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Eban Says Impasse in Jarring Mission Stems From Egyptian Intransigence

JERUSALEM, Mar. 12 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban declared today that there was documentary proof that the peace-seeking mission of the United Nations' special envoy, Dr. Gunnar Jarring, had reached its present stalemate because of Egypt's refusal to recognize Israel and negotiate a peace settlement.

Speaking at a press conference here, the Foreign Minister said that direct negotiations were the essence of the problem, and that refusal to negotiate meant refusal to recognize Israel's sovereign identity which must be the starting point for any settlement. He said also that one reason that Israel insisted on direct negotiations with the Arabs was to avoid the lack of precision which he called an inherent quality of indirect or unilateral undertakings.

As an example of the dangers of communicating through intermediaries, Mr. Eban noted that on Jan. 28, 1950, Egypt notified the United States that it would occupy the islands of Tiran and Sanafir in the Tiran Straits without prejudice to international shipping rights. The United States communicated this to Israel. But after occupation of the islands on April 9, Egypt submitted an "addendum" which excluded Israeli shipping, Mr. Eban noted.

Foreign Minister Eban said that Israel was not initiating any move to bring the Middle East question back to the U.N. Security Council. But if Egypt does, he declared, Israel was confident of the support of world opinion. He termed hints by Egypt that it would be willing to implement the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Middle East resolution as an "international hoax and confidence game." According to official Egyptian spokesmen, he asserted, borne out by conversations with Ambassador Jarring, Egypt would "implement" the resolution according to its own interpretation - without recognition of Israel, without an agreement, without peace and without granting Israel's shipping freedom of passage through the Suez Canal. This attitude, he said, was contrary to the basic provisions of the Nov. 22 resolution and has been rejected by world opinion.

(United Nations sources said today that if the Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, had correctly reported the Egyptian Government's views in calling yesterday for an urgent Security Council meeting on the Middle East, the Jarring peace mission would be torpedoed. Al Ahram said such a session was needed because of the "negative results" of the Jarring mission. Dr. Jarring, who has been shuttling between Jerusalem, Cairo and Amman seeking a negotiations formula, obtained agreement by Israel to forego its demand for face-to-face talks with the Arabs without outside participation by taking part in a "Rhodes-type" negotiation with Dr. Jarring as chairman. On Sunday, Dr. Jarring told the Israel Government Egypt had refused to be a party to any talks, direct or indirect but the envoy said he was continuing his efforts.)

In reply to questions, Mr. Eban said he could not tell whether Egypt's hard line was a recent development or whether it had been Cairo's attitude all along but has only recently been exposed. He refused to comment on a suggestion that Egypt's intransigence was the result of prompting by the Soviet Union. Israel, he said, has no contacts with the Soviet Union except through international agencies and Ambassador Jarring's contacts have been directly with the Arab states.

Eban said that Israel was willing to negotiate separately with Jordan and the other Arab states. He said he did not know what Jordan's attitude was since Ambassador Jarring had not yet brought a reply to his latest suggestions to Amman.

He said that Israel had agreed to the freeing of 15 merchant ships stranded in the Suez Canal since last June, but only if the vessels were restricted to the Canal's southern exit. He said that since the time Egypt breached the cease fire agreement by trying to survey the northern reaches of the canal without Israel's agreement, there had been no further contacts on the matter.

Israeli, Jordanian Guns Duel Across Jordan; Intruder Killed in Clash

TEL AVIV, Mar. 12 (JTA)--Jordanian artillery opened fire last night and again this morning on Israeli units across the Jordan River demarcation line but was silenced by Israeli guns, a military spokesman reported today. There were no Israeli casualties.

The incident occurred after an Israeli patrol intercepted a band of Arab marauders north of the El Mandassa Bridge in the Beisan Valley, killing one and wounding another. The latter is presumed to have drowned while trying to escape across the river. Jordanian guns opened up to cover the gang's retreat. The Jordanians began firing again at 11:00 a.m. local time today south of the Umm Shurt Bridge. The barrage lasted until shortly past noon.

Private Building Spurt Said Needed To Avert Critical Housing Shortage in Israel

JERUSALEM, Mar. 12 (JTA)--There will be a critical housing shortage in Israel next year unless private building is accelerated, Mordechai Ben-Tov, the Minister of Housing warned the Knesset yesterday. He said that the country required 27,000 new flats yearly, otherwise Israel would face a shortage of 10,000 apartments minimum by mid 1969.

