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Eshkol Says Israel Is Ready To Forget Past, Make 'True, Honorable Peace'

BIRGAFFGAFFA, Sinai, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol paid a surprise visit to Israeli armoured troops in the Sinai today, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev. Speaking at the former Egyptian officers' club at which President Nasser, only last May, challenged the then Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. Rabin to "come," Mr. Eshkol declared, "we are ready to forget the past and ready to meet for a true and honorable peace."

The Prime Minister and Gen. Bar-Lev arrived at this outpost by helicopter in a driving sand-storm but reviewed a guard of honor nevertheless. Mr. Eshkol remarked to the troops, "my impression is that we are feeling rather strong here." He chose the occasion to deny emphatically rumors that Israel had reversed her stand on direct peace talks with the Arabs. "We shall not go back to Lausanne and we shall not agree to prolonged mediation by telephone or through mediation committees. We stand firm on direct talks," he said. Mr. Eshkol's reference to Lausanne was to an abortive U.N. sponsored armistice conference that took place there in 1949. Israel was confronted then with a "committee" representing all of the Arab states which sat in a separate room and refused to have any contact with the Israelis. The conference failed but Israel reached armistice agreements later that year at direct talks with the Arabs.

Mr. Eshkol's statement, though made to the Israeli troops, was obviously addressed to the Arabs, the United Nations and all others concerned. "We do not want to think in terms of the victors and the defeated," he said. "But there is no escaping the fact that after every war both sides have to meet to arrange a peace settlement. We hope this will happen. The only question is when?"

Israel Will Talk With Arabs Only on Face-to-Face Basis, Rafael Declares

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Gideon Rafael, director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, declared here today that Israel will attend peace talks with the Arabs "only if it is assured that we will meet accredited representatives of the other side." Israel has no intention, he said, "to conduct negotiations from separate rooms or at separate tables. All that had to be clarified has been clarified and the time has come to sit down to practical negotiations."

Mr. Rafael made his remarks at an informal meeting with several local newsmen. He branded as incorrect, a statement attributed to a U.N. spokesman yesterday that Dr. Ralph Bunche, the U.N. mediator at the 1949 Rhodes armistice talks, had said both sides sat separately at that meeting 19 years ago.

(At the United Nations today, Dr. Bunche said that "I have never made any comment for publication about any aspect of those talks and do not intend to make any at this time, even to correct mistakes, because I do not think that it would be helpful to do so in the present circumstances.")

Quoting official U.N. documents, Ambassador Rafael said "the Israeli and Egyptian delegations arrived at Rhodes on Jan. 12, 1949 and the first meeting between the two delegations was held on Jan. 13, when Dr. Bunche was unanimously chosen as chairman." The armistice agreements between the two countries were finalized on Jan. 27 and signed on Feb. 3.

"This is the type of negotiations that Israel now seeks and she has agreed to Ambassador Jarring's participation in them," Mr. Rafael said. He added that such a meeting could come about because Dr. Jarring has established sufficient grounds to send out invitations should he so choose. However, Mr. Rafael said, Ambassador Jarring may have reasons for not doing so at once.

Ambassador Jarring Reports to Secretary-General in Hour-Long Meeting

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 29 (JTA)--Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the U.N.'s special envoy to the Middle East, had a one-hour meeting today with Secretary-General U Thant in which he delivered a personal report on his peace-making efforts in the Middle East.

No statement was issued following the meeting. It was not expected that any report would be made public on the nature and scope of Dr. Jarring's consultations here. Dr. Jarring is expected to return to Cyprus this weekend with the agreement of Mr. Thant to take direct action to bring the Arab states and Israel to the conference table.

Areas Occupied By Israel No Longer To Be Regarded As 'Enemy Territory'

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--All territories occupied and administered by Israel since last June's Six-Day War have ceased to be regarded as "enemy territory" and will be referred to by their official geographical names, according to a directive signed today by the Minister of Interior. The areas are Samaria and Judaea (West Bank), Golan (Syria), the Gaza region and Sinai. The directive was promulgated because hitherto anyone entering "enemy territory" was liable to prosecution under the anti-infiltration law.

Another directive signed by the Minister of Interior today designated the Allenby Bridge crossing on the Jordan River as an official Israeli point of entry and exit with the same status as Lydda Airport and Haifa harbor.

