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Eshkol Visit to Johnson Moved up to January; Place Not yet Determined

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25, (JTA)—Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's visit to the United States, to confer with President Johnson, has been moved up by a month, and will take place in January, instead of February, as previously scheduled, it was announced here today. The announcement said the earlier date was set at the request of the White House, because of changes in the time-table of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Eshkol is due to leave Israel January 5, and will arrive at New York's International Airport that day. He will stay in New York overnight, and will confer with President Johnson during the next two or three days. The place for the conference, it was indicated, has not yet been determined—it will be either in Washington or in Texas.

Christmas Worship in Bethlehem Draws Large Crowds as Israelis Foil Saboteurs

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Some 4,000 worshipers, including more than 100 American servicemen on leave from posts in Europe, attended an overflow midnight mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem last night, or watched it on cinema-size television screens on Manzer Square outside the church. In all, the first Christmas celebration in Bethlehem under Israeli occupation went off smoothly, and drew large numbers of pilgrims despite warnings from terrorist organizations to stay away.

One act of sabotage marred the occasion. A transmission line was blown up, cutting radio and telephone communications between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. But the damage was repaired in less than an hour, and service was restored.

The absence of any other incidents was attributed in large measure to precautions taken by Israeli authorities. More than 1,000 Israeli policemen stood guard along the four-mile road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem yesterday when the traditional procession of pilgrims, led by the Latin Patriarch, Msgr. Alberto Gori, began shortly after noon. Automobiles were banned from Bethlehem for the day, but special buses were provided by Israeli authorities to carry pilgrim to and from the town. Steps were also taken to exclude all but Christians in order to avoid a crush of tourists and other curiosity seekers which might have overtaxed Bethlehem's limited facilities.

The high mass drew the Consuls of Roman Catholic countries, a sprinkling of Americans and other tourists from abroad, and Arabs from the West Bank who apparently ignored exhortations on the Amman radio not to attend services in areas under Israel control. A majority of Israel's Arabs, and those of the West Bank, belong to the Eastern Orthodox and Armenian churches, which do not celebrate Christmas until next month.

Arab Terrorists Active on West Bank and in Gaza in Preparation for Christmas

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Arab terrorists were active again on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip over the weekend, but no casualties were suffered, an Army spokesman reported today. On the West Bank, an hour-long exchange of fire took place when Jordanians shot at an Israeli patrol south of the Beisan Valley settlement of Tirat Zvi. In Gaza, a handgrenade was thrown into a coffee house on the main street, but exploded harmlessly outside, causing minor damage. Near Gaza town, an army truck struck a mine, but neither damage nor casualties were reported.

Security sources said today that the arrest of 56 terrorists in the West Bank area last week wrecked plans for widespread acts of terrorism against Christian pilgrims coming to the holy places during the Yule holiday.

The report came against a background of continuing Arab guerrilla actions in the West Bank sector. In the latest incident, an Arab infiltrator was killed when an Israeli patrol clashed with a group of seven intruders, after a number of mortar shells exploded near Yad Hanna in the Samaria district, east of Hadera. There were no Israeli casualties. Security forces began a hunt for the attackers, and ran into the seven intruders who were seeking to penetrate eastward. Six others made good their escape. Terrorists have previously used mortar fire against civilian areas.

The security sources said that the 56 arrested terrorists, all members of Ahmed Shukairy's Palestine Liberation organization, had planned to carry out a number of incidents in the Bethlehem area against Christian pilgrims, and that it was for this reason that a large number of the intruders had been concentrated in the area. The intruders had found shelter in a number of villages to avoid being conspicuous as a large group in a single place.

The suspects included a number of former officers of Palestinian units in the Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian armies. Officials said a 60-mm mortar and a Soviet-made assault gun were found near the body of the slain Arab terrorist near Yad Hanna.

Shukairy Forced to Abdicate PLO Leadership; New Council to Run Outfit

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Ahmed Shukairy, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which trains terrorists and saboteurs for depredations in Israeli-held territory, has resigned under pressure from his deputies, according to Cairo radio reports heard here. Shukairy was accused by his colleagues of failing to coordinate all the organizations which commit acts of terrorism against Israel.

Egyptian newspapers reported today that a council of 100 Palestinians will now be chosen by Egyptians to head the PLO. The council will be made up of political leaders and terrorist organizers from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The council will elect a 10-man executive committee, the Cairo radio said.

