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## Johnson Defers Decision on Arms for Israel at Least Until Eshkol Visit

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA)—President Johnson has deferred a decision on supplying important new arms to Israel, including the P-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers, at least until the February visit of Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, highly-placed U.S. officials disclosed today.

These officials said that the White House was convinced that no dangerous arms imbalance currently existed in the Middle East because of the supply of 48 Douglas Skyhawk jet bombers to Israel. The Skyhawks were purchased in 1966, and are now being manufactured and delivered. Officials pointed out that the Skyhawks represented more than numerical replacement of Israel's losses in the Six-Day War, because Israel is alleged to have lost fewer aircraft than the total of Skyhawks. Some of the losses were described as obsolescent types.

(Official Israeli sources have declined to confirm reports that Mr. Eshkol would seek permission for Israel to acquire the P-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers when he meets President Johnson here, but they have never concealed the fact that Israel must find an alternative source of equipment in view of President de Gaulle's embargo on military equipment for Israel. The backbone of the Israeli Air Force is the Mirage V fighter-bomber, of which Israel had 50 on order in France before last June and the delivery of which has been blocked by Gen. de Gaulle. The French embargo has stopped the flow of replacement parts necessary to keep the Israeli squadrons airborne. The Douglas Skyhawks, which the United States has released to Israel, and a few of which are being shipped every month, are not considered in the same class as the Mirage V and the P-4 Phantom.)

U.S. officials said that the latest Administration evaluation, fully shared by the President, did not see the Soviet role as such, at this juncture, to justify a greater American involvement in Israeli defensive requirements. It was said that the situation could change during the first half of 1968; and if so, appropriate conclusions would be drawn.

President Johnson was authoritatively depicted as wishing to avoid a policy that would bracket the United States with Israel's defense equipment in the same role that France previously played. This would restrict American flexibility in dealing with the Arabs and with changing situations, it was said. The current assessment is that the United States has responded adequately to the Israeli defensive situation as it exists at the year's end. But the matter remains under active study and consideration. It was apparent, however, that long-term military needs of Israel are not at this moment an issue of great priority at the White House, and certainly not at the State Department.

## Two Arab Terrorists Killed, Arms Captured in Israel Counteraction on West Bank

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Israeli officials reported today that two terrorists were killed and a "considerable number" were arrested in one of Israel's most successful search-and-capture operations in the West Bank area to date against infiltrators. Among those caught were almost all members of a gang which clashed last Tuesday with an Israeli patrol near Benshemen, in the vicinity of Lydda Airport.

Israeli security forces also found significant quantities of weapons and sabotage materials. No Israeli casualties occurred in the operation, which began last Friday, continued over the weekend and was presumed to be continuing today.

## Amman Acknowledges Brisk Trade Between Both Banks of Jordan River

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)—The Jordanian Government tacitly admitted today that a brisk trade is going on between Jordan and the Israel-occupied West Bank by announcing that a commission has been set up to supervise it. According to the Amman radio, the chief purpose of the commission is to make sure that goods entering Jordan originated on the West Bank and not with "the enemy," meaning Israel. Severe penalties will be imposed on violators, Amman radio said.

This was the first public admission by Jordanian authorities that trade exists between the East and West banks, although it has been flourishing for months. The human traffic from the East to the West banks of the river continues as well, but on a much smaller scale than the traffic in goods. Only 35 persons crossed the Allenby Bridge near Jericho yesterday to join relatives in the Judea and Samaria districts under Israel's family reunion plan. It is reported that some 200 are eligible.

Traffic between the occupied West Bank area and Jordan across the Jordan River cease-fire line has increased to a point where Israeli authorities indicated today they were considering renewal of a busline franchise for such crossings. Two West Bank firms, one from East Jerusalem and one from Hebron, have made application for a franchise. The Israeli Transport Ministry has no objections, but the military governor has not yet replied.

**Romney Discusses Arab-Israeli Issue With Kosygin; Percy Asks Soviet Aid for Refugees**

LONDON, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Gov. George Romney of Michigan discussed today the Arab-Israeli issue with Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin as one of the main topics in a two-hour conversation in Moscow, it was reported here today from Moscow. Gov. Romney is a candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 1968. He is currently on a tour of European countries.

