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Fierce Fighting Breaks Out Between Israel, Jordan; Planes, Tanks, Artillery in Action

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Israeli jets roared into action this evening to silence Jordanian artillery that had been maintaining a heavy barrage for hours against Israeli settlements in the Beisan Valley. The fighting, in which Israeli artillery and tanks returned the Jordanian fire, was the fiercest in weeks. But, at last reports, no Israeli casualties were suffered, all planes returned safely to their bases, and the front was quiet.

An Israeli soldier was killed earlier in the day and four border policemen were injured when their jeep hit a mine east of the settlement of Gesher, in the northern Beisan Valley. No casualties were suffered when an Israeli half-track struck a mine in the Gaza Strip, south of Rafah today. The vehicle, however, was damaged. Another mine was discovered less than a mile away and was safely dismantled, a military spokesman reported.

Today's battle of the Beisan started when Jordanians opened fire on Jewish National Fund workers in the southern part of the valley, switching from small arms to heavy artillery. Israeli tanks and artillery replied, and that exchange ended in two hours. A half hour later, however, Jordanians began shelling the settlements of Kfar Ruppin and Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley, and soon extended their fire to other sections of the area. Israeli tanks and artillery again returned the fire, then called on the Air Force to silence the Jordanian guns.

There were no reports tonight of the extent of the damage suffered by the settlements. Security authorities here believe that the attack was planned by the Jordanian high command because the use of heavy artillery is permitted only on a divisional level, and Arab Legion general headquarters were fully aware of the attack. Circles here said tonight that Jordan was apparently trying to demonstrate to the other Arab states that rumors of a possible accord between Amman and Jerusalem are false.

(At the United Nations, Israel informed the Security Council today that it had ordered limited air action against Jordanian artillery positions this afternoon to stop "uninterrupted, intense and indiscriminate" shelling of the Israeli villages of Kfar Ruppin and Maoz Chaim, and its attendant danger to life and property. The statement was contained in a letter which Ambassador Gideon Rafael of Israel asked be circulated among members of the Council, but he did not request a Council meeting. The letter also said that the Israeli Government "holds the Jordanian authorities responsible for these deliberate and unprovoked attacks.")

Sale of U.S. Phantoms Deferred as Johnson, Eshkol Review Issue of Arms to Israel

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Jan. 8 (JTA)--A joint United States-Israel communique issued here late this afternoon by the Texas White House, following two days of talks between President Johnson and Israel's Premier Levi Eshkol, said today that "the President agrees to keep Israel's military defense capability under active and sympathetic examination and review, in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of military equipment by others to the area."

The communique stated that the President and Prime Minister "considered the implications of the pace of rearmament in the Middle East and the ways and means of coping with this situation." It declared that the two statesmen "restated their dedication to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the spirit of the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967. They also noted that the principles set forth by President Johnson on June 19, 1967, constituted an equitable basis for such a settlement."

White House sources said after the communique was issued that a decision to sell Phantom jets to Israel would be deferred until such time as the United States determined that Soviet arms shipments had reached a point of imbalance, that would undermine the balance of power in the Middle East.

Support U.N. Emissary to Mideast, Stress Close American-Israeli Relations

The two leaders noted "with satisfaction" that the United Nations special representative to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring "is already engaged in discussions with the Governments concerned and affirmed their support of his mission." They said they "reviewed with satisfaction developments in the relations between the United States and Israel since their last meeting in 1964, and expressed their firm intention to continue the traditionally close, friendly and cooperative ties which link the peoples of Israel and the United States."

The joint statement added: "Noting the mutual dedication of their governments and people to the value of peace, resistance to aggression wherever it occurs, individual freedom, human dignity and the advancement of man through the elimination of poverty, ignorance, and disease, the President and the Prime Minister declared their firm determination to make every effort to increase the broad area of understanding which already exists between Israel and the United States, and agreed that the Prime Minister's visit advanced this objective."

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Eshkol held several intimate talks during the visit at the Texas White House yesterday and today, in which they discussed "recent developments in the Middle East as well as a number of questions of mutual interest in the bilateral relations between their two countries."

Mr. Eshkol and his official party departed by air for New York immediately after the communique was issued, flying in President Johnson's plane, Airforce I. Contrary to usual protocol, the newsmen who had come here in a special press plane to cover the Johnson-Eshkol talks were permitted to go back to New York in the President's plane, with Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol.