Pope Paul Calls for Mideast Peace; Seen Dropping Plan to Internationalize Jerusalem

ROME, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Pope Paul VI, in his Christmas address to the College of Cardinals yesterday, called for peace in the Middle East "not saturated with hatred and future vindictiveness." He urged that free access to the holy places of the three faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, be guaranteed "by an institution of international character with special regard for the historical and religious physiognomy of Jerusalem." The Pope also called for respect for all communities in the Holy Land to freely enjoy their religious rights, and praised the United Nations Security Council's decision to send a representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East on a peace-seeking mission.

The Papal call for free access to holy places seemed to indicate that the Vatican has ceased to press actively for its long-term objective of internationalization of Jerusalem, and has begun to work instead for some form of international guarantee, possibly by the United Nations, the World Court, or through a new body under U.N. aegis, in which the three religions would be represented.

Pope Paul said that he considers the United Nations resolution of November 22, which established the mission of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, to be "the first positive step" on the road to peace, and hoped that it would have the "sincere support" of all responsible leaders. He called for intensified aid to the "old and new refugees," the "poor and impotent victims" of conflict in the Middle East.

Thant Reports Arab States, Israel, Willing to Aid U.N. Emissary

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 25 (JTA)—The Arab states involved in the Middle East hostilities, as well as Israel, have treated Gunnar Jarring, the United Nations' special representative to the Middle East, "with the utmost courtesy and with expressions of willingness to cooperate with his mission," Secretary-General Thant reported here this weekend.

Mr. Thant made that report to all members of the U. N. on the basis of the first report he had received from Ambassador Jarring after the latter had concluded the first of a series of visits to the Mideast region, during which he had visited the capitals of Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, as well as Jerusalem. Ambassador Jarring will make another visit to Israel in the next few days, Mr. Thant said. The Secretary-General added that he is "encouraged" by the Arab and Israeli willingness to cooperate with Mr. Jarring.

Israeli-Arab Peace Talks Urged by 250 Leading Frenchmen, Including Gaullists

PARIS, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Two hundred and fifty members of Parliament, Gaullists and prominent political leaders among them, signed an appeal yesterday urging France to join with the other big powers to work for direct Israel-Arab talks to bring about peace in the Middle East. The appeal was authored by General Koenig, a leader of the French Resistance movement in World War II, who is chairman of the Committee for Solidarity with Israel.

It affirmed Israel's right to have "secure borders" in face of the new dangers that threaten her, and said that "it cannot be envisaged that Israel should abandon any position before being certain of protection from destructive hatred." The document said that "the great powers, and France especially, have a duty to contribute to the creation of a direct dialogue, thus bringing about an end to the conflict in the Middle East."

The signing of this appeal by members of France's Parliament appeared to confirm an editorial comment by Pierre Paraf in Combat, yesterday, that, of all the grave international problems, "French public opinion is most sensitive to the fate of Israel."

Times Reports French Jews Fear de Gaulle Awakened 'Monster of Anti-Semitism'

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—French Jewish leaders are fearful that "the monster of anti-Semitism," dormant in France for many years, may have been awakened by President de Gaulle's remarks at his press conference of November 27, when he impugned the entire Jewish people through the ages, in the course of a political diatribe against Israel, the New York Times Paris correspondent, Lloyd Garrison, reported here.

Contributing to their concern is the result of a poll taken by the popular weekly, L'Express, which showed that nearly half of all Frenchmen agree with de Gaulle's characterization of the Jews as an "elite" and "domineering" people who have created "ill will in certain countries at certain times," Mr. Garrison reported. He added that French Jewish leaders "privately express a sense of shock and sorrow over the fact that, while most elements of the press rose to Jewry's defense, most prominent politicians and civic groups did not.

Rep. Ford, House GOP Leader, Lambasts Johnson on Israel; Stresses Arms for Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican leader in the House of Representatives, criticized President Johnson this weekend for his statement on Israeli security, which, Mr. Ford said, obscured "the credibility of American commitment to Israel." In an interview broadcast locally by Radio Station WABC, the key station of the American Broadcasting Company, Congressman Ford emphasized the need for firmer support of Israel, including the sale of new arms for Israel.