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TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Sen. Charles Percy, Illinois Republican, called here on the Soviet Union today to help solve the Arab refugee problem. Sen. Percy a potential candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968, told newsmen here that the Arab refugee problem was such that "in the humanitarian interest, the Soviet Union could help in joining to solve it."

**Eight Communist Foreign Ministers Discuss Mideast Issue in Moscow**

LONDON, Dec. 19 (JTA)—The Foreign Ministers of eight East European countries met in Moscow today to discuss the Middle East situation, it was reported here from Warsaw.

**U.N. Move to Name Custodian of Arab Property in Israel Dies in Assembly**

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 19 (JTA)—A resolution calling for the appointment of a U.N. custodian of absentee Arab property in Israel, adopted by the General Assembly's Special Political Committee last Saturday, was killed in the Assembly today when that body decided not to put the measure to a vote. Thus what had been a victory for the Arab bloc, turned into a move favoring Israel. Israel had stated earlier that she would not accept a custodianship of Arab property in her territory.

The resolution, sponsored in the Special Political Committee by five Asian and African countries, expired in the Assembly when Chief Adebou, representative of Nigeria, suggested that it be put aside for lack of time to consider it. The Assembly was winding up its current session and was expected to adjourn tonight. The resolution, in any event, was considered unlikely to muster the required two-thirds majority in the General Assembly or even a simple majority. For that reason, the Arab bloc voiced no objection when the Assembly decided against a vote.

**Prominent Israelis Line Up Pro and Con the 'Whole Israel' Movement**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)—An audience of 3,000 that included many prominent Israelis, among them Nobel Laureate S.Y. Agnon, attended a rally here last night of the new "Movement for a Whole Eretz Israel," and heard an equally distinguished group of speakers urge permanent retention by Israel of all territories captured during the Six-Day War. However, opposition to the "movement" has also developed.

Among the speakers last night were Mrs. Rachel Ben Zvi, widow of Israel's second President, Yitzhak Ben Zvi; Dr. Haim Yahlil, head of the Government's and Jewish Agency's Center for the Diaspora; and Brigadier Gen. Abraham Yoffe, a division commander in the Sinai peninsula during the June war. General Yoffe drew cheers when he declared that the cease-fire lines afford Israel security along her borders for the first time in 19 years, in contrast to the pre-June boundaries which were "a nightmare."

In Tel Aviv, the head of the operations branch at Israel's General Headquarters told a group of Hebrew University graduates in that area that Israel "will stay where we are" with respect to the present boundaries and will "bring in more Jews." General Ezer Weizmann said that "the present situation provides us with an unusual opportunity to consolidate the State for the Jewish people and to prevent future wars."

But a group of Israeli university professors here announced formation of a committee to oppose the "Movement for a Whole Eretz Israel." A spokesman for the new group said it would publish a statement of policy within a few days. The scholars contend that unilateral annexation would endanger peace and jeopardize the Jewish character of Israel and its humanitarian and democratic nature. The group includes Professors Gershon Sholem and Ernst Simon, and writers Nathan Schacham and Matti Megged.

**Israel, Rumania, Sign Broad Pacts for Phosphates, Civil Aviation**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)—A three-year agreement under which Rumania will buy 150,000 tons of Israeli phosphates annually, and a civil aviation transport pact, were signed here today. Signing for Rumania was visiting Foreign Trade Minister Gheorghe Cioara. Zeev Sharef, Trade and Industry Minister, signed for Israel.

The signing culminated six days of talks between Rumanian and Israeli officials. The agreements included provision for a mixed commission created on the basis of a wide-range economic, scientific and trade pact signed last April 14. Rumania is the only Communist country which did not break relations with Israel during the Six-Day War last June.

Officials of both delegations noted with satisfaction the progress achieved to date in trade relations. The commission also will examine possibilities of further expansion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. El Al Airlines officials immediately began planning flights to Rumania.

The trade pact provides an option for Rumania to buy an additional 50,000 tons of Israeli phosphates annually. The phosphates will be used in Rumanian plants to produce chemical fertilizers.

Rumanian officials also were reported planning for a new, large chemical industry which would make use of Israeli know-how. The agreement provides also that Israeli phosphoric acid, to be produced at the Arad chemical complex, will be sold to Rumania. Rumania also was expected to buy Israeli potash.

