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Exchange of Fire on Suez Canal When Egyptians Attempt to Enter Northern Passage

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Five Israeli soldiers were wounded and one Israeli and two Egyptian tanks were destroyed in an exchange of fire that erupted today at noon along the Suez Canal.

The clash occurred when Israeli forces fired "warning shots" at an Egyptian launch attempting to enter the northern sector of the Canal from Lake Timsah to carry out what the Israelis said was an "illegal survey." Israel has refused to agree to Egypt's announced plan to begin preliminary work on clearing the northern section of the Canal. Under last June's cease-fire agreement, neither side may navigate or use the Canal for any purpose without the other's agreement. Israel has agreed to permit clearance of the Canal's southern sector to free 15 merchant ships that have been stranded there since the Canal was closed by Egypt last June.

United Nations observers in the Suez Canal area arranged a cease-fire to go into effect at 12:30 p.m. local time but Egyptian batteries did not desist from firing until 1:15 p.m., a military spokesman reported today.

Egyptian forces opened up with small arms and artillery aimed at Israeli units in the Kantara region after Israelis fired warning shots at two Egyptian boats attempting to enter the northern sector of the Canal. This occurred shortly before noon, the military spokesman said, after it appeared that Egypt had second thoughts about violating the non-shipping agreement with Israel. Earlier in the morning, an Egyptian launch entering the Canal's northern sector withdrew after warning shots from the Israeli side.

Egyptians Seen as Testing Israeli Reaction to Work on North End

But apparently the Egyptians were bent on testing Israel's response to their announced intention of starting clearing operations in the northern portion of the Canal. Israel had earlier warned Egypt in writing, through Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the UN cease-fire observers corps, that she would not permit unilateral operations in the northern sector. Israel agreed to clearing the southern end of the Canal in order to free 15 merchant ships stranded there since last June.

During today's clash, Egyptian units opened fire on Israeli units in Kantara and, ten minutes later, at another point along the Canal near Dar Sueir. Israelis returned the fire, knocking out two Egyptian tanks. Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in the clash.

Israelis and Jordanians exchanged fire across the Jordan River this afternoon in the vicinity of Um Church, a military spokesman announced. He said the fire was opened by the Jordanians and returned by Israeli units. No casualties were reported.

An Israeli patrol intercepted an armed band of Arab terrorists near Ashdot Yaacov in the Beisan Valley last night but then had to fight off a Jordanian attack launched presumably to cover the terrorists' retreat, a military spokesman reported today. A rifle, a mine and mortar shells were found in the battle area.

Rafael Warns Egypt It Cannot Establish De Facto Control Over Suez Canal

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Israel will not permit Egypt to unilaterally establish de facto control over the Suez Canal, the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Gideon Rafael, declared at a press conference here tonight. Mr. Rafael said that today's exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal was brought about by Egypt's attempt to send boats into the Canal's northern sector in violation of last June's cease-fire agreement. Also violated by the Egyptians, he said, was last week's agreement under which Israel will permit the Egyptians to clear the southern end of the Canal in order to free 15 merchant ships stranded there last June. Today's move by the Egyptians involved the northern end of the Canal which, Israel insists, cannot be cleared without its assent.

Foreign Ministry sources said meanwhile that UN Ambassador Gunnar Jarring's visit here Thursday was previously scheduled and does not arise from today's Suez clash. Ambassador Jarring is leaving his Nicosia headquarters for Cairo tomorrow. His visit to Israel will be his seventh since he began his peace-seeking mission in the Middle East.

Mr. Rafael said at his press conference that it is not Israel but Egypt that blocked the Suez Canal and continues to block it. He noted that Egypt deliberately scuttled ships in the Canal to prevent its use. But more important than the physical blockade is the political blockade that bars Israeli shipping from use of the Canal, he said. This hinges on Egypt's claim of belligerency. Israel's aim is not to keep the Canal closed but to have it open to ships of all nations, Mr. Rafael said. Other Foreign Ministry sources indicated that Israel will not interfere if Egypt resumes work to clear the southern end of the Canal.