Israel Renews Turkish Trade Pact; Bids for Large Phosphate Agreement

JERUSALEM, Mar. 12 (JTA)--Israel has just renewed a trade pact with Turkey and is about to sign a long-term agreement with a Far Eastern country for the annual export of \$8 million worth of phosphates and phosphoric acid from the Negev, it was reported here today.

The deputy minister for development, Yehuda Shaari, has just returned from an extensive tour of the Far East. He visited Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore and reportedly found a good potential market in those countries for Israeli raw materials, chemical fertilizers and semi-finished products.

The Japanese were said to be interested in the possibility of laying a pipeline from Sodom on the south shore of the Dead Sea to the port of Elath on the Gulf of Akaba to move minerals in solution. A delegation representing Japan's chemical industry is due to visit Israel shortly. The agreement with Turkey calls for the sale of \$10 million worth of Israeli products in that country and the purchase by Israel of \$11 million in Turkish goods. The pact represents a 5 percent increase in trade over the previous agreement between the two countries.

It was reported here today that Israel does not intend to operate the manganese mines in the Sinai peninsula because the high cost of transporting the ore would make it unprofitable under present conditions.

Monetary Fund Delegates Praise Israel's Handling of Economic Difficulties

JERUSALEM, Mar. 12 (JTA)--A delegation of the International Monetary Fund that recently visited Israel had high praise for the way the Government handled the country's economic difficulties last year, it was learned today.

In a report to the Fund's executive, the delegation stated that Israel's economy remained stable last year despite the dislocations caused by the June war. The report attributed this to slow-down measures taken in 1966 which put a brake on a too rapidly expanding economy thereby reducing the dangers of inflation. The report said that the suffering caused by reduced production and increased unemployment was offset by the foundations laid for renewed growth. It stated that very few countries had succeeded to the same extent in achieving economic stability.

Communist MP's Assailant is Sentenced to 18 Months' Imprisonment

TEL AVIV, Mar. 12 (JTA)--A former concentration camp inmate who stabbed Communist Knesset-member Meir Wilner in a Tel Aviv street last October was sentenced yesterday to 18 months' imprisonment. The three-judge panel of the Tel Aviv District Court which heard the case, reduced the charges against Avraham Ben-Moshe from attempted murder to attempt to cause grave bodily harm.

Ben-Moshe assaulted Wilner outside the latter's home, shouting "this is for your behavior toward Jews." The court said it understood Ben Moshe's motivations inasmuch as he had spent many years in Russia after his release from Nazi camps while Wilner was a defender of Russian policies in the Knesset. Nevertheless, the court ruled, the assailant was fully aware of his act and of its possible results.

Navies of Four Nations Join In Final Tribute to Crew of Dakar

HAIFA, Mar. 12 (JTA)--The navies of four nations which aided Israel in the vain search for the lost submarine Dakar in January, joined today in paying final tribute to the undersea craft's 69 officers and crew. The occasion was the end of the shiva, the traditional seven day mourning period which began when the submarine was officially declared lost last week. It was marked by solemn ceremonies ashore and at sea and by a last tribute broadcast to the nation by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who said that Israel's mission was to strengthen its naval forces.

Aboard the destroyer Yaffo and the escort submarine Tanin, bugles sounded taps and flags were lowered to half mast as seven wreaths were cast into the sea in memory of the lost men. Four of the wreaths were sent by the United States, British, Greek and Turkish navies which had helped the search. Present on deck were the Deputy Naval Attache of the U.S. Embassy and Air Vice Marshal R. G. Knott, Chief of Staff of the British Mediterranean Command. With them were Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar Lev and other high ranking officers of Israel's armed forces.

Ashore, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, chief chaplain of Israel's armed forces recited the Kaddish with relatives of the lost men. An Army cantor chanted the traditional "El Moleh Rahamim," prayer for the dead.

Ben-Gurion Approves Agreement for Documentary Film on His Life

GENEVA, Mar. 12 (JTA)--A British movie producer, Melville Mark of Manchester, said today he had signed an agreement with former Premier David Ben-Gurion authorizing a documentary film on the life of the Israeli leader. Mark, who has just returned from Israel, said the agreement was signed at Ben-Gurion's Negev home in Sde Boker. The producer said his company would film a series of interviews with the former Premier.