The Michigan Republican, speaking in his official capacity as minority leader, criticized the Administration for what he termed a "vague and weak response to Israel's life-or-death needs." Rep. Ford was interviewed by Milton Friedman, Washington correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, for "The Week in Jewry," a JTA news program under auspices of the New York Board of Rabbis, broadcast Sunday night.

Rep. Ford said: "President Johnson's comments over the networks Tuesday evening, in my judgment, were not very sharp or precise in most of the topics touched upon, but particularly confusing concerning Israel. Until the President clarifies his position, the credibility of America's commitment to Israel seems to have been clouded even more than it was by Administration inaction last summer."

The Republican spokesman said that "nothing endangers peace more than miscalculation on the part of potential enemies as to America's real policy. I certainly consider that Israel's fate involves the national security interests of the United States and the rest of the free world."

He said he was "discouraged by the grudging and very slow movement of the Administration to ship vitally required arms, especially jet planes, to Israel, to balance the massive resupply by the Communists of some Arab nations. This vague and weak response to Israel's life-or-death needs can only encourage Arab truculence and further Communist penetration. More than the fate of Israel is at stake. The national security interests of the United States are very directly involved."

Fears Administration's Stand May Encourage USSR, Arab States

Rep. Ford said that "the President's comments could be interpreted by the Soviet Union and some of the Arab nations to indicate that the Administration won't stand up as strongly as they should, and as a result might lend encouragement to further intrusion into the Middle East by the Soviet Union, and it might result in the Arab nations, or at least some of them, becoming active again as they were this past summer."

Speaking for the Republicans, Rep. Ford said that "our leadership and our members as a whole are disturbed by what appears to be equivocation on the part of the Administration; and we will do what we can as the minority party in the House and in the Senate to force the Administration to stand up and do what is right to protect our interests and to meet the challenge of Communism in the Middle East." He emphasized "the need for new sales to Israel of the military equipment essential to protection of Israel in the current crisis."

Rep. Ford said the Republicans were "actively urging the Administration to pay far greater heed to such happenings as the growing Soviet naval deployment in the Mediterranean; the establishment of Russian bases in Egypt, Syria and Algeria; the unrelenting arms shipments by the USSR to the Arabs; the arrival in Egypt of Soviet-manned, giant jet bombers of the TU-16 type; the penetration of Russians into Yemen and the new South Yemen; the arrogant refusal of President Nasser of Egypt and other Arab leaders to engage in face-to-face peace negotiations with Israel; the cynical attack on Israel by President de Gaulle of France; and the cruel campaign of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel propaganda unleashed in the Communist nations of Eastern Europe." He said that "much more could and should be done by the Administration to meet these and other global problems."

Billy Graham Voices Staunch Support for Israel, Concern for State's Security

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Billy Graham, America's leading evangelist, supports Israel's efforts to negotiate directly with the Arabs, and urges Israeli officials not to yield to pressures that could jeopardize their nation's physical security. Mr. Graham's views on Israel and Jews appear in an article published this week in the current issue of the ADL Bulletin, national organ of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He said he is convinced that Jerusalem will be reunited as a Jewish city, and is certain that Jews will provide Christians and Muslims free access to all holy places.

The evangelist sought the opportunity to clarify his views, the article says, because he was "disturbed by the attitude toward Jews of some evangelicals" and by the fact that, "while dialogue between American Jews and most denominations of American Christians was increasing, it remained almost non-existent between Jews and evangelicals."

Interviewed at his home in Montreat, N.C., by Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, author and lecturer and former director of the League's department of religious curriculum research, Mr. Graham revealed that, during and immediately after the Six-Day Mideast war, he had been in touch privately with American political figures, urging support for Israel's right to survival. He said he had delayed making any public statements because of the pleas of evangelical Christians in Arab countries who feared reprisal from their host governments. "The Jews are God's chosen people," Mr. Graham declared in the article. "We cannot place ourselves in opposition to Israel without detriment to ourselves."

American Youths Will Run Maccabee Torches to be Flown to N.Y. from Israel Tomorrow

TEL AVIV, Dec. 24 (JTA)—Torches kindled at Modi'in, Israel gravesite of the Maccabees, will be flown to New York on the first day of Chanukah, and will be carried by relay runners of the Maccabee sports organization and Zionist youth groups from Kennedy Airport to synagogues in mid-Manhattan, a distance of 18 miles, it was announced here today. The torch relay will be the first in the United States to duplicate an Israeli tradition, in which young sportsmen run torches from Modi'in to all points of the country on Chanukah.

