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Jordanians Shell Israeli Villages Along Cease-Fire Line in All-Day Clash

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Israeli jet fighter bombers went into action today against Jordanian positions which have been shelling civilian population centers all along the demarcation line, from the Beisan Valley in the north to the Dead Sea. All planes returned safely to their bases, but the fighting continued tonight, along the Jordan River.

Between 1:00 o'clock this morning and 5:35 local time this afternoon, eight settlements came under intensive Jordanian mortar and heavy artillery fire. Jordanians are also reported to have fired on the West Bank Arab town of Jericho on the north shore of the Dead Sea.

A military spokesman said the only casualties were an Israeli soldier and a civilian, who were slightly wounded in the shelling of Kibbutz Geshar late this afternoon. However, extensive damage and destruction of cattle was reported from the Beisan Valley settlements of Kfar Ruppin and Maoz Chaim, the first targets of the shelling which began several hours before dawn.

Kfar Ruppin was struck by mortar and small arms fire at 1:00 a.m., waking the settlers who rushed the children into underground shelters. At 2:35 a.m., Jordanian artillery commenced firing on Kfar Ruppin and nearby Maoz Chaim. Israeli forces returned the fire with mortars in an exchange that lasted until 3:15 a.m. About 80 hits were scored on Kfar Ruppin where the children's school, the electric power house and residential buildings were severely damaged. Seventy shells struck Maoz Chaim, damaging the clinic, the cowshed, silo and dairy. Sixteen cows were destroyed in the bombardment.

At 2:40 this afternoon, Jordanians opened heavy fire across the border in the Beit Shan region. At 3:20 they began to shell Kibbutz Geshar and, a few minutes later, the village of Beir Yosef. At 3:55 p.m., Kfar Ruppin was shelled again and fire was also directed against Ashdot Yaacov. At 4:25 p.m., the Jordanians opened fire on the village of Neveh Ur and at 5:00 o'clock began shelling the area of Kibbutz Hammadia. At 5:25 they renewed the attack on Geshar and ten minutes later re-opened fire on Ashdot Yaacov.

(Press services reported from Amman today that Jordan is planning to train all workers -- "peoples resistance army of national liberation" -- for a show-down with Israel. The wire service reports said the mood in Amman is similar to that in the days before last June's Six-Day War.)

Israelis Accuse Jordanians of Deliberately Attacking Civilian Population Centers

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Military sources charged here tonight that the Jordanian Army was deliberately aiming at densely populated civilian centers in Israel in a campaign of artillery and mortar attacks that have been escalating since last June's war. These sources noted that there were 91 acts of aggression by Jordan against Israel since June, perpetrated either by the Jordanian armed forces or by trained saboteurs, sheltered, supplied and aided by the army.

Most of these attacks have been in the Beisan Valley, south of the Sea of Galilee, which is almost the only area where Jordanian military positions face a large Israeli civilian population, the sources noted. The charges were confirmed by today's events which saw large scale shellings of at least eight Israeli settlements along the Israel-Jordan demarcation line, the Jordan River.

Israel Tells Security Council It Is Using Planes in Self-Defense to Silence Guns

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 15 (JTA)--Israel informed the Security Council today that "it became necessary, in self defense, to employ aircraft" against Jordanian artillery and mortar positions that have been shelling Israeli settlements in the Beisan Valley and elsewhere along the demarcation line since early this morning.

The Israeli advice was contained in the second of two letters dispatched to the Security Council today by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations. They were addressed to Miguel Solano Lopez, President of the Security Council in February.

The first letter called the Security Council's attention to the Jordanian attacks early today against Kfar Ruppin and Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley and detailed the damage suffered by each settlement. The second letter gave the chronology of continuing Jordanian attacks on those two settlements and on six others.

"The Jordanian armed attacks and raids have assumed the character of a premeditated campaign of aggression directed against Israeli villages and the civilian population," Ambassador Tekoah wrote. "Today's series of assaults initiated by the Jordanians constitutes a climax in this campaign." Ambassador Tekoah requested that his letters be circulated as official documents of the Security Council.

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel Defense Minister, has postponed indefinitely his visit to the United States, owing to the gravity of the situation along the Jordanian cease-fire lines.