Tekoah Accuses Egypt of Distortion of Facts and Malice in Complaints to UN

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 12 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah of Israel, charged today, in a letter to Secretary-General U Thant, that the Egyptian Government, in communications to the United Nations, was continuing to "distort the facts and to propagate malicious interpretations of the Israel Government's policies." The envoy's letter was in answer to various charges made by Egypt of alleged Israeli wrongdoing in the occupied territories. Mr. Tekoah asked that his reply be circulated to the members of the Security Council. The Israeli ambassador told the Secretary-General that "the recurring charges advanced by the permanent representative of the United Arab Republic can be understood only in the context of his Government's policy of continued belligerency" and of "wilful distortion" of the meaning of the Security Council resolution of last November.

Ambassador Tekoah stressed that the Israel Government was responsible for the public administration and maintenance of law and order in the areas within the cease-fire lines. "It is my Government's policy to do all that is necessary and possible in order to ensure normal civilian life in these areas." He said administrative measures recently adopted in the occupied areas "have no political significance and are aimed solely at facilitating and legalizing existing practices of freedom of movement and trade."

In another letter to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Tekoah replied to a Jordanian charge that Rouhi Al-Kateeb, whom it called the "mayor of Jerusalem, had been arbitrarily deported." Mr. Tekoah said that Al-Khateeb was a Jordanian national and an appointee of the Jordanian Government who "had been an agent for that government in promoting tensions and public unrest behind the cease-fire lines between Jordan and Israel."

Brazilian Jews Protest to Polish Govt. on Arrangements for Auschwitz Memorial

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar. 12 (JTA)--A delegation representing the Confederation of Brazilian Jewish Communities visited the Polish Embassy today to protest against arrangements made by the Polish Government for the memorial observances at the site of the Auschwitz death camp.

The delegation complained that the date set for inaugurating the Jewish memorial pavilion -- April 20 -- fell on the Jewish Sabbath and Passover. The delegation also pointed out that facilities had not been indicated for Jewish organizations and representatives wishing to attend the dedication services. It urged postponement of the inauguration of the pavilion until next year. The charge d'affaires, who received the delegation, promised to transmit its views to Warsaw.

No Problem in Cooperating With Communist Regime, Rumanian Chief Rabbi Tells Premier

BUCHAREST, Mar. 12 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen told Prime Minister Nicolae Ceausescu here today that he, as an Orthodox rabbi, had no problems in cooperating with the materialistic society of Rumania "whose concepts of human life and human happiness is deeply ethical and in accord with our own teachings." The Chief Rabbi shared an audience with the Prime Minister with the Patriarch of Rumania and the Bishops of the Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical Churches of Rumania. The Prime Minister told the religious leaders that his government valued their "attachment to the cause of peace and friendship between peoples."

Rabbi Rosen, who spoke for the Federation of Jewish Communities of which he is president, also told the Prime Minister that in the past "regimes stemming from so-called religious groups had brought pogroms and the burning of synagogues." He also told the Rumanian Communist leader that "your policy in support of the sovereignty and independence of all peoples, large and small, and which advocates the solution of all problems by negotiation, has won world acclaim."

Bundestag President Says Neo-Nazi Group Will Win Parliamentary Seats in 1969

BONN, Mar. 12 (JTA)--A situation comparable to that which prevailed in Germany just before the Nazi Party won its first seats in the Reichstag in 1932, appears to be building in the Federal Republic, according to Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, president of the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house.

In a press interview today, Dr. Gerstenmaier predicted that the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party, an extreme right-wing, nationalist party that espouses Hitler-like tenets, is certain to win seats in the Bundestag in the 1969 elections. He said that normally, the NPD would have little chance of entering the parliament. But left-wing activities have convinced many German voters that the greatest danger is from leftist radicals and that the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats who make up the national coalition government are unable to cope with them, he said. It was fear of the German Communist Party and the impotence of the Weimar Government that gave the upstart Nazi Party 37 percent of the German vote 36 years ago. The NPD scored successfully in municipal elections last Sunday in Westphalia.

Johannesburg, South Africa's Largest City, Elects Jew as Mayor; Tenth to Serve

JOHANNESBURG, Mar. 12 (JTA)--The Johannesburg City Council has elected Israel Schlapobersky, a local businessman active in Jewish community affairs, as Mayor of this, the largest city of the South African Republic. Mayor Schlapobersky is the tenth Jew to serve as Johannesburg's mayor. The son of a pioneer family, he was born here in 1915 and was graduated from the University of Witwatersrand with a degree in commerce. He served on the City Council for several years and was Deputy Mayor prior to his elevation to Mayor. His daughter visited Israel after last June's war and served as a volunteer there for six months.