The Israeli delegation reported also that there were good possibilities of selling Timna copper to Rumania after July, 1968. Copper production at the mines is sold out until that date.

### **Israel Eases Luxury Taxes to Aid Immigrants from Western Lands**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)—A luxury tax levied on large apartments was canceled by order of Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro today in Jerusalem and in 39 other locations in Israel, in a move to aid new immigrants from Western countries.

The Jewish Agency has unveiled a new program to speed up the integration of immigrants, particularly those from Western lands. It will be put into effect with a group of 170 recent arrivals from the West. They will be housed for six months at a hostel in Caimitel, in Western Galilee, where they will be given advanced vocational training and will attend an Ulpan, an intensified Hebrew language course, before being settled permanently.

### **American Firms Reported Favoring Large-Scale Oil Prospecting in Israel**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)—One of two American oil firms interested in oil prospecting in Israel has sent a representative here, and officials of the second firm are due early in January, it was reported today. The visits developed from a recent trip to the United States by S. Malchi, head of the petroleum department of the Israel Development Ministry.

The Development Ministry has indicated it hopes to attract at least one major firm with sufficient means to do oil prospecting over a large area. The basis for this is provided by a recent re-division of Israel for license purposes, which makes possible allocation of larger areas for such prospecting. The possible prospecting areas, which have been relatively neglected, are mainly in northern Israel. One of the American firms is interested also in investment in Israeli chemical industries, Ministry officials said.

### **Swiss-Israel Group Marks 10th Year With Appeal for Mideast Peace**

GENEVA, Dec. 19 (JTA)—The Swiss-Israel Association marked the 10th anniversary of its founding today with an appeal for a lasting peace in the Middle East that will permit Israel to live in security within well defined frontiers, with free navigation for her shipping through international waterways and without discrimination and boycott. The group deplored the lack so far of direct Israel-Arab peace talks which has prevented the negotiation of a political settlement.

### **Historian of Nazi Era, JTA Correspondent, Urges Center at Berlin's Wannsee Villa**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)—A leading Jewish archivist and historian of the Nazi era announced here today that the West Berlin municipal government has been advised that, unless it makes the notorious Wannsee Villa in Berlin available as a documentation center on the Nazi campaign to exterminate the Jews, the center will move to Switzerland. Thus, said Joseph Wulf, head of the center, Germany will be deprived of a vital institution for research and information that would attract scholars and historians from all over the world.

Mr. Wulf said that December 31 has been set as the deadline for an affirmative response by the Berlin government. The Wannsee Villa, now a children's center, is the building where Rudolph Heydrich and other Nazi leaders met on Jan. 20, 1942, to plan the "final solution," the destruction of Jewry.

According to Mr. Wulf and to Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the international affairs commission of the American Jewish Congress, under whose auspices Mr. Wulf met with the press today, the Wannsee Villa is the most appropriate, and in fact the only effective site in Germany for a documentation center on the Nazis.

Mr. Wulf said that the center is not seeking funds and is in a position to erect a new children's center on the 90,000 square foot site of the villa. But, he said, there is political opposition in the Berlin administration to turning over the building. Mr. Wulf is the Berlin correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

### **George Meany, President of AFL-CIO, to Visit Israel at Invitation of Histadrut**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)—George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, will visit Israel next year at the invitation of Aharon Becker, secretary-general of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, who just returned from a six-week tour of the United States, Canada and Latin America. Mr. Becker announced here today. Mr. Becker was a guest of Mr. Meany at the AFL-CIO convention in Miami, Florida earlier this month.

### **Joseph Tuvim, ILGWU Local Official Since 1933, Dies at Age of 71**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Joseph Tuvim, since 1933 the manager of local 142 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, died here yesterday at the age of 71. Mr. Tuvim was secretary of the American Labor party in 1937 and was active later in the Liberal Party. He was also a member of the executive board of the Central Trades and Labor Council.

## Reform Judaism Sets Extensive Program for Strengthening Ties With Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Reform Judaism in America, which at its inception in the 19th century dismissed the idea of a Jewish national homeland, announced an extensive program today to strengthen ties with Israel among its million adherents in the United States and Canada, and to advance the cause of Reform Judaism in Israel itself.