Congressmen Hit Administration Decision To Supply Arms to Jordanians

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The Administration's decision to ship new weapons to Jordan at a time when Jordanian guns are shelling Israeli settlements came under strong criticism today in Congress. In a House speech, Rep. William F. Ryan, New York Dem., asked: "for what earthly purpose would Jordan use tanks and jets except against Israel?" He said the State Department appeared to have "learned nothing whatever" from the Six-Day War last June and he attacked the Executive Department especially for "quietly" training Jordan airmen here since June. Rep. Ryan called for the immediate termination of training of Jordanian pilots in Texas.

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Rep., charged that "it can only encourage Arab belligerence and intransigence to send more tanks, guns, and ammunition to Jordan at the very moment they are firing brutal barrages into Israel. It is a mockery to announce that stupid new decision is deemed essential to the stability of the area."

Rep. Halpern said he had taken steps to determine "whether the arms will be an outright gift." He said "it is crystal clear that Jordan was an aggressor in the June conflict." He asked: "where was the much-advised State Department influence then and where is the moderation and restraint of King Hussein today?"

Administration Promised Jordanians Speedy Delivery of Planes and Guns

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA)--An Administration promise was given to Gen. Amer Khamash, the Jordanian Chief of Staff, to expedite shipment of American tanks, artillery, planes and other military equipment, it was learned today, and it appeared likely that shipment of F-104 Starfighter jet fighters, ordered by Jordan before the June war, would begin soon. Gen. Khamash has just concluded a secret three-week visit here.

Jordan is also requesting 155 mm. heavy artillery -- a long-range weapon that threw shells as far as Tel Aviv during the June war. It also wants 105 mm. cannon and tanks to replace the 106 Patton M-48s Jordan claims Israel destroyed or captured in the war. Delivery of the tanks and artillery to Jordan may be made from surplus stocks at American installations in West Germany. This could permit delivery without delay.

Other equipment scheduled for shipment to Jordan reportedly includes armored personnel carriers, recoilless guns, mortars, ammunition of various types and military communications equipment.

Although the State Department denied Congressional charges that Arab pilots have been getting training here secretly since June, officials admitted today that 25 of Jordan's best pilots have been trained to fly the F-104s at Lackland and Webb Air Force bases in Texas. The State Department said that the 25 Jordanians being trained here included mechanics and technicians.

The State Department denied reports today that the 48 A-4 Skyhawk fighter-bombers which Israel had ordered in 1966, delivery of which began last October, had all been turned over to Israel. An official said only a "few" had been delivered and the total number would not be in Israel before early in 1969.

Israel has been seeking to obtain the P-4 Phantom fighters and, according to the Washington Evening Star, officials admit that the decision to supply Jordan with the supersonic Starfighters will increase pressure to supply Israel with sophisticated aircraft. The issue was to have been discussed when Defense Minister Dayan met Secretary of Defense McNamara here.

The Washington Post quoted Administration estimates today that the Soviet Union has rearmed Syria, Iraq and Algeria to their pre-June war level and Egypt has been re-equipped to 80 percent of its pre-June level. Soviet diplomats here were quoted today as declaring that the Soviet Union would not be disposed to join with the United States in limiting arms shipments to the Middle East until Israel withdrew from the territories it had occupied during the war.

Jordan River Is Israel's 'Natural Frontier' On the East, Eshkol Declares

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol repeated last night that he thought the Jordan River is the natural frontier of Israel in the East. He made the remark at a question-and-answer session with delegates to the Hadassah mid-winter conference here. He urged the ladies, representing over 300,000 members of the Women's Zionist Organization of America, to do all in their power to promote aliyah -- immigration to Israel.

Mr. Eshkol has called the Jordan River a natural frontier on previous occasions, though he never stated specifically whether this meant a political frontier as well. He said last night that the river should be an "open border" between the West and East banks.

Eshkol Tells Pincus Jewish Agency's Continued Existence is Vital to Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Prime Minister Eshkol has assured the chairman of the Jewish Agency that he considers the Agency's continued existence to be vital to Israel and the Jewish people, it was learned here today.

