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Israel Cabinet Debates Instructions to Eshkol on Eve of Meetings With LBJ

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Israel's cabinet pondered today what Prime Minister Levi Eshkol is to tell President Johnson during their talks in Texas next month, if the President presses him for a substantive statement on the future of occupied Arab territories.

Members were unanimous in stating that, whatever the Prime Minister does say, must reflect the views of the Cabinet. But there appears to be a split within that body as to what Israel's future frontier should be. All agree, however, that "not one inch of occupied territory" will be evacuated before there is a signed peace treaty with the Arabs, informed sources said here.

According to these sources, about a third of the cabinet is prepared to agree to at least a partial Israeli withdrawal, especially in the West Bank, as part of a peace treaty with the Arabs. Another third insists that the Jordan River must be Israel's permanent frontier in the future. The remainder are undecided. But the Cabinet is expected to defer its discussion of the matter so as not to jeopardize the national emergency coalition government. The Gahal faction, made up of Herut and the Liberal Party, is committed to Israel's retention of all occupied territories, and would probably leave the Government if a contrary decision is taken.

Heavy Itinerary for Eshkol Announced; To Arrive in N.Y., January 4

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol will arrive in New York, for an eight-day visit to the United States, on Thursday, January 4, and will spend two days visiting with President Johnson at the latter's LBJ Ranch in Texas. He will be feted at the United Nations at a luncheon to be given in his honor by Secretary-General U Thant, and will be tendered a dinner by mayor, Jewish, national organisations, in New York, on January 11. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Eshkol.

Highlights of Mr. Eshkol's American itinerary, made public here today, showed also that he will confer here with Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, of New York, and will be a guest of Mayor John V. Lindsay at the Metropolitan Opera.

Scheduled to arrive at New York's Kennedy International Airport on the afternoon of January 4, Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol will be given a reception at the Airport Synagogue. The luncheon by Mr. Thant, at U.N. Headquarters, will take place the next day. Saturday, he will attend services at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. He will fly to Texas on January 7, and will spend two days in Texas as the guest of President Johnson.

On Wednesday, January 10, he will meet with Gov. Rockefeller, address a luncheon here at the Overseas Press Club, and attend the opera with Mayor and Mrs. Lindsay. There will also be a reception for Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where the Metropolitan Opera is located.

The dinner honoring Mr. Eshkol, the evening of January 11, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, will be attended by representatives of all major, national, Jewish organizations. The invitations to the dinner have been sent out by Max M. Fisher and Edward Ginsberg, respectively president and general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; and by Abraham A. Feinberg and Samuel Rothberg, respectively president and national campaign chairman of the Israel Bonds Organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol will depart for Israel on Friday, January 12.

Israel Reports More Clashes, Fire Exchange With Jordan, Further Crackdowns

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Israeli forces clashed anew with Arab marauders tonight, killing two of them in an encounter near Kissufim, opposite the former Gaza Strip demarcation line, while a third escaped, an Army spokesman reported here. An hour-long exchange of fire between Israeli and Jordanian forces across the Jordan River was reported by a military spokesman here this afternoon. There were no casualties on the Israeli side. The exchange began when Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol south of Tirat Zvi in the Beisan Valley.

Israel's security services announced the smashing of another Arab terrorist ring, the second to be uncovered in less than two weeks, foiling its plans for renewed terrorist activities in the West Bank region. Arrests were also announced today of two younger brothers of the Mayor of Gaza, who were rounded up with other suspects believed to have thrown hand grenades in Gaza streets in recent days. The Mayor himself boycotted a dinner given for Arab notables by the military governor last night, marking the end of the Moslem holy month of Ramadan. Seventy local Arabs did attend, however.

The terrorists arrested in the latest round-up by security forces included six Israeli Arabs, members of the outlawed El Ard nationalist organization, who had made contact with Syrian-trained El Fatah

terrorists in the Nablus-Tulkarm region, and were planning new depredations against Israel. Three of the arrested were residents of Tab'yeh village in Israel. Two others came from Baqua el Gharbiyeh, also in Israel.

The El Ard organization, centered in Nazareth and in other Arab centers in Israel, was outlawed before the June war when its leaders openly proclaimed their support of Egyptian President Nasser's declared intention of destroying Israel. Members of the organization took oaths on the Koran to keep its existence a secret, and outwardly pretended loyalty to Israel — while making contact with the El Fatah and planning to establish local terror groups, the security services reported.