Johnson Toasts Eshkol, Israel at LBJ Ranch Dinner; Rusk Participates in Talks

The President drew an analogy between Israelis and Americans in a toast to Prime Minister Eshkol at a private dinner at the LBJ Ranch last night. Mr. Johnson said the two peoples "share many qualities of mind and heart," and declared:

"We both rise to challenge. We both admire the courage and resourcefulness of the citizen-soldier. We each draw strength and purpose for today from our heroes of yesterday. We both know the thrill of bringing life from a hard but rewarding land. But all Americans — and all Israelis — also know that prosperity is not enough — that none of our restless generation can ever live by bread alone. For we are equally nations in search of a dream. We share a vision and purpose far brighter than our abilities to make deserts bloom. We have been born and raised to seek and find peace. In that common spirit of our hopes, I respect our hope that a just and lasting peace will prevail between Israel and her neighbors."

"This past year has been a busy one for America's peace-makers — in the Middle East, in Cyprus, in Viet Nam." Mr. Johnson spoke of the difficulty of making peace and stressed that "it demands enormous courage, flexibility and imagination." He added that peace "is ill-served by hasty slogans or half-solutions," and said it was the American intention to pursue and find peace in the Middle East and throughout the world. He recalled that God once promised the children of Israel "I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant." Using the word "Shalom," the President toasted his guests and the people of Israel.

Mr. Eshkol returned the toast and expressed appreciation for Johnson's friendship. He complimented Texas and said "the broadness of this place is matched by the breadth of your understanding and the depth of your friendship, and the determination of America which you symbolize to buttress peace, to block its disruption by aggression and to enlarge the horizons of man's opportunity." He voiced hope for the realization "of your dream of peace and human dignity."

Among those in attendance were Secretary of State Dean Rusk, the presidential advisor on international security affairs, Walt W. Rostow; and Assistant Secretary of State Lucius Battle.

Several hours of private talks were held today and yesterday. The President personally drove Mr. Eshkol across his ranch in an automobile, after a helicopter tour of the region.

Israel's Tourism Ministry Announces Vast Plans for 20th Anniversary Events This Year

LONDON, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The director-general of Israel's Ministry of Tourism today disclosed an impressive calendar of events with which Israel will mark her 20th anniversary year in 1968 and which, she hopes, will not only attract a record number of visitors from abroad but permanent residents and immigrants as well.

Meir de Shalit, who stopped over here briefly to launch a tourist promotion campaign, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that preparations for the 20th anniversary program were being made on the highest Government level. President Zalman Shazar officially inaugurated the year in a special proclamation last November, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Preparations are in the hands of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who heads a special ministerial committee appointed for the purpose. The director-general of the Prime Minister's office, Dr. Yaakov Herzog, is personally in charge of implementing the program, and Mr. de Shalit is in charge of information and promotion abroad. He plans to visit the Scandinavian countries, Belgium, France and Italy on his way home.

Some of the events coming up, Mr. de Shalit said, are the traditional Purim carnival in Tel Aviv, the presentation of the first fruit on Shavuot, and the Independence Day parade to be held on May 2, for the first time in a united Jerusalem.

An international trade fair will be held in Tel Aviv from June 4 to 22. There will also be celebrations of Navy Day and Airforce Day, with parades; and the traditional music festival at Ein Gev, on the Sea of Galilee, for the first time not menaced by Syrian guns, Mr. de Shalit said.

The international diamond industry will hold its convention in Israel this year, as will the Bahai, a religious sect which has its Temple on Mt. Carmel in Haifa. There will also be a convention of the Mahal, foreign volunteers who fought in Israel's armed forces, an international congress of gynecologists, an international conference of junior chambers of commerce, the 27th World Zionist Congress, and the fourth conference of the World Hebrew Union. A unique event will be the world olympiade of paraplegics, an event that usually takes place at Stoke-Mandeville in England where Prof. Ludwig Guttman has established a world famous rehabilitation center.

De Gaulle Tells Ben-Gurion He Has 'Friendship' for Israel, Meant No Disparagement

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--French President Charles de Gaulle has assured David Ben-Gurion, in a personal letter to the former Israeli Prime Minister, that he meant nothing disparaging when, at his now famous press conference in Paris last November 27, he characterized the Jews as a "domineering people" who, through the ages "have created ill will." Gen. de Gaulle wrote to Mr. Ben-Gurion that he has only the "warmest friendship" for Israel and the Jewish people.