U.S. Seeking Disengagement, Looks Increasingly to UN to Deal With Mideast

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The United States Government, preoccupied with problems in Korea and Viet Nam, is quietly seeking to disengage from involvement in the Arab-Israel issue and is looking to the United Nations to resolve matters such as today's flareup of violence on the Suez Canal, highly-placed sources said today. The comments were made following receipt of reports here of the dispute that broke out when the Egyptians attempted to move into the north end of the canal in violation of the Israel-Egypt cease-fire agreement worked out by the United Nations.

Sources here said that the United States fully supported Lt.-Gen. Odd Bull, head of the UN cease-fire team, and felt that both sides should heed United Nations decisions. They said that the United States does not want to be embroiled "at every twist and turn" in Arab-Israeli frictions and would look increasingly to the UN in that region because American interest must be directed to the developments in Korea and Viet Nam which more vitally involve American security interests.

Washington Says Shipment of Skyhawks to Israel is Proceeding on Schedule

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The shipment of Douglas A-4 Skyhawk jet fighter-bombers to Israel is continuing despite the mobilization of air reserves although the escalation of warfare in Eastern Asia could mean a halt in shipments to Israel and other nations, officials said today.

U.S. authorities said that the Skyhawks began moving to Israel the last week in December. Shipments continue as Skyhawks, built to Israel Air Force specifications and modifications, are completed. New orders for military aircraft have been placed by the U.S. military establishment following the intensification of war in Viet Nam and new tensions in Korea. This work need not impede construction of the Skyhawks for Israel, officials said.

Escalation or spreading of the violence in Eastern Asia might cause the freezing of jets designated for Israel and other purchasers, officials said.

Navy Chief Says Dakar Rescue Chances Are 'Very Dim' But Search Will Continue

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The commander of Israel's Navy acknowledged here today that chances were "very dim" for finding the missing submarine Dakar and its 69 officers and men alive. But, Admiral Shlomo Harel told newsmen at his first press conference since the undersea craft was reported missing last Thursday, the Navy will continue its search for the Dakar until the most remote possibilities of finding her are exhausted.

(The London newspaper, Sun, reported today that an oil slick and floating objects, possibly life-jackets, from the Dakar, were sighted yesterday about 60 miles off the island of Crete in the eastern Mediterranean. There was no confirmation of the report from other sources.)

Admiral Harel disclosed that SOS signals, possibly coming from the submarine, were picked up on Cyprus over the week-end. The first signal was heard by Famagusta radio on Friday. Clearer signals were picked up Saturday by Nicosia radio which deciphered the message as "SOS-Submiss," the international code for a submarine in distress. But attempts to call the Dakar on her international wireless code designation — 4XDZ — were futile.

Admiral Harel said the air-sea search is now centered on the waters between Famagusta and the Lebanese coast, the area indicated by the direction of the radio signals received on Cyprus. But Israeli naval commanders doubt that the Dakar would be in that region as it would be far off her course.

The reports of radio signals, picked up by merchant and naval craft as well as by the Cypriot shore stations, sparked a wave of optimism in Israel yesterday. The signals were said to be of the same frequency as those that would emanate from the Dakar's radio indicator buoy, a float that the submarine would send to the surface to mark her position if she were in distress.

Dakar's Sister Ship, Dolphin, Due at Home Port Today on Maiden Voyage

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Israel's newest submarine, the Dolphin, is due at her home base tomorrow after taking part in the search for her sister vessel, the submarine Dakar, which was reported missing last Thursday with 69 aboard. Like the Dakar, the Dolphin is a former British submarine and was on her maiden voyage under the Israeli flag. The 1,280 ton vessel was commissioned in the Israel Navy at a British naval base several weeks ago.

A third sister of the Dakar, the Israeli submarine, Leviathan, also took part in the search which, up to now, has been fruitless.

Indian Daily Warns Arabs Intransigence Can Cost Support of Unaligned Nations

NEW DELHI, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The influential Hindustan Times warned today that continued Arab resistance to the acceptance of Israel as a political fact of life could lead the Arabs to forfeit the sympathy of the non-aligned nations of the world. The warning was issued in connection with the recently concluded talks on the Middle East here between Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. According to the Times, one result of those talks is that Yugoslavia and India "have come to view the West Asian (Middle East) situation in similar terms."