The arrest of a second Arab student leader who entered Israel illegally to foment unrest in the West Bank and East Jerusalem was announced by police today. He is Taisir Kuba, a fourth-year history major at Cairo University and president of the Palestine Students Organization. Yesterday police announced the arrest here of the president of the Lebanese Students Union, a senior at Beirut University, who infiltrated into Israel with a band of El Fatah terrorists and was agitating among young educated Arabs in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Kuba, who was born in the West Bank, participated in student congresses in Moscow and other Communist capitals, and also attended a congress of Palestinian terrorist organizations. The Palestine Students Organization which he heads has branches in thirty countries.

Further Intensification of Arab Terrorism Predicted in Beirut Report

LONDON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--An intensification of Arab terrorist activities against Israel, actively supported from Cairo, was predicted in a Beirut dispatch to the Guardian today as a result of the ouster of Ahmed Shukairy as head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. "The fact that the guerilla organizations were largely responsible for Shukairy's downfall shows that they now exert an influence in Arab counsels, which, though not great, is on the increase," the Guardian said.

The Daily Telegraph asserted in a report from Beirut today that Moscow's new oil agreement with Iraq constitutes a major breakthrough by the Russians into the Arab oil market that will bring them into direct competition with the long-entrenched Western oil interests. Under the agreement, Iraq will provide Russia with crude oil, and the Soviets will furnish Iraq with technical aid and equipment for her oil industry. The Russians will also aid in the development, transportation and marketing of Iraqi oil, the Daily Telegraph said.

Rabin Says Israel's Navy Now Has 'New Tools' for Use if War is Resumed

HAIFA, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, retiring chief of staff of Israel's armed forces, told the officers and crewmen of two Israeli naval units here yesterday that they now "have new tools which you did not have hitherto" and that their ability to use those tools "will make the Navy an important factor if another war breaks out." He made his remarks during a farewell visit to the submarine Leviatan, recently acquired from Britain, and the destroyer Yaffo. He will be succeeded as chief of staff on January 1 by Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev.

Referring to his retirement, Gen. Rabin told the Navy men: "Generations come and go, and every generation has its task to perform. No war is like any other war in form and character. What was, is a matter for historians. The present must be devoted to preparing forces that will be able to act when they are called upon."

Egypt Reported Mulling Freeing Ships Moored in Suez Canal; Jarring in Cairo

LONDON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The release of 15 merchant ships of various nationalities which have been idly riding at anchor in the Great Bitter Lake section of the Suez Canal, since the canal was shut down by Egypt during the Six-Day War last June, appears likely soon, according to reports received here from various quarters today.

Informed sources said that the United Nations special peace envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, has approached both Egyptian and Israeli authorities with a request to permit the ships to leave. Ambassador Jarring arrived in Jerusalem yesterday for a second round of talks with Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban, and was due in Cairo today for further talks with Egyptian leaders.

Egypt has insisted up to now that no part of the Suez Canal could be cleared until Israeli troops withdraw from its East bank and from all other territories occupied in the war. Today, however, the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram said that the Egyptian Government is "carefully studying" the matter, and that there was a distinct possibility that the ships would be released.

In Jerusalem, today, Foreign Ministry sources said that no request had been received from Egypt about the trapped ships. Under the terms of last June's cease-fire agreement, neither Israel nor Egypt was to navigate the Canal. But it was indicated in Jerusalem that Israel would raise no objections to the exitation of the vessels provided that the Egyptian tugs and personnel employed confine themselves to that operation which must not be construed as a precedent affecting the status of the Canal.)

(A report in Washington today quoted an official Egyptian spokesman, Dr. Mohammed Hassan El Zayyat, as saying in Cairo that the 15 stranded ships may soon be released but that the Canal will remain closed until Israel evacuates all of her troops from Sinai.)

According to the dispatch from Cairo, Egypt has undertaken an extensive study of the problem, at the repeated request of the countries whose ships are involved, and has determined that clearance of the

southern end of the waterway was "feasible." Stranded in the Great Bitter Lake for nearly six months are two American freighters, the African Glen and the Observer, four British ships and vessels flying the French, Swedish, Polish, Czechoslovakian and Bulgarian flags.

Robert Kennedy Urges U.S. Jets for Israel, Direct Peace Talks

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, New York Democrat, today urged that the United States provide F-4 Phantom jets to Israel. In a statement issued from his Washington office, a point was made that maintenance of Israeli strength may help avert further warfare in the Middle East.