The French President's letter was delivered by special messenger to Mr. Ben-Gurion's desert retreat at Sdeh Boker. It was in reply to a letter sent by Mr. Ben-Gurion to Gen. de Gaulle following the latter's press conference in which he assailed Israel as a war-like nation bent on expansion, and blamed her for starting the June war.

(In Paris it was reported today that, in his letter to Mr. Ben-Gurion, Gen. de Gaulle also expressed "deep admiration" for Israel's achievements, but advised that Israel now withdraw its troops from occupied Arab areas.)

British-Israeli Trade Off Only Slightly, Both Ways, in 1967 Compared With 1966

LONDON, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Israel bought slightly less from and sold slightly more to Britain in 1967 than it did in 1966, according to figures published today in the Anglo-Israel Trade Journal.

During the 16 months ending October 31, 1967, Britain exported goods and materials to Israel valued at 42,846,000 pounds sterling (about \$102,830,400) and imported the same from Israel in the amount of 28,076,000 pounds sterling (about \$57,076,000). In the same period of 1966, British exports to Israel were valued at 45,074,000 pounds sterling (about \$107,177,000), and her imports at 23,284,000 pounds sterling (about \$55,881,000).

Failure of Large-Scale Jewish Immigration to Israel Has Caused Problems, Eban Says

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a meeting of the Association of Latin American immigrants here last night that it was the failure of Diaspora Jewry to undertake the large-scale immigration that makes it impossible to give dispassionate consideration to the problems arising from last June's war. Mr. Eban said that, if Israel's population were four million or even three million, instead of two million, thinking on the problems posed by the war might have been much calmer.

The Foreign Minister made his remarks following an address by Moshe Kitron, chairman of the association, who criticized both Israel and the Diaspora on the matter of immigration. Immigration cannot be conditional on Israel's being a replica of Western societies, he said. On the other hand, he charged that Israel was not an "absorption society" and often gave immigrants the feeling that they are forgotten.

Goldmann Tells WJC Parley That Human Rights Machinery Must Be Strengthened

LONDON, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A number of proposals to strengthen international machinery for the protection of human rights were made today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, at a meeting here of the WJC governing council. He offered the proposals in a statement pledging world-wide Jewish support for the observance of International Human Rights Year, proclaimed by the United Nations for 1968.

He proposed recognition by governments of the right of petition by groups and individuals to an international authority in cases of denial or curtailment of human rights. He also suggested the creation of regional courts, similar to the European Court at Strasbourg, for the protection of human rights. He also endorsed the establishment of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Dr. Goldmann said that the WJC was deeply concerned over the discriminations and disabilities suffered by some Jewish communities, but that it recognized that the solution of these problems was an integral aspect of the struggle for the rights of all men.

World Parley of Ashkenazi, Sephardic Synagogues Opens in Jerusalem; Americans Present

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A world convention of Ashkenazi and Sephardic synagogues, attended by 700 delegates, among them 650 representing Orthodox rabbinic and lay bodies in America and Europe, opened here tonight. Among those attending were Britain's Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovitz and the Grand Rabbi of France, Dr. Jacob Kaplan. A large delegation also arrived from the United States. The convention will last three days.

It is the first parley of its kind to be held, and is intended to rally world Orthodox leaders. Speeches and resolutions denouncing Conservative and Reform Judaism were reportedly in preparation.

Five Nazis on Trial in Germany for Murdering 70 Jewish Men, Women, Children

BONN, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A trial of five former members of the Hitler SS who served in Italy opened today before a jury court in Osnabrueck. The defendants are charged with murdering some 70 Jewish men, women and children, aged 11 to 75, at Lake Magiore, Italy, and tossing their bodies into the water.

A former SS general who was charged with war crimes two years ago but released without trial, has been admitted to practice law in the Westerland Court in Schlesburg by the Ministry of Justice of Schleswig-Holstein. The former general and police chief, Heinz Reinerfarth, gave orders to suppress the Warsaw uprising of 1944 when Russian armies were pursuing the Germans over the Polish frontier. The uprising was not connected with the Warsaw ghetto revolt two years earlier.