One of the torches, to arrive at Kennedy Airport on Wednesday, will be run to the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. Another will be carried by teenage members of Masada, the American Zionist youth organization to the Garment Center Synagogue, where it will be handed to Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York. The Mayor will attend Chanukah ceremonies outside the synagogue.

In Israel, torches will be carried by Maccabee sportsmen to the home of President Shazar in Jerusalem; to Eilat, on the Gulf of Akaba; and to outposts in Upper Galilee. Some 4,000 youths will participate in the relays in Israel.

JWB Announces Chanukah Arrangements for Jewish Personnel Among U. S. Forces

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—The National Jewish Welfare Board announced here today that it had made world-wide Chanukah arrangements for Jewish military personnel, giving special attention to Jewish men and women serving in Viet Nam. As gifts, the service personnel in Viet Nam will receive books, records, religious items, toiletry kits, games, decks of playing cards, paints and canvas, and other items sent to them by the JWB Women's Organizations' Services. Other items included cameras, flashlights, battery-operated fans and even a television set for a small installation near the demilitarized zone.

Chaplains Sholom Glikzman, Gerry Rosenberg, and Sheldon Kirsh, the three Jewish chaplains in Viet Nam, together with chaplains of other faiths, will distribute the individually wrapped gifts at Chanukah time. They, as well as Jewish chaplains in Korea, Italy, Germany, Turkey, North Africa, the Aleutian Islands, several Pacific outposts and in all other overseas and domestic areas where Jewish servicemen are stationed, will also conduct candlelighting services during Chanukah. At many installations, chaplains will hold "latke parties" and special Chanukah parties for children. Holiday observances will also be held in Veterans Administration hospitals in the United States, the JWB states.

American Children Airlift Chanukah Gifts to Israeli Youngsters Under NCJW Auspices

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Twenty-four school children from 11 American communities left here Saturday on a Chanukah airlift to Israel to distribute toys to children there. The project, an annual one, is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women as part of its ship-a-box program which also operates in France, India, Iran, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

Mrs. Melvin Stitch, chairman of the NCJW's national overseas committee, said that the "child-to-child airlift" will increase the bonds between the children of Israel and America. The American youngsters will personally deliver toys to two kindergartens in Israel, and will turn over the rest to the Ministry of Education for distribution.

Israel's 'Red Cross' Distributed Gift Parcels to Arab POW's, Marking Ramadan

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Gift parcels containing a winter undershirt, cigarettes and a greeting card in Arabic were distributed to prisoners of war in Israel by the Magen David Adom, Israel's national Red Cross service, it was reported today by the agency's affiliate here, the American Red Mogen Dovid for Israel. The gift parcels were given to the Arab POWs on the occasion of the Moslem holy month of Ramadan. The enclosed cards named the donor, and said "the prayers of all of us are for peace."

United Hias Service Reminds Aliens they must Register Addresses in January

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Aliens must register their addresses with the Federal Government during January, Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive director of United Hias Service said today. "The period in which aliens must register their addresses begins next week. Under Federal Law, any alien in the United States on January 1 must report his address, even if it has not changed since the previous year. The only exemptions are aliens in this country on diplomatic status, or those accredited to the United Nations," Mr. Jacobson stated.

He said registration forms would be available at all post offices, immigration service offices and at United Hias Service headquarters, 200 Park Avenue South, New York City.

Yaakov Katz, Member of Israel's Parliament, Dead at 59; Victim of Auto Accident

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Yaakov Katz, a member of Parliament, died here at age 59 last night, after being knocked down by a car three days ago. He was a member of the Poalei Agudat Israel Party. Next on his party's list is Avraoam Verdiger, who will probably be sworn into the Knesset after the seven-day period of mourning.

Rabbi Carlebach, Former Leader of Congregation in Austria, Dies in New York, Aged 78

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (JTA)—Rabbi Naphtali H. Carlebach, of Congregation Kehillath Jacob, once Chief Rabbi of Baden, Austria, died here Saturday at the age of 78. Rabbi Carlebach was born in Lubeck and served as a rabbi in Berlin and in Baden before coming to the United States in 1939.