,300 more than last year. The University turned down 1000 applicants because of lack of space, officials said.

Dr. George S. Wise, reelected president of the University at a meeting of its board of governors, called for more contributions to enable the University to expand. He spoke at ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Peretz Naftali Social Science building. Dr. H. Shiba was nominated vice-chairman.

Israel Government Offers Loans To East Jerusalem Residents For War Damages

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31. (JTA) — The Government announced today a program of loans of up to \$3,000 to East Jerusalem residents for repair of homes damaged in the June war. So far 130 applications have been made. The loans carry a nine percent interest charge for a six-year term, very favorable for Israel.

Soviet Agency Says Simchat Torah Observance Was 'Folk Custom', Not Religious

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The official Soviet overseas propaganda news agency conceded today that great numbers of young Moscow Jews had participated in the dancing and singing that marked the end of Simchat Torah but asserted that they came out, not in observance of religious practices, but as participants in a folk custom.

The Novosti Press Agency, in a dispatch signed by Samuel Rosin, a Novosti correspondent, distributed here today by the Soviet Embassy, said that large crowds had danced in the Moscow streets last Saturday night, but "nobody prayed" and the Jewish community was looking forward to the celebration next Sunday of the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

(A Soviet official denied today, at a Moscow press conference, reports from the West that the Soviet Union has failed to provide adequate synagogue and other religious facilities for Soviet Jews. Yustas Patetskis, chairman of one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet, told the press that Jews in Russia "have every opportunity to have an appropriate number of synagogues." He asserted that the church is separated from state in the USSR "and manages its own affairs." He sought to debunk as western propaganda recent charges that Soviet Jews lack not only synagogues but also facilities for training rabbis. However, the only Jewish theological seminary in the Soviet Union, that under the direction of Moscow Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, has no students at the present time.)

The Novosti correspondent said he had interviewed Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, who told him that the recent holidays had passed "in the best possible manner." There were days, according to the interview, "when many people gathered in front of the synagogue and nothing hindered them. In these cases, the militia, at our request, closed traffic along the street."

Dancing In The Streets Has Become A Non-Religious Custom, Novosti Says

The Novosti correspondent commented that "according to ancient tradition, the Torah is solemnly honored within the synagogue. However, the main festivities are here, in the street, brightly lit up by specially arranged spotlights. The entire street, from end to end, was crowded by people of various ages. Many entire families had come here. Nobody prayed."

Rosin added that "I am sure that those who had come here had not said a single prayer throughout their life. Simply, it has become a tradition on this day when religious Jews - their fathers and, to be more exact, their grandfathers - praise the holy Torah within the synagogue. They enjoy themselves here in the street with the temperament and cheerfulness characteristic of the youth."

The correspondent said that "the holiday lasted until late in the evening. There was singing and dancing to the accompaniment of an amateur orchestra. Jewish folk dances such as freilachs and sher were followed by a Russian round dance and a Georgian lezginka. Just as popular as Jewish songs were well-known songs by Soviet composers."

The report sought to give the impression that only the elderly came to the synagogue to observe the holidays religiously, while the younger people came only to dance and sing. It quoted the Chief Rabbi as saying that next Sunday - the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution - is "our great red-letter day which the entire community will worthily mark."

Yugoslavia Apologizes To Dutch For Failure To Arrest Visiting War Criminal

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The Yugoslav Government has apologized to the Dutch Ambassador in Belgrade for the failure to apprehend the Nazi war criminal, Erich Rajakovic, who fled to his native Austria from Yugoslavia last month to avoid extradition to Holland. Rajakovic is wanted in the Netherlands for his role in the deportation of 100,000 Dutch Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

The Netherlands Government exonerated the Yugoslav Government of blame for Rajakovic's flight which the Yugoslav authorities attributed to carelessness on the part of their police. The Government said in a statement to Parliament that the Yugoslavian authorities from the start had extended full cooperation to meet Holland's request for temporary detention of Rajakovic. As an Austrian national, Rajakovic is protected by law which forbids the extradition by Austria of its own nationals. He went to Yugoslavia on a brief vacation visit.

West German Anti-Nazis Warn Of Danger Of Nazi Revival In Germany

ROME, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- A delegation of West Germans representing that country's anti-Nazi movement dating from the pre-World War II period warned at a press conference in Turin that "there are alarming symptoms of a Nazi revival in Germany today."

One member of the delegation is Werner Krumme, president of the coordinating committee of the organizations of political and racial persecutees in Bavaria who holds "Israel's "medal of the just." Krumme's Jewish wife was murdered at Auschwitz where he also had been interned for anti-Nazi activities.

