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Jarring Tells Eban Egypt Rejects Cyprus Talks But Envoy Will Persist

JERUSALEM, Mar. 10 (JTA)--A completely negative attitude by Egypt toward talks with Israel was communicated by Dr. Gunnar Jarring, the special United Nations emissary to the Middle East, to Foreign Minister Abba Eban at a meeting here today. It was learned, nevertheless, that Dr. Jarring, who brought his negative report from a five-hour meeting in Cairo last Thursday, did not consider his mission as having been forced to an end. He plans to leave tomorrow for Cyprus, where he has his headquarters, and from there he will go to Amman, for more talks with Jordanian officials.

Informed sources said that Dr. Jarring had invited Egypt to send representatives to Cyprus for talks with Israel. However, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmud Riad was reported to have said, after meeting with Dr. Jarring, that Egypt rejected any form of talks, direct or indirect with Israel. The Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, which often reflects President Nasser's views, reported Friday that Dr. Jarring was informed during his talks in Cairo Thursday that Egypt categorically refused to send representatives to Cyprus for such negotiations. There had been earlier unconfirmed reports that the Egyptians were willing to participate in such talks with Dr. Jarring as a participant, a formula acceptable to Israel.

Mr. Eban reiterated to the Swedish diplomat that Israel would cooperate in any Jarring invitation to face-to-face talks but Israeli officials indicated they did not expect Dr. Jarring to return soon to Jerusalem. He has been visiting Cairo, Amman and Jerusalem almost every week since he started his mission. Official sources declined to confirm reports that Israel had agreed to a Jarring suggestion that "liaison officers" be appointed at his Nicosia headquarters but it was understood that such a proposal was in fact made and rejected by Egypt.

State Dept. Official Urges Israel, Arabs To Be "Flexible" on Peace Approaches

WASHINGTON, D.C., Mar. 10 (JTA)--Assistant Secretary of State Lucius D. Battle, who is in charge of the State Department's Near Eastern Division, called on Israel and the Arab states today to be "flexible and moderate" in their approach to peace with "accommodation to the legitimate interests and psychological needs of the vanquished." The latter injunction, obviously addressed to Israel, appeared to be an appeal to Jerusalem for flexibility on the issue of direct negotiations with the Arabs.

Mr. Battle addressed the ninth annual policy conference here of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. President Johnson, in a message to the conference, repeated his June 19, 1967 pledge that the United States would do everything in its power to help restore "peace and justice" to the Middle East.

The conference, however, adopted a policy statement insisting that direct negotiations were the only effective method to achieve an Arab-Israel peace. It said that peace depended primarily on the recognition by Arab leaders of Israel's existence, of the futility of further conflict and the benefits of mutual cooperation in the region.

Mr. Battle noted that the United Nations' special envoy, Dr. Gunnar Jarring "is attempting to bridge the gap between the disputants and the United States is urging the parties concerned to be flexible and moderate and to take no actions which might imperil the mission of Ambassador Jarring." He quoted President Johnson as appealing to both sides not to adopt rigid views and urging that no method that might lead to peace be excluded from being tested.

President Johnson stated in his message, as he did last June 19, that "what will be truly decisive in the Middle East will be what is said and what is done by those who live in the Middle East." He added, "I also pledged that the American Government and the American people will do their part in every forum, at every level, at every hour, to help restore the role of peace and justice to those troubled lands. Your own deliberations are a significant contribution to that cause and I wish you the utmost success."

The conference policy statement voiced alarm at the resupply of arms to the Arab states by the Soviet Union and called on the United States to furnish Israel with modern jets and arms to deter aggression. It declared that future boundaries should be defined by the states directly concerned. It noted that in Jerusalem, the people of Israel were reunited with their ancient capital and would respect the holy places of all faiths. The conference went on record in urging that any program of compensation for Arab refugees must also consider Jewish refugees from Arab lands.

Tekoah Warns West Not To Compete With Soviets For Nasser's Favor

NEW YORK, Mar. 10 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations, charged here tonight that the Western nations were trying to compete with the Soviet Union for the favor of Egypt's President Nasser and warned that such a policy would not work. The Israel envoy spoke at a special aliyah (immigration) conference of the Zionist Organization of America, attended by 400 persons.