Kennedy Says U.S. Should Convince Arabs Israel Cannot Be Overthrown or Conquered

NEW YORK, Mar. 12 (JTA)--Sen. Robert F. Kennedy proposed tonight that the United Nations establish a special fund for assistance to the Arabs in the territories occupied by Israel last June, and that the United States "do all that is necessary to dispel" from Arab minds "the false belief that Israel can be overthrown or conquered." He spoke at a dinner where 300 Bronx communal and business leaders formally launched the borough's 1968 drive on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. Gifts of more than \$300,000 to the Israel Emergency Fund and the general UJA campaign were announced.

Sen. Kennedy enunciated further principles to guide American policy in the Middle East. These, he said, should include an insistence on a "final, lasting peace settlement," which, he said, means "direct and meaningful negotiations between the Arab world and Israel." Further, he said, there should be recognition that America's best role would be to assist all the nations of the Middle East in their peaceful development. He said that the United States must avoid the mistake of maintaining a rigid policy in the face of future changes in Arab policy, encouraging, by word and deed the conditions for peace in the Middle East.

Brig. Gen. Avraham Yoffe, who commanded Israel's armored forces in the Six-Day War, told the assembly that the bitter experience of the 19 years prior to the June war had unified the people of Israel in the determination to hold the present cease-fire lines until a peace settlement guaranteeing Israel's security was negotiated."

Supreme Court Reserves Decision on Federal Aid for Sectarian Schools

WASHINGTON, Mar. 12 (JTA)--The U.S. Supreme Court reserved judgment today after hearing arguments in a major test case on the right of taxpayers to challenge the constitutionality of Government expenditures for sectarian schools. Leo Pfeffer, special counsel of the American Jewish Congress, argued in behalf of seven New Yorkers seeking to upset certain provisions of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. He urged the high court to accept jurisdiction in the case. He said the controversy was "particularly fitted for judicial resolution" and warned that if the court did not grant the individual taxpayer standing to sue in First Amendment cases, "there would be no way, for example, to challenge a \$1 million Federal grant for the construction of a church."

The American Jewish Congress attorney was joined in his pleading by Senator Sam. J. Ervin, Democrat of North Carolina, who told the court: "Every American has a right not to be taxed for the support of a religion in violation of the First Amendment. It is this precious right that is at stake in this case."

Arguing for the Government position that the Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction in the case, Solicitor-General Erwin Griswold raised the question of the separation of governmental powers. Under this constitutional doctrine, he said, "the judiciary may not intrude upon the competence or authority of another branch of government."

Mr. Griswold urged the court to abide by its 1923 decision in the Frothingham case, which held that a taxpayer does not have standing to sue the government because his contribution in the form of taxes is too small to give him a real interest in a court decision. During the argument, Associate Justice Potter Stewart asked Mr. Griswold whether he agreed with Mr. Pfeffer's contention that the Frothingham Doctrine did not cover First Amendment cases. Justice Stewart noted that under the First Amendment, taxation to support religion is specifically prohibited. The Solicitor-General replied that he did not agree that the First Amendment specifically barred taxation for religious purposes. Associate Justice William O. Douglas then asked: "Do you know a better way to establish religion than by taxation?"

Friend of the court briefs supporting the AJC position were filed by the National Council of Churches, the Council of State School Officers, Protestants and Other Americans United For Separation of Church and State, United Americans for Public Schools and all of the national member agencies of the National Community Relations Advisory Council with the exception of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Briefs on the Government side were filed by the AFL-CIO, a group of parents of children benefiting from Federal aid programs in sectarian schools in New York and the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, an Orthodox-supported agency.

Anti-Defamation League Welcomes Senate Action on Civil Rights Bill

NEW YORK, Mar. 12 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has commended the U.S. Senate for its passage of a comprehensive civil rights bill that will bar discrimination in about 80 percent of the nation's housing. Dore Schary, national chairman of the ADL, said in a statement today that the time has come for "the House to act promptly on the Senate-approved measure, a necessary step in eliminating the barriers which have effectively condemned the vast majority of American Negroes to life in the ghetto."

Catholic College Provides Kosher Meals for Jewish Member of Faculty

LATROBE, Pa., Mar. 12 (JTA)--A Catholic college here reported today that the Benedictine Sisters who operate the college food service division, prepare a kosher meal each day for a rabbi who is a member of the college faculty.

The kosher meal, the college said, is served to Rabbi Reeve R. Brenner in the faculty dining room of St. Vincent College. Rabbi Brenner was