House Mission Says Russia Suffered Setback But USA Did Not Gain in Six-Day War

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA)--A special study mission of the House Foreign Affairs committee that visited Moscow late in 1967 reported today that Russia "suffered at least a temporary setback" as a result of the Six-Day War but the developments "cannot be considered an unqualified gain for our country." The mission noted that "the United States lost considerable standing among the Arab states, even those with relatively moderate leadership." The mission, representing the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe, was headed by Rep. John C. Culver, Iowa Dem., and included Rep. Robert Taft, Jr., Ohio Rep., and Rep. John Buchanan, Ala. Rep.

Views were exchanged by the Congressmen with Soviet officials on the Middle East situation. It appeared to the mission that the outcome of the June war "did not add up to a net gain for the Russians. Soviet plans to extend their influence in the Middle East through the provision of military support for the Arab states suffered at least a temporary setback." Notice was taken by the mission that the arms supply and subsequent resupply of the Arabs was "very expensive." The Congressmen reported that "such an unprofitable enterprise is bound to have serious economic as well as possible political repercussions" in a nation like Russia that is striving to meet domestic needs.

The mission visited Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin in Moscow. It was observed that the synagogue visited was "almost the only synagogue still operating in that city of 6.5 million people, including an estimated 500,000 Jews." The services attended were "an unforgettable experience."

The three Congressmen said "We could not help but admire those who braved official displeasure in order to follow the dictates of their conscience. Even the obvious material poverty of their place of worship could not detract from the inspiration provided by their example."

Clergymen of All Faiths To Join In Protest and Prayer for Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--A week-end of protest and prayer on behalf of Jews who are denied religious and cultural freedom in the Soviet Union, will be observed by clergymen and worshippers of all faiths in the Borough of Queens, New York, on Feb. 2-4, it was announced today by Rabbi Alvin M. Poplack, vice-president of the Queens Council for Soviet Jewry. The observance will be in response to a proclamation issued by Borough President Mario J. Carliello.

The proclamation noted that "there have not been made available to Jews in Soviet Russia the houses of worship, seminaries, schools, textbooks and materials necessary to teach Jewish children the languages, history, beliefs, practices and aspirations of the Jewish people and Jews of the USSR have not been accorded the right to freely develop their communal life."

Prinz Charges Germans Refuse to Alter Anti-Semitic Oberammergau Production

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Religious and political leaders in West Germany have failed to fulfill pledges that the text of the world-famed Oberammergau Passion Play would be altered to eliminate anti-Semitic references, Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the commission on international affairs of the American Jewish Congress, charged today. He expressed "shock and bitter failure" at their refusal to act and deplored the position taken by the Oberammergau villagers in rejecting charges that their production was "intensely anti-Semitic."

Rabbi Prinz, however, praised the "responsible and responsive attitude" of the Diocese of Newark, N.J., headed by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland, in giving assurances that the passion play sponsored by the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Union City, N.J., would be revised in the spirit of the Vatican Council schema on the Jews.

Dr. Prinz, in a press conference today, linked the stand taken by the Oberammergau villagers with "the alarming growth of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party and the fostering of Hitlerite ideology in Bavaria." He noted that six outstanding West German literary figures had endorsed the Congress protest against the Oberammergau production and reported that Leonard Bernstein, the conductor and George Steiner, the British critic had joined the list of writers and artists endorsing the American Jewish Congress call for a boycott of the Oberammergau production in 1970. The modified version of the passion play will be presented in Union City from March 16 through April 17.

Victims of 1941 Jassy Pogrom Are Reinterred in Jewish Cemetery

BUCHAREST, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The unidentified remains of some of the Jewish victims of the pogrom in Jassy in 1941 were exhumed yesterday, placed in 50 coffins and solemnly reinterred in the Jewish cemetery. The pogrom, one of the worst in modern history, was carried out by the Iron Guard, the Rumanian Nazi organization, and was marked by scenes of incredible brutality and bestiality. Several thousand Jews fell victims in the pogrom.

Dutch Unions To Build \$1.6 Million Rest Center For Members in Israel

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Dutch trade unions will build a \$1.6 million holiday bungalow camp for their members on a site near Tel Aviv on which the unions have taken an option, it was announced here today by Senator A. H. Kloos, president of the Socialist Trade Union of the Netherlands. The colony will have a capacity of 400 beds. Senator Kloos was one of a group of Dutch trade union leaders who visited Israel recently. They also visited Arab refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and said they were very depressed by what they had seen. Dr. Jef Tans, president of the Dutch Labor Party has left for Israel at the invitation of Mapai.