Ambassador Tekoah said that the decision adopted by the Arab heads of state at Khartoum last summer to the effect that there must be no peace with Israel still dominated Arab policy and that recent statements by Nasser and other Egyptian Government spokesmen did not auger well for a peaceful settlement. He rejected as "unfounded and meaningless" reports in the last few days from Cairo and other sources suggesting that Egypt had accepted the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. "What Egypt has accepted is her own interpretation of the resolution," he said, "an interpretation that has been rejected by the Security Council itself."

Ambassador Tekoah said that the Soviet Union, by the very nature of its policy, has always proved itself capable of outbidding its competitors in the Middle East. "Therefore Western competition in seeking Nasser's favors and catering to his whims has been an utter failure." The West, he said, should try to contain the Soviets in the Middle East, not compete with them.

Jacques Torczyner, ZOA president, said that the large attendance at the aliyah conference indicated "a marked increase in the desire of many American Jews to settle in Israel and to contribute to the pioneering growth of Israel."

Israel Hit By State Dept., UN Unit For Blasting Arab Home in East Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 10 (JTA)--Israel was under criticism today from the State Department and from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for its policy of destroying homes of Arabs suspected of sheltering and otherwise aiding Arab terrorists.

Robert McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, reiterated that Israel must observe the Geneva convention and protect all residents of occupied Arab territories. Article 27 of the Geneva convention stipulates that civilians shall at all times be "humanely treated and shall be protected especially against violence or threats." Mr. McCloskey and other U.S. officials referred to the Geneva convention in response to inquiries about the United States attitude toward the Israeli policy.

The Human Rights Commission approved the text of a telegram to the Government of Israel proposed by India, Pakistan and Yugoslavia -- calling on Israel to halt immediately such acts as the reported destruction of "homes of Arab civilian population inhabiting the areas occupied by the Israeli authorities." The telegram text was approved by a show of hands vote of 17 for, one (Israel) against and seven abstentions (Austria, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sweden, Britain and the United States).

Earlier, in the same session, the commission approved a resolution condemning "all ideologies, including Nazism and apartheid, which are based on racial intolerance and terror, as a gross violation of human rights" and as "a serious threat to world peace and the security of peoples." The resolution recommended that the UN General Assembly call on member states to outlaw groups which disseminated propaganda for these ideologies and to strive for their eradication. The resolution, sponsored by the Ukraine, was adopted on a roll-call vote of 24 in favor, none against, and the United States, Britain, Italy and New Zealand abstaining.

Dr. Shabtai Rosenne, the Israeli representative, in debate preceding the vote on the telegram, defended the policy of wrecking homes of suspected terrorists, declaring that such measures had been forced upon Israel. He added that the Israeli delegation was "not prepared to accept any expression of views" on the matter by the Human Rights Commission.

Morris B. Abram, the United States representative, read to the commission a statement from the State Department to the effect that it remained the United States position that part of Jerusalem was occupied territory and subject to the provisions of international law on the rights and privileges of an occupying power. The Israel army blew up last Wednesday night, the home of an arrested El Fatah commander in East Jerusalem. The blast caused damage to a number of nearby structures. All tenants of the house were evacuated, with their belongings, before the explosives were set off.

Israeli Officials Defend Blasting Policy; Compensation Paid to Arabs

JERUSALEM, Mar. 10 (JTA)--Israeli officials said tonight that the practice of blowing up houses where Arab saboteurs lived or illegal weapons were found was carried out in line with the duty of an occupying power to protect the peace of the local population as required by the Geneva convention.

The statement was understood to be in response to a criticism by the State Department over such Israeli activities. The officials added that such actions were legal in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip under British regulations which have not been abolished. They added that acts of sabotage perpetrated by organizations whose avowed aim was to create bloodshed and destruction in the occupied areas must be treated as acts of war.

The Jerusalem municipality and the Israel army meanwhile made prompt payment of compensation to Arabs whose homes were damaged when Army sappers blew up Wednesday night, a house belonging to a captured El Fatah leader in East Jerusalem. Army teams also repaired damages suffered by a home for blind girls when a nearby garage owned by the same Fatah leader also was blown up.

Municipal officials protested to the army over the manner in which the action was carried out at night, purportedly without adequate warning the residents of the neighborhood and without prior consultation with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. The Jerusalem Post declared editorially that blowing up

a residence might be suitable punishment for persons sheltering Arab terrorists in areas under military control but not in East Jerusalem which is now part of Israel.