A court in Bethlehem today reversed its earlier stand and ruled that it is legal for Israelis lawyers to appear before it on behalf of their clients. The ruling was based on international precedents concerning the prerogatives of an occupying power. The court announced, however, it will continue to reject briefs presented in Hebrew or English on the grounds that Arabic is the official language of the West Bank territory. So far, the Israel Government has upheld the court on this point.

British Editor Says He Found Dangerous Arrogance Among Israelis Toward Arabs

LONDON, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The foreign editor of the Financial Times, just returned from a visit to the Middle East, declared today that he found in Israel "many alarming signs of a popular contempt for the Arab world, an arrogance which could become dangerous and foolish as well as distasteful."

According to J.D.F. Jones, "there is no adequate sign that the Arabs will be ready to enter into the sort of negotiations which the Israelis require" or that "the Israeli Government is worried by what appears to be a growing diplomatic isolation." Mr. Jones believed that unless the U.N. envoy, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, made some unmistakable diplomatic progress very soon, "Israeli businessmen, diplomats and politicians are going to have to look into the long-term implications of the occupation" of Arab territories.

With regard to one of those territories, Mr. Jones said that Israeli experts estimate the Sinai peninsula to contain sufficient oil to provide 40 million tons a year. In addition, Israeli and international teams which have been "furiously surveying" the Sinai since last June's war, have found a profusion of minerals including manganese, lead and coal. All that remains, Mr. Jones wrote, is to determine whether these deposits can be profitably exploited.

Kollek Complains Bureaucracy Is Delaying East Jerusalem Aid Plans

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem complained to a Knesset (Parliament) committee last night that bureaucratic delays were hampering his municipality's program to assist jobless and dispossessed residents of East Jerusalem. Mayor Kollek told the Knesset's interior affairs committee that jobs promised "dozens of times" by Labor Minister Yigal Allon to unemployed Arab intellectuals have not materialized. He said further that compensation promised six months ago had not yet been paid to East Jerusalemites who were evicted from the Western Wall area where many buildings were demolished after the June war to make room for a plaza. Mr. Kollek's complaints will be the subject of an agenda motion at a forthcoming session of the Knesset.

Area Near Nablus Curfewed Following Ambush of Military Vehicles

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--An area of the West Bank north of Nablus was placed under curfew last night following an attack on three army vehicles by marauders using automatic rifles and mortars, a military spokesman said today. No casualties were reported. The occupants of the vehicles halted directly after the attack and began a search which was later joined by security forces. It is believed that the marauders escaped into Jordan.

An Israeli armoured police car struck a road mine in the Beisan Valley yesterday and suffered damage but no casualties, a military spokesman reported. The incident occurred south of Tirat Zvi. A second road mine was found in the vicinity and dismantled.

Government Bows To Pioneer Group, Gives Settlement Status to Desert Outpost

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--A group of tenacious American volunteers and Israeli chalutzim who clung to their tiny outpost of Hatzeva in the wilds of the Negev despite official disapproval, have finally won settlement status for the place.

Hatzeva, also known as Ein Hussub, was officially recognized as a settlement by the Government and the Jewish Agency when it became clear that the settlers would not leave as they had been requested to do. Hatzeva is located in the eastern extremity of the Negev, in the wilderness country south of the Dead Sea. It is probably the most isolated inhabited spot in Israel.

General Zionist Union Urges New Policy to Attract Western Immigrants to Israel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The World Union of General Zionists closed its conference here with the adoption of a program for aliyah (immigration), absorption and the re-organization of the Zionist movement. The conference urged the Israel Government to "introduce without delay" a new policy on absorption that would attract immigrants, particularly from the West. It declared, however, that immigration and absorption could not be separated and that both functions must be left exclusively in the hands of the Jewish Agency Executive.

The General Zionists also supported the idea of creating "circles of olim," Zionists pledged to immigrate to Israel, but stipulated that such groups must be completely outside the framework of political parties and should embrace a wide variety of diaspora Jewry. The conference urged that the Zionist program be amended to place greater emphasis on the fields of Hebrew education, aliyah and information. It opposed the concentration of two departments in the hands of one person and proposed the abolition of the American section of the Jewish Agency Executive.