Mr. Eshkol gave this assurance to Aryeh L. Pincus as proposals were heard within and outside the Government to transfer many of the Agency's functions to the Government. Mr. Eshkol said he was unequivocally opposed to any talk of liquidating the Jewish Agency. But elements within the Cabinet have already demanded that the Agency's agricultural settlement department be transferred to the Government. Another major function of the Agency is immigration and immigrant absorption.

The question of the future roles of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization will be debated at the World Zionist Congress which convenes here next June. One plan advanced for strengthening the Jewish Agency is the appointment of a deputy cabinet minister to serve as liaison between the Government and the Agency.

Eichmann Aide, Twice Freed in Trials, Ordered Re-Tried in Vienna

VIENNA, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The Austrian Supreme Court has ordered the retrial of an aide to Adolf Richmann who was tried twice before as a war criminal and twice set free. The defendant is Franz Novak, 54, Eichmann's chief transportation officer, who was known as "the stationmaster of death" for his part in transporting thousands of Jews to Auschwitz in 1944.

Novak was tried in 1964 and sentenced to eight years in prison, but the verdict was annulled by the Supreme Court for technical reasons. He was re-tried in 1966 but acquitted, even though found guilty, when the jury accepted his plea that he had acted "under duress" when he sent Jews to the death camp. In annulling the acquittal, the Supreme Court accepted the prosecutor's appeal on grounds that the 1966 jurors were insufficiently instructed on the nature of "acting under duress." The court said it was well established that Novak had been a voluntary and enthusiastic helper of Eichmann.

Arnow Reports Overseas Communities Assume Larger Share of Responsibility for JTA

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Increased participation by overseas Jewish communities in the financing and maintenance of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was reported by Robert H. Arnow, JTA President, in a report to the JTA Executive Committee made public today. He said that the results achieved were in line with a Board directive to widen the base of support for the worldwide news agency and to ensure that communities deriving special benefit from the agency's operations should bear their fair share of the costs involved.

In pursuance of this objective, Mr. Arnow said, Jack Siegel, JTA's Director of Development, was sent on a special mission to England, France and South Africa to explain the situation to the Jewish leadership in each country and to secure their participation. In England, Mr. Arnow said, agreement was reached for a substantial increase in allocations to JTA and plans concerted to make the JTA British operation self-supporting.

In Israel, he said, agreement was reached on increased service fees which will reduce the deficit previously incurred in the JTA services to Israel. In South Africa, the community confirmed a previous agreement in principle to defray the costs of delivering the news to Johannesburg and a share of the basic news-gathering cost. Community leaders and officials directly assisted JTA in successful negotiations with the South African Treasury for the transfer licenses. The South African service, as from Jan. 1, 1967, must now be considered self-supporting, Mr. Arnow said.

In France, he disclosed, possibility of extensive use of JTA services to meet the informational needs of a community which has doubled in size since 1945 and is now the largest in Western Europe, was extensively canvassed and mutual studies begun. JTA maintained an office in Paris and published a French-language bulletin for more than 20 years prior to the Nazi occupation of the city in 1941, Mr. Arnow noted.

The campaign to enlist the participation of foreign communities will be continued in South America which JTA serves with a daily radioprinter circuit from New York. Mr. Arnow said that Mr. Siegel would leave in March for Argentina and Brazil, the two major centers of Jewish population on the continent. JTA publishes daily news bulletins in both countries as well as in Peru.

Libyan Jewry's 2,500-Year History Is Virtually Ended, JDC Chief Reports

GENEVA, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The 2,500 year-old history of the Jewish community in Libya has just about come to an end, Louis D. Horwitz, director general of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee reported here today. Mr. Horwitz noted that of 35,000 Jews in Libya in 1948, barely 200 remain there today and most of those are likely to leave soon.

He said that the biggest exodus occurred following Israel's war for independence in 1948 when 30,000 Libyan Jews emigrated to other countries, with JDC assistance, to escape Arab hostility. The mass departure was repeated on a smaller scale since last June's Arab-Israeli war. Of 3,100 Jews in Libya then, 2,900 took refuge in Italy. Only 600 were self-supporting, Mr. Horwitz said. The rest required assistance which was provided by the JDC jointly with the Italian Jewish community and the United Hias Service. At present, the JDC official reported, only 450 Jews remain on the relief roles. About 900 have left Italy for other countries and the remainder have found the means of livelihood, he said.