Sen. Kennedy said it would be preferable if the USSR and the United States could reach an agreement — but, if no accord was possible and the Arabs continued to re-arm, the United States must act so that Israel can defend herself. He said Israel stands "only by the power of her arms and courage and the determination of her people." He stressed that the Arabs refuse to negotiate, and continue to mount a massive arms build-up, adding that peace could come only through direct negotiations.

Agency Executive, in Jerusalem Session, Hears Compromise Plan on Reorganizing WZO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--A proposal to set up a special movement within the World Zionist Organization, limited to those Jews from abroad who personally pledge to settle in Israel, was made by Rabbi Mordechai Kirshblum, of New York, member of the Jewish Agency executive, at the opening of the Jewish Agency executive's plenary sessions here today. But the plan quickly ran into opposition from Israeli members of the executive, indicating a sharp difference of opinion between the New York and Jerusalem sections on how best to foster aliyah (immigration) which all agree will be a fundamental issue on the agenda of the next World Zionist Congress, opening here in June.

The plenary sessions, convened to work out an agenda for the next Congress, was opened by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, who outlined his proposal to broaden the Zionist executive to include all Jewish organizations. Aryeh Pincus, chairman of the executive, said in a keynote address that the whole question before the movement must center on the best way to increase immigration to Israel.

Rabbi Kirshblum's plan was intended as a compromise between the status quo within the Zionist movement and the recommendations drafted by the Korn committee to separate the Jewish Agency from the WZO, with only those pledging aliyah belonging to the latter. Under it, the new movement would admit only those Zionists who pledge to immigrate to Israel within three years and who, in the meantime, study Hebrew and give their children a Jewish education.

But Israeli members of the executive insisted that the Zionist movement can be strengthened only if it embraces the largest possible numbers of Jews. American members hold, on the other hand, that an enlarged movement would defeat the purpose of aliyah, which would be better served by the creation of a hard core of Zionists who really intend to settle in Israel.

JNF Launches Reclamation in Occupied Arab Areas, Details Other Projects

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund has begun land reclamation projects for settlements in the occupied territory near Banyas and Kibbutz Golan in the Syrian heights, it was disclosed today by Yaacov Tzur, director of the JNF. At a press conference here, he also described land clearing projects in the mountainous regions of Israel, and the washing of salty soil in the Negev desert north of Eilat, all undertaken by his agency, which is the land reclamation arm of the World Zionist Organization.

Mr. Tzur said that the JNF employs up to 5,000 jobless Israelis daily in afforestation projects in various parts of Israel, and also supervises the employment of 1,500 Arabs in the occupied territories. The latter are working on projects started before the June war under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, mainly in the Nablus and Gaza regions.

He reported that a half-million trees were planted this year. Among next year's projects, he said, is the Ben-Gurion forest that will be planted around the immigrant town of Dimona, in Southern Israel, to mark the former Prime Minister's birthday.

He said that land reclamation in the mountainous areas is the most difficult, but it must go on to provide arable land for the second generation of settlers. An average of 60,000 tons of rock must be removed from every acre of land. In the desert region near Eilat, the salt washing process will clear 1,000 dunams (250 acres) for each new settlement, but the process will take years.

Mr. Tzur said that, for its projects to be successful, the JNF will strengthen its fund-raising activities abroad to match the United Jewish Appeal's emergency campaigns in countries where JNF conducts separate drives, as in the United States. He said that only a quarter of the JNF's receipts come from the United States, the rest from Europe, South Africa and other countries.

'Israel Loves Company' — New Slogan to Attract Tourists for 20th Anniversary

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The Ministry of Tourism announced a program of special events throughout 1968 and a new slogan — "Israel Loves Company" — with which it hopes to attract a record number of visitors from abroad during Israel's 20th anniversary year. On schedule are some 46 events, ranging from a gynaecologists' convention to Purim pageants that are expected to draw tourists. There will be something special almost every month, a Ministry spokesman said. To make sure that these events do not go unnoticed, the Ministry is arranging for the publication of special Israel supplements in leading newspapers and magazines all over the world.

Israel Bonds Convenes Session to Plan Most Important Campaign in Its History

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Plans for what leaders of the Israel Bond Organization say will be "the most important Bonds campaign in our history" will be formulated here January 12, at a planning conference to be held here by the organization's board of governors, it was announced today. Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board, announcing the plans, said that more than 400 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada will attend the all-day meeting, to be held at the Hotel Commodore. Mr. Boyar stated:

"The 1968 Israel Bond campaign will be the most important in our history not only because of the crucial developments in Israel in 1967, but also because, in the year of Israel's 20th anniversary, its people will look to the Israel Bond Organization to provide an increased flow of investment funds to initiate a well-planned expansion of its economy in the third decade of statehood."