House Republican Leader Tells Israel To Hold Occupied Areas Pending Peace Talks

HEWLETT, L.I., N.Y., Feb. 29 (JTA)--Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Republican leader in the House, warned Israel here last night to "retain territories presently occupied and not budge until such time as appropriate mutual arrangements are made in face-to-face talks agreeable to both sides." The Republican leader, who will serve as chairman of his party's forthcoming national convention, spoke at a Jewish mens' club here.

He warned his audience that U.S. policies in the Middle East are "wavering" and that the Administration may be "eager to resume relations with Egypt." He denounced the U.S. sale of jet planes to Jordan and possible renewed aid to Egypt, declaring that, instead, U.S. Phantom jet planes should be delivered to Israel immediately. "They should be on their way now, not after the elections," he said, because the jets are "vital to Israel's deterrent capacity and it takes time to train pilots, technicians and mechanics for such sophisticated equipment."

Congressman Ford referred to Arab terrorists active against Israel as the self-styled "Viet Cong of the Middle East" and warned of the massive Soviet naval build-up in the Mediterranean which, he said, could provide cover for Arab commando raids across the cease-fire line. Instead of wooing Nasser by resuming aid to Egypt, "we would do much better to spend such sums for the strengthening of the Sixth Fleet," he said.

Mr. Ford said that Republicans in Congress would initiate action to relieve the plight of Russian Jewry. He suggested that Federal contract compliance laws which forbid the placement of government contracts with firms practicing bias should be applied in kind to trade with the Soviet Union so that "cultural genocide" and anti-Jewish pressures "might be ameliorated" there.

Eshkol Tells Bond Parley 1968 Will Be Israeli's 'Year of Destiny'

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol called on the Israel Bond Organization today to "provide a greater response to Israel's needs" this year than it ever has in the past. Mr. Eshkol's appeal was contained in a cabled message of greetings to the International Inaugural Conference for Israel Bonds which opened here today. The event, attended by some 3,000 Jewish leaders from all over the United States and Canada, will be addressed Saturday night by Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Maj. General Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States and former Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces.

Mr. Eshkol declared in his message that 1968 may prove the year of greatest challenge to Israel's existence since the nation won its independence 20 years ago. "In this year of destiny, we shall be relying even more than in the past on the response to the Israel Bond campaign of our brothers and good friends abroad to safeguard what we have already attained and provide the means to surge ahead with hope and confidence," he said.

Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board of governors of the Bond organization, warned that with Israel's own resources concentrated on defense, its economic development was in danger of being stalled unless large scale resources were made available through bond sales. "In previous years, Israel depended on the bond program to supply one-third of its development budget," Mr. Boyar said. "This year we are expected to provide the major share of its current budget of \$289 million."

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, said that bond sales have helped transform Israel from a relatively undeveloped country to a "rapidly advancing industrial economy."

Former Jewish Athletes Plan Memorial To Teammates Slain By Nazis

LONDON, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Former members of international Jewish sports clubs will meet in Israel between April 22 and May 2 for a reunion and a memorial tribute to team-mates who perished at the hands of the Nazis in Europe during the Hitler era.

Plans for the meeting were outlined to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today by Norbert Katz, one of its organizers. Mr. Katz, a former soccer player, had been a member of the Hakoah and the Austrian National teams. He is now a member of the Brit Hakoah, 1909, the brotherhood of former Hakoah players founded in that year, which will sponsor the events in Israel.

They will include the unveiling of a bronze statue at Kfar Hamaccabia, in memory of fallen Jewish sportsmen. The statue is the work of the sculptor, Karl Duldig, of Australia, who is himself a former Hakoah team member. The international meeting will also establish a "sefer izkor," a memorial book containing the names of the deceased which will be permanently placed in the Yad Vashem.

Mr. Katz said that Jewish sports organizations from all over the world will attend the reunion in Israel. Among them are the Hakoah team of Vienna, Maccabi teams from various countries, Hagibor Hasmonea, Bar Kochba and Kadima.

Anti-Israel Propaganda Distributed Among Mexican Students

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Anti-Israeli and pro-Arab leaflets were distributed today in substantial quantities among students at the University of Mexico and the Polytechnicum. The propaganda material, which contained no indication as to its source, assailed Israel as an aggressor, imperialist state and called on Mexicans to assist the Arabs in resisting "the Israeli aggressors."