Chair of Judeo-Arabic Studies Set Up at Paris School of Oriental Languages

PARIS, Feb. 15 (JTA)--A chair of Judeo-Arabic studies has been established at the School of Oriental Languages here. The creation of the chair was decided because of the large number of North African Jews, some 100,000, who now live in France.

The language of Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian Jews will be included in the new syllabus of studies. A chair of Yiddish now exists at the school and a chair of Ladino, the language of many Sephardic Jews, is being contemplated.

Gen. Dayan To Confer With Defense Secretary McNamara in Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Authorities here confirmed today that Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israeli Defense Minister, will meet with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara on Feb. 26. Gen. Dayan will arrive at Kennedy International Airport at 4:45 p.m. tomorrow on his first visit to the United States since he joined the coalition government last June on the eve of the Six-Day War. Gen. Dayan is scheduled to meet with U.S. Government leaders and will make public appearances in several cities on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. He will appear on "Meet The Press," the NBC-TV show next Sunday.

Abram Warns of Ambiguities in Concept of Black Power, Denounces Racist Goal

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, declared here last night that Black Power is a healthy concept for Negroes and whites alike but many of its advocates and detractors are often not clear what it means or what it is intended to achieve.

Mr. Abram, who is U.S. representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, addressed the Brotherhood of Central Synagogue on "the modern meaning of brotherhood." He said that "Black Power, as a first step toward integration, may be more modern and more relevant than brotherhood in terms of Negro-white relations today. It will enable Negroes to act out their group interests in a pattern similar to that of other ethnic and racial groups in America."

Mr. Abram, however, decried the ambiguity that often surrounds the term. "Sometimes it means nothing more than black people coming together as a political, economic and social force, forcing their representatives or electing their representatives to speak to their needs. If this is what Black Power means — the right, indeed the desirability of Negroes to organize to develop self-regard and exercise maximum political and economic pressure, surely it is welcome."

But, Mr. Abram warned, "there is also a destructive aspect to Black Power, often deliberately concealed in ambiguity, which only occasionally discloses dreadful glimpses of racism, black separatism, violence and a mystique of violence. This ambiguity makes Black Power appear dangerous. Black Power as a racist concept is alien to our best tradition and is rejected by the overwhelming majority of Negroes."

Treasury Advises 14,000 Banks on Their Obligation to Offer Equal Job Opportunities

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The United States Treasury Department has sent to the 14,000 banks across the country which are repositories of Federal funds copies of the proceedings of the recent workshop on equal opportunities in the banking field conducted by the American Bankers Association. The report, printed jointly by the bankers' group and by the American Jewish Committee, contains a denunciation of discrimination against Jews in the banking field by Morris B. Abram, AJC president, and an outline of the Committee's program to combat it.

The report also includes the speech to the workshop by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Robert A. Wallace, explaining the Executive order which requires companies doing business with the Government — including banks — to provide equal opportunities in their employment practices.

Whitman Papers Presented to Hebrew University Library in Honor of Jacques Lipchitz

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--A collection of Walt Whitman papers, mostly proof sheets of his poems corrected by the poet, was presented to the Jewish National and University Library of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem yesterday by Charles E. Feinberg, a Detroit businessman and noted collector of first editions and manuscripts of great American authors. The presentation was Mr. Feinberg's personal tribute to the Jewish sculptor, Jacques Lipchitz, who was honored at a luncheon given by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

The gift was Mr. Feinberg's second to the Hebrew University library. Previously, he presented the library with first editions of works of Whitman, Thoreau, Emerson, Melville and Hawthorne and photostats of Whitman manuscripts to aid the Hebrew University's course in American literature. A Hebrew translation of Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" resulted from Mr. Feinberg's earlier gift. Accepting the Whitman material on behalf of the university yesterday was Prof. Hyman Kublin, associate dean of the school of graduate studies, City University of New York, who is chairman of the American Friends Academic Committee.

President Shazar Leads Mourners at Funeral of Chaim Shurer

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--President Shazar led a group of cabinet ministers, labor leaders and journalists here at funeral services for Chaim Shurer, retired editor of the daily newspaper Davar, who died Tuesday at the age of 73. Mr. Shurer was interred in the Kiryat Shaul cemetery near Tel Aviv.