The program was outlined by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, central congregational body of Reform Judaism in the Western hemisphere; Earl Morse, chairman of the UAHC board of trustees; and Nathaniel Hess, Mr. Hess will serve as chairman of a national committee on Israel, the creation of which was mandated in a resolution adopted at the 49th biennial general assembly of the UAHC in Montreal last month.

Mr. Hess said that his committee will give priority to eight specific activities recommended by a study group that has been exploring the situation since last June. Three of the activities deal with advancing the cause of Progressive — or Reform — Judaism in Israel. Five are designed to involve the UAHC's 680 member congregations and individual Reform Jews more actively in the life of Israel. The latter include the expansion of present programs for teen-agers; the development of camp-study programs for younger children and adult education study programs in Israel; the establishment of Israel committees in Reform congregations here; and strengthening of ties with the Leo Baeck High School in Haifa, the only school affiliated with Progressive Judaism in Israel.

On the Israel scene, Mr. Hess said, the program calls for acquisition of synagogue buildings for the seven Progressive congregations there, the placement of more Reform rabbis from the U.S. in those congregations, and the establishment of a Hebrew language journal to express the Reform outlook.

Commenting on these activities, Mr. Hess said: "The faith of Israel today faces a grave emergency in the land of Israel. Orthodox rituals are widely rejected by the vibrant young sabras and the hardened realists of the new nation. But knowing no alternatives, they turn their backs on Judaism and call themselves 'non religious.' Yet the battle-scarred paratroopers who wept at the Western Wall in June were not non-religious. They are, in fact, searching for a mode of religious expression that will speak directly to their needs." Mr. Hess pointed out that Reform Judaism, unlike the Orthodox branch, does not enjoy Government recognition or financial support in Israel, and Reform rabbis are not granted the right to perform rabbinical functions there.

The program announced by the UAHC marks a new, deeper involvement of that organization with Israel. Reform Judaism originally rejected the traditional Orthodox view that Jews throughout the world were living in exile from Palestine as punishment for their sins but would be returned with the coming of the Messiah. But a pro-Zionist policy was adopted in the 1940's, and many Reform rabbis and laymen have been involved in various activities and philanthropies related to Israel. According to Rabbi Eisendrath "Israel is a living laboratory of the Jewish soul which Reform Judaism has entered only hesitantly, gingerly making experiments here and there. The events of last June have proven the value of that laboratory; they have proven that Israel, the people, the land and the State, are essential to the continued creativity and development of Reform Judaism."

## PEC Israel Economic Corp. Declares 60-Cent Dividend; Sees Upturn in Israel's Economy

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)—Directors of PEC Israel Economic Corporation, New York, declared today a cash dividend on its common stock of 60 cents per share, payable February 15, 1968 to stockholders of record as of January 31, 1968. This compares with a dividend of 80 cents paid for the preceding year. PEC, now in its 42nd year, has assets in excess of \$27 million and over 10,000 stockholders throughout the U.S. Its principal business is the employment of its capital in Israel, with interests in 45 enterprises in industry, transport and marketing, real estate and construction, finance, banking, insurance and citriculture.

John Furman, PEC's president, said that, despite adverse conditions in Israel during 1967, which included the general economic slowdown, the Six-Day War in June and the devaluation of the Israel pound last month, preliminary data indicate that PEC's earnings from operations will not vary greatly from those of 1966. He said final results will, however, be adversely affected by a loss on the sale and disposition of certain of its holdings as against a profit under this heading in the previous year.

Mr. Furman added that indications at this time are that Israel's economy is due for an upturn in the coming year, and that the corporation's earnings should improve accordingly.

## Brooklyn Home-Hospital for Jewish Aged to Affiliate With New York Federation

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)—The Brooklyn Hebrew Home and Hospital for the Aged, one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the nation, will affiliate with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, effective January 1. The affiliation was announced today by Mrs. Phillip Brenner, president and Jacob Krisel, chairman of the executive board, of the Home; and Samuel J. Silberman, president of the Federation. Through its annual appeal, the Federation will raise funds to meet the deficit in the Home's annual budget which now exceeds \$5 million per year.

The Brooklyn Hebrew Home and Hospital for the Aged, which is conducted along traditional Jewish lines, is the fourth major facility for the aged to become a beneficiary of the Federation. The others are the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged in Manhattan and the Bronx; the Home and Hospital of Daughters of Israel in Manhattan; and the Home and Hospital of Daughters of Jacob in the Bronx.