Jewish War Veterans To Press For Continued American Aid to Israel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--A message of greetings from President Johnson to the national executive committee of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, which held its first meeting on foreign soil, here this week, was interpreted by the veterans today as a sign that Israel may be exempted from restrictions on American travel abroad now being debated in Congress. They reasoned that the warmth of the President's message, addressed to a large group of Americans visiting a foreign country, indicated that such a course may be contemplated by the Administration.

The JWV executives wound up their session after hearing an address by Israel's Minister of Tourism, Moshe Kol. Before returning to the U.S. tomorrow, they resolved to intensify their efforts to explain to the American Government and people that Israel is America's only ally in the Middle East and so deserves continued American aid and consideration. "Israel is facing the same tanks, the same planes and the same enemy that Americans are facing in Vietnam," the JWV resolution said.

Fewer Jewish Volunteers For Negro Ghetto Work Because of Crime Fears

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29 (JTA)--A severe drop in the number of Jewish volunteers for community projects in Negro ghetto areas has occurred because of fear of violence, according to a report made today at a study conference of the National Council of Jewish Women. Summarizing the "consensus of thinking and feeling" at workshops held by 300 women from all parts of the country, Mrs. Herman Edlavitch, a member of the Washington subcommittee of the NCJW program, said "the predominant attitude alienating our white middle-class liberals and in turn our programs is fear -- fear of going into distressed areas."

More than a dozen local council units from various cities reported that they can no longer find Jewish volunteers to work in Negro areas. One city had to abandon a day-care program because of this. Another had 18 resignations because it was serving Negro areas where crime rates had risen. Another section reported that Women in Community Service (WICS), an interracial group, was "practically going down the drain" because of lack of volunteers.

Mrs. Edlavitch said that "while all agree we are walking on thin ice and have no blueprint to follow, we must refuse to be intimidated and find a way to work with and not for the Negro." She said NCJW women are seeking help in changing their own attitudes, overcoming prejudices, and in re-evaluating their own work as volunteers in Negro neighborhoods. A tea tendered by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House concluded the conference.

Three Faiths Condemn Anti-Semitic Article By Negro As 'Black Nazism'

NEW YORK, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress, the Catholic Interracial Council and the Protestant Council of the City of New York joined today in a statement condemning as "black Nazism" an article published in the African-American Teachers Association "Forum" charging "anti-black Jews" and "black Anglo-Saxons" with "educational perfidy."

The tri-faith statement described the article by John Hatchett, a former substitute teacher at P.S. 68 in Harlem, as "a naked appeal to racial and religious hatred." In the article, Mr. Hatchett said Negro children were "educationally castrated" and "mentally poisoned" by "Jews who dominate and control the educational bureaucracy of the New York public school system and their power-starved imitators, the black Anglo-Saxon."

Spokesmen for the three religious groups voiced confidence that Mr. Hatchett's views would be rejected by "the overwhelming majority of the black community of our city." They also joined in a pledge "that this obscene article will not swerve us from the path we have chosen in consonance with the spiritual imperatives of our religious heritage: the pursuit of full equality in a free society for all Americans."

Four American Jewish Weeklies Cooperate to Publish Literary Supplement

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The first cooperative publishing venture of the newly formed Quality Jewish Publications Group -- a 12-page literary supplement -- came off the presses here today. The supplement, which is devoted to discussion of books of specific American Jewish interest, will appear in the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, the Cleveland Jewish News, The Jewish Week of Washington and the St. Louis Jewish Light. The four papers have a combined readership of over 75,000 families in the four cities.

The tabloid-size supplement, in addition to reviews and comments on newly-published books, contains an appraisal of three leading Jewish writers by Prof. Irving Malin; a study of trends among American Jewish short story writers by Harold U. Ribalow; an evaluation of Yiddish literature today by Moshe Starkman and a report on a new generation of Israeli artists by Murray S. Greenfield.

The supplement was prepared and produced by the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle. The editorial material was specially commissioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Membership in the Quality Jewish Publications Group will be open to other American Jewish weeklies conforming to the group's editorial and circulation requirements. Present plans call for a series of cooperative publishing ventures including supplements covering other areas.