In September, 1967, three months after the end of the June War, the Government of Israel launched a new \$500,000,000 Israel Bond Issue through the Israel Bond Organization in the United States and other countries of the free world. This action, dictated by the record response to the Israel Bond drive as a result of the emergency situation, was taken to assure the uninterrupted supply of dollars for Israel's development program in the postwar period.

"Today," Mr. Boyar continued, "the Government of Israel finds itself confronted with enlarged economic needs as an aftermath of the events of last summer. Furthermore, the present situation in Israel has also increased, to a much larger degree than ever before, Israel's dependence on Israel Bonds to meet the normal demands of its development program. Under these circumstances, it will be our responsibility in 1968 to wage the kind of total campaign that will bring about the sale of the largest portion of the \$500,000,000 Fourth Development Issue that was inaugurated only three months ago."

Zionist Youth Race Chanukah Torch from Israel; N.Y. Mayor Receives Symbol

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--A Chanukah torch kindled at the gravesite of the Maccabees in Israel, was presented to Mayor John V. Lindsay in ceremonies outside the Garment Center Synagogue here this afternoon. The presentation was made by Miss Betty Balsam, 16, a member of the Zionist youth organization, Masada, who was the final runner in an 18-mile relay that brought the torch from Kennedy International Airport to mid-Manhattan. The youths who took part in the event, under the auspices of the Zionist Organization of America, wore blue and white uniforms. Each ran a distance of 250 yards with the torch that was lit in Israel yesterday by members of Maccabi Hatzair, the General Zionist youth movement.

The torchlight relay was the first in the United States to duplicate the traditional Chanukah relays in Israel where youths and sportsmen run torches from Modi'in, where the Maccabees are buried, to all parts of the country. A second torch relay will carry Chanukah lights from Israel to Boston and Springfield, Mass., and Manchester, N.H., tomorrow in an event sponsored by the New England region of the ZOA.

Present with Mayor Lindsay at the New York ceremony were Israel Consul-General Michael Arnon, Jacques Torczyner, president of the ZOA; and Bernard M. Rifkin, national ZOA youth chairman; also Rabbi Aron Diener of the Garment Center Synagogue; George A. Saltzman, president of the Garment Center Congregation; and Victor Weinman, president of Masada.

In a brief address on the occasion, Mr. Torczyner said: "Whatever the religious or folklore rationalizations, Chanukah was born out of the Maccabean revolution against oppression and intolerance. Zionism is also a revolution against oppression and intolerance. Its continuing appeal is its very revolutionary nature."

Cleveland Teenagers Send Special Chanukah Program to Jewish Servicemen in Viet Nam

CLEVELAND, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Special tape-recorded programs were sent to the Jewish chaplains in Viet Nam by members of the Cleveland Jewish Community Center Teen Age Board Community Service Committee, in time to help make Chanukah brighter for the Jewish servicemen in that combat area. Arrangements for this project were developed with the Armed Forces and Veteran Services of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

The recordings included a Chanukah play and poem, special musical presentations and Chanukah greetings from the teenagers. Phil Fink, WABQ-WXEN newscaster and radio personality, produced and directed the programs, with the assistance of Leonard Rubin, youth division group worker of the Jewish Community Center. The radio station made its facilities, equipment and studios available for the recording and editing sessions. The Cleveland Jewish Community Center is an affiliate of JWB.

\$250,000 Contributed Toward New Hadassah Youth Center Atop Mt. Scopus

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Meshulam Riklis has donated \$250,000 -- a portion of which was contributed by his friends -- toward the construction of the Hadassah Youth Center atop Mount Scopus, in Jerusalem. This was announced today by Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, national president of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America. The building of the Hadassah Youth Center, Mrs. Jacobson disclosed, will be named in honor of Mrs. Judith Riklis, the donor's wife.

Mrs. Jacobson said architects are now working on plans for the Hadassah Youth Center, and that building operations are expected to begin within the next two months. It will accommodate Jewish youth from the United States and other countries who come to work and study in Israel as part of programs ranging from six months to one year. The center will be located near Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, which had stood empty for 19 years, and was regained by Hadassah following Israel's victory in the Six-Day War.