Women army officers visited Arab families today in the area and distributed candy to children as a goodwill gesture. They also visited the Mary Lovell home for blind children. Authorities had been unaware that the home was damaged until the British Consul General here so informed the Foreign Ministry.

Ninety-seven Arabs were released from prison yesterday by Israeli authorities in an amnesty on the occasion of the Moslem sacrificial feast of Id Aladha. They had been serving sentences for various offenses including security violations. But the Arab population in Jerusalem and the West Bank marked the holiday in a subdued mood. There was little mutual visiting and not all Moslem shops were closed. The Arabs were concerned not only by the buildings blasted in East Jerusalem but by the deportation a day earlier of the former Arab Mayor, Roukhi El Khatib, who was a popular figure locally. He was expelled to Jordan for exhorting Arabs not to cooperate with Israeli authorities, and for illegal money transfers.

Four Israeli Soldiers Wounded, Two Intruders Killed in Weekend Incursions

TEL AVIV, Mar. 10 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded early yesterday morning when Jordanian units fired mortars and machine guns to cover the retreat of an El Fatah gang that tried to invade Kibbutz Tirat Zvi in the Beisan Valley on the Sabbath eve. Israeli return fire silenced the Jordanians behind the Jordan River cease-fire demarcation line.

Tirat Zvi, a religious settlement, has been a frequent target of terrorist infiltration and Jordanian attacks. It was one of the hardest hit of eight Beisan Valley settlements attacked by Jordanian artillery and mortars on Feb. 15, an episode that led to a sharp Israeli retaliation and a pledge by King Hussein to prevent Arab terror gangs from using Jordan as a base for their incursions against Israel. The terrorists from Jordan tried twice to enter the Tirat Zvi perimeter and were twice repulsed by the settlement's watchmen. Two intruders were killed in the encounters.

Two Israeli soldiers and two girls were injured in another incident Thursday night when their vehicle was ambushed by marauders from Jordan on a road near Samakh on the southeast shore of the Sea of Galilee. The marauders scattered under fire from Israeli units nearby. Bloodstains discovered at the scene indicated that the Arabs had suffered casualties, probably when one of their hand grenades exploded too close to their position. The injured Israelis were taken to a hospital where they were reported to be in satisfactory condition.

540 Overseas Business Leaders To Attend April Economic Meeting in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Mar. 10 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir announced today that 540 Jewish business and industrial leaders from all parts of the world had confirmed plans to attend an international economic conference opening here April 1. The conference, for which plans were announced last year by Premier Levi Eshkol, also will be attended by 150 Israeli leaders in private industry, the Government and the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. The conclave will last five days.

Mr. Sapir made his announcement at a press conference that was also addressed by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Zeev Sharef and Dr. Yaacov Herzog, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. The Prime Minister's economic conference will consider economic and industrial trends in Israel over the next ten years.

Mr. Sharef said there would be a meeting of young businessmen, mainly from the United States, prior to the main conference opening. He stressed the importance of "free and open dialogue" between businessmen and said that the conference will also give Israeli businessmen an opportunity to air complaints they may have about business conditions in Israel or bureaucratic interference with free enterprise. Dr. Herzog said background material had been sent to all participants abroad. A list of their names will be published in two weeks, he added.

Mr. Sapir indicated that the conference might lead to the establishment of a permanent body. He said that great interest in the forthcoming conference was demonstrated by Jewish businessmen everywhere he went on his recent tour to the United States, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

Frankfurt Court Rejects Bid By Nazi To Call Kiesinger As Witness

FRANKFURT, Mar. 10 (JTA)--The court of assizes here rejected yesterday a request to have West German Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger called as a defense witness in the trial of Adolf Beckerle, the German Minister in Sofia, Bulgaria, during World War II, who is being tried as an accessory to the murder of more than 11,000 Jews. The court, in announcing its decision, said it was motivated by "purely jurisdictional considerations."

Beckerle, whose trial opened last November, has contended that when he participated in the deportation of the victims from Bulgaria to the Treblinka death camp in Poland in 1943, he was unaware of the fate that awaited the Jews. Dr. Kiesinger, who was deputy leader of the radio department of the Nazi Foreign Ministry in charge of propaganda and counter-propaganda, was believed to be the only witness who could bear out Beckerle's claim that the Sofia legation was not on the mailing list for Foreign Ministry documents which kept Nazi diplomatic missions abroad informed of the policy to annihilate the Jews. Beckerle's defense counsel demanded Dr. Kiesinger's testimony to prove his case.