Chicago Merges Two Drives Into United Fund With \$10.5 Million Quota; Klutznick is Chairman

CHICAGO, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Chicago has united its two major Jewish philanthropic agencies for fund-raising purposes and will campaign to raise \$10,500,000 in 1968 under the chairmanship of Philip M. Klutznick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Unification of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago with the Combined Jewish Appeal here, and Mr. Klutznick's appointment, were announced today by A. D. Davis, president of the Federation and David Silbert, president of the Jewish Welfare Fund. The new unit will be known as the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

Mr. Klutznick, at a press conference here, described the new fund-raising program as "the boldest, most imaginative step forward in the Jewish community's history." He said that the \$10,500,000 goal set will be earmarked for the following general areas of charitable work: Jewish Federation supported hospitals, clinics, family welfare and child care agencies, vocational services and job-finding, homes for the aged and community centers, all of which serve more than 215,000 men, women and children of all faiths; Jewish Welfare Fund supported Jewish educational institutions for children and young adults; resettlement and rehabilitation for thousands of new immigrants and the aged, sick and orphaned in Israel; rescue and immigration aid and social welfare for hundreds of thousands of needy Jews in countries all over the world; and support of the cultural and service programs of national Jewish organizations in the United States.

The \$10,500,000 goal for 1968 is based on \$6,250,000 raised in 1967 by the Combined Jewish Appeal campaign and \$2,250,000 by the Jewish Federation campaign, plus "a conservative estimate of funds needed to meet rising costs in food, shelter, clothing, medical care, transportation of refugees and Jewish education." James P. Rice is executive director of the Jewish United Fund; and Albert A. Hutler is associate executive director.

Cleveland Welfare Fund Sets \$6.8 Million Goal; 'No Limit' for Israel Emergency

CLEVELAND, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A \$6,800,000 goal has been set for the 1968 Jewish Welfare Fund campaign, according to Lloyd S. Schwenger, president of the Jewish Community Federation here.

During the April 26 to May 16 campaign, a "no-limit drive" for the Israel Emergency Fund will also be conducted, Mr. Schwenger said. Julius Paris is chairman of the 1968 drive; and Max Axelrod and M. Edwin Weiner are co-chairmen.

Canadian Jews Raised \$27 Million for Israel Emergency, Set New \$15 Million Goal

MONTREAL, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Canada's United Israel Appeal will raise \$15 million for the Israel Emergency Fund in 1968 in addition to its regular campaign, Jacob M. Lowy, UIA president announced here today. Mr. Lowy disclosed that, during 1967, the Canadian Jewish Community raised \$27,283,000 for the Israel Emergency campaign in addition to \$4,437,000 for the regular drive.

George Herlitz, Director of Central Zionist Archives in Israel, Dead at 82

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar, Cabinet members and members of the Jewish Agency attended today funeral services for Dr. Georg Herlitz, founder and long-time director of the Central Zionist Archives, who died yesterday at the age of 82.

Born in Oppeln, Germany, he was educated in Germany and settled in Palestine in 1933. He was director of the archives from 1935 to 1955. He also was a founder of the Zionist Archives in Berlin, for which he was director from 1919 to 1933. He had been active in the B'nai B'rith movement in pre-Hitler Germany, and served as a member of the executive committee of the Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith in Israel. He was the author of a number of books in German on Jewish and Zionist subjects.

Pierre van Paassen, Reporter, Christian Friend of Zionism, Dead at 72

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Pierre van Paassen, one of the first Christian advocates of Jewish statehood, a best-selling author, and a Unitarian minister, died here today after a long illness. He was 72.

Author of nearly a dozen best-selling books describing his reporting as a roving foreign correspondent, he was born in the Netherlands, emigrating to Canada when he was 19 to study for the Protestant ministry at Toronto University, and studying in Paris after service in World War I. He worked as a reporter for many newspapers, interviewing Hitler several times. When the Nazis came to power, he was expelled from Germany, and later from France by Pierre Laval.

He first visited Palestine in 1925 and then, in the interest of Zionism, he roamed the ghettos of pre-war Eastern Europe, also visiting the Arab countries. A close friend of the late Revisionist leader, Vladimir Jabotinsky, he served as national chairman of the Committee for a Jewish Army during World War II.

In 1929, he was attacked and wounded by mobsters in the pay of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the leader and organizer of the Arab riots against Jews. In that year, he was made an honorary citizen of Tel Aviv, the only Christian ever to receive that honor. He was a recipient of a Doctor of Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion of New York.