Budget for 1968 of \$10,666,000 Proposed At Rehovoth For Weizmann Institute

REHOVOTH, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- A 1968 budget of 32 million Israel pounds (\$10,666,000) was presented to the Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science here today by its chairman, Dr. Dewey D. Stone, of Brockton, Mass. The board is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir on the question of raising funds for the Institute abroad. Mr. Sapir last week called on all Israeli institutions of higher learning to forego their campaigns for funds abroad in favor of the special emergency-fund campaign of the United Jewish Appeal to meet Israel's urgent security needs.

Publishers To Participate In Presentation Of Award To JTA Thursday

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) — A delegation of American Jewish editors will attend the 50th anniversary luncheon of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Thursday at the Americana Hotel to participate in presentation of an award to JTA "for distinguished service to American Jewish journalism."

The award will be presented in behalf of the American Jewish Press Association by its president, Adolph Rosenberg, Editor and Publisher of the Southern Israelite of Atlanta. Its presentation will be part of a program in which two outstanding personalities on the Jewish communal scene, J. D. Weiler of New York, and Louis J. Fox, of Baltimore, will assay the role of JTA in American Jewish life.

Reservations for the luncheon are being accepted at the JTA office from individuals not already included in organizational group seatings.

Chicago Rabbinate Urges USA To Take Lead In Seeking Viet Nam Peace

CHICAGO, Oct. 31. (JTA) — The Chicago Board of Rabbis, representing all three branches of Judaism, has approved unanimously a resolution calling on the United States Government "to demonstrate its moral initiative by ceasing all bombing of North Viet Nam and indicating that it will negotiate with representatives of the National Liberation Front," the Viet Cong political arm, for a peace settlement.

The resolution said that the rabbis are convinced there could be "no military solution of the Viet Nam war" and therefore urged that "all parties to the conflict" to seek "a speedy end to the hostilities and accept the free exercise of popular sovereignty in Viet Nam."

New York Federation Comes Out Against Proposed New State Constitution

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) — The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the largest voluntary philanthropy in the country, has voted to oppose the proposed New York State Constitution, Samuel J. Silberman, its president, announced today. The decision was taken by the Federation board by a vote of 84-33 on a report of its social legislation committee which held the draft "not acceptable."

The committee, chaired by former State Assemblyman Bentley Kassal, considered those matters that specifically concerned the Federation and its agencies, namely — adoptions, gifts or loans of state credit, the State Board of Social Welfare, the family court, the state debts referendum and use of public funds in aid of denominational schools.

"We feel that based on the entire overall package as presented to us," the committee declared, "and with specific reference to the areas where Federation is concerned, that there is little in the proposed Constitution in the health, welfare and education areas that can be considered progressive or liberal or an improvement over the present provisions."

The report conceded that while some compromises might "possibly represent some gains," they were not significant. "Any gains, modest as they may be," the report continued, "are insignificant when compared to the action of the convention in removing the so-called Blaine Amendment. The potential diversion of funds to denominational schools, as a result of the elimination of article XI, section three, would undermine the present school system."

An Orthodox spokesman charged today that the position of New York Jewish citizens on the proposed new Constitution "is being misrepresented." He denounced reports that "invariably portray the Jewish voter as opposed to the Constitution which is projected as a Catholic document."

The most controversial aspect of the proposed new charter which is being submitted to the electorate on Nov. 7 is its elimination of the Blaine Amendment, a 73-year-old provision prohibiting use of public funds for religious schools. In its stead, the new draft repeats the First Amendment of the Federal Bill of Rights and gives taxpayers the right to challenge in the courts expenditures which he considers violate the principle of church-state separation.

Rabbi Morris Sherer, executive vice-president of the Agudath Israel of America, national Orthodox Jewish movement, said that what was at stake was "an American issue of freedom of choice in education" which, he said, every Orthodox Jewish organization in the state supported.

The Agudath Israel is distributing leaflets calling for ratification of the new Constitution. Printed in English and Yiddish, the leaflets charge that the Blaine Amendment "discriminates against yeshiva children."

Danny Kaye Honored By Israel Envoy In Rome For Participation In Gadna Tour

ROME, Oct. 31. (JTA) — American entertainer Danny Kaye was the guest of honor at a reception given here by Ambassador and Mrs. Ehud Avriel of Israel prior to his leaving on a European tour with Israel's youth orchestra, Gadna. The affair was attended by diplomats, celebrities and socialites.