Yeshiva U. Volunteer Plan for Military Chaplaincy Reported Successful

NEW YORK, Mar. 10 (JTA)--The one-year experiment in voluntary recruitment of military chaplains for rabbinic students at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, instituted last January, has resulted thus far in a 50 percent increase in the number of such students who will enter military service, an official of the university reported today.

The voluntary approach replaced a self-imposed draft system initiated by the three major Jewish seminaries during the Korean War, according to Dr. Emanuel Rackman, assistant to the president for Yeshiva University Affairs. The other two are the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Reform Jewish Institute of Religion-Hebrew Union College. Ordained clergymen are exempt from the draft. Dr. Rackman said that the students at the Yeshiva University Seminary had long felt that as volunteers they were better able to serve the spiritual needs of Jewish servicemen and that the draft system was a less effective means of recruitment than a voluntary approach.

The Jewish Theological Seminary reported, in a statement, that Rabbi Eli Bohnen, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, named a special commission earlier this year to re-study the Conservative policy on the chaplaincy draft and to make recommendations for future procedures to the executive committee of the Rabbinical Assembly at the organization's next annual convention on March 25. It had previously been reported that the issue would be debated at the convention.

The Seminary said that, during this period, the faculty and administration of the Seminary, under the direction of Rabbi David C. Kogen, administrative vice-chancellor, had been exploring with members of the Seminary's junior and senior classes the feelings of the rabbinical students about chaplaincy service, with a view toward confirming or modifying present procedures after the Rabbinical Assembly acts upon the report of its committee, which has not yet been submitted.

Under the draft system, ordained students were required to take a physical examination for possible chaplaincy duty before they could take pulpits. Physically fit students are available for assignment, through the Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, for military duty. This procedure remains in effect with the Conservative and Reform seminaries. The Yeshiva University experiment will be reviewed at the end of the year.

The Conservative program is handled through a joint Chaplaincy Availability Board of the Seminary and the Rabbinical Assembly, which was created in 1950 during the Korean War, to certify qualified candidates to the JWB commission. Last year, the Chaplaincy Availability Board recognized selective conscientious objectors, those who objected to a particular war, on an experimental basis. The board assigned such young men to equivalent service, the Seminary statement said. Other exemptions were men who had suffered in a concentration camp, men who had completed regular military service before entering the Seminary, and men who received, after ordination, an academic appointment to teach Jewish studies at the university level.

U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Case Bearing on Federal Aid to Religious Education

NEW YORK, Mar. 10 (JTA)--The right of taxpayers to sue the Government on complaints that the Constitution is being violated by the expenditure of Federal funds for religious schools will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday. The brief will be presented on behalf of seven appellants by Leo Pfeffer, special counsel of the American Jewish Congress, which is backing the suit along with the New York Civil Liberties Union, the United Federation of Teachers and the United Parents Association. The suit challenges sections of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, under which Federal funds are provided for teaching services, textbooks, library materials and public school teachers in schools sponsored by churches or synagogues.

The Constitutionality of the Act however, will not be at stake before the Supreme Court but rather the right of taxpayers to bring suit. That right was rejected by a three judge Federal panel which decided last October that the complainants had no standing to sue because their contributions in the form of taxes were insufficient to give them a real interest in a court decision. The ruling was based on the 1923 Supreme Court ruling in *Frothingham v. Mellon*, which cited the Latin phrase "de minimis non curat lex — the law does not concern itself with trifles."

Government attorneys invoked that principle 11 months ago when the challenge to the 1965 aid-to-education act was first heard in Federal District Court in New York and again before the three judge panel. In both instances the courts upheld their view.

N.J. Jewish College Applicants Offered Alternate to Sabbath Exam Dates

NEWARK, N.J., Mar. 10 (JTA)--Community college entrance examinations scheduled for Saturdays may be taken on alternate days by Jewish students, the New Jersey Department of Higher Education stated here. Dr. Ralph A. Dungan, Department chancellor, told Rabbi Morris A. Shmidman, president of the Rabbinical Council of New Jersey, that "appropriate arrangements" would be made to assure that no youngster would be precluded from taking an entrance examination because of his or her observance of the Sabbath. "I am certain that every college will respond affirmatively," he said.