New York United Jewish Appeal Appoints Its 1968 Campaign Leaders

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York today announced the names of the general chairmen of its 1968 campaign. They are Lester Avnet, an industrialist and philanthropist; Mrs. Burt J. Siris, a leader in Jewish communal activity, and Benjamin Duhl and Morris L. Levinson, the latter two continuing their service of previous years.

The campaign, which gets underway Thursday, will be manned by 20,000 volunteers working in New York City, Westchester and Long Island on behalf of six major welfare agencies which benefit from the general campaign and for the Israel Emergency Fund.

Jewish Occupational Council to Extend Activities to Israel, Europe, Africa

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--The Jewish Occupational Council, a national coordinating body of Jewish organizations providing vocational services, announced today the establishment of an international division that will extend the Council's services to Israel and, subsequently to Jewish organizations operating vocational services in Europe and Africa. The Council now operates primarily in the United States and Canada.

Expansion of the service was recommended by a steering committee of American and Israeli vocational service professionals who met in Jerusalem last August at the international conference of Jewish communal services. Samuel S. Greenberg, of Detroit, outgoing chairman of the Jewish Occupational Council, has accepted the chairmanship of the international division.

B'nai B'rith Heritage Award To Be Presented to Novelist Saul Bellow

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Novelist Saul Bellow will receive the 1968 B'nai B'rith Jewish Heritage Award for "excellence in Jewish literature," it was announced today. The award will be made in Philadelphia March 3 at the annual meeting of BB's commission on adult Jewish education.

The \$1,000 literary prize, established in 1966, is awarded each year to honor a writer who "makes a positive contribution to contemporary literature by his authentic interpretation of Jewish life and values."

A. David Weisgal Named to Weizmann Institute Post in New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Appointment of A. David Weisgal as executive director of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science was announced by Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the board of governors of the Institute. Mr. Weisgal, who has assumed his new duties, had previously served for six years as assistant to the Committee's executive vice president who retired from his post at the beginning of the year.

Prior to coming to the Weizmann Institute, Mr. Weisgal had a varied career in merchandising, television, and film making. Now 35, Weisgal is married and has two children. He is the son of Meyer W. Weisgal, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

'Tanya' - Chabad-Lubavitch Philosophy Source, Published in Italian

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA)--"Tanya" - the book considered to be the basic work of Chabad-Lubavitch philosophy, has been published in an Italian-language edition by Kehot Publication Society, the Lubavitcher publishing house announced Monday. The Italian edition was published by the Lubavitcher office in Milan.

The "Tanya" was written by Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, and was printed for the first time in its original Hebrew text in 5557 (1796), in Slavita, Russia. It has since undergone fifty-eight printings, in numerous countries, and has become the most popular Chassidic philosophical work.

2,000 Visit Sdeh Boker to Pay Last Respects to Paula Ben-Gurion

SDEH BOKER, Jan. 30 (JTA)--Mrs. Paul Ben-Gurion, wife of Israel's first Prime Minister, was laid to rest today in a gravesite near the Negev Midrasha, secondary and high school which David Ben-Gurion had selected as the family tomb. Mrs. Ben-Gurion died yesterday in Beersheba Hospital at the age of 76.

More than 2,000 people journeyed to this tiny Negev town where the Ben-Gurions made their home to pay tribute to Mrs. Ben-Gurion whose coffin lay in state in the school library. Among them were President Zalman Shazar, members of the Cabinet and of the Knesset (Parliament). The funeral procession started at the school library. Afterwards, many of the prominent Israelis who attended visited with Mr. Ben-Gurion at his home.

David and Paul Ben-Gurion were married in New York City Hall in 1917. They have three children, a son Amos and two daughters, Geula and Renana.

Jewish Composer in West Berlin Commissioned to Write Opera on Sholem Aleichem Tales

WEST BERLIN, Jan. 30 (JTA)--A Jewish musician and composer, Prof. Boris Blacher, has been commissioned to write an opera based on characters and situations from the tales of Sholem Aleichem. Under the contract, the opera will be ready for production in the summer of 1969. The works of Sholem Aleichem inspired the hit musical "Fiddler on the Roof" which has been playing for several years in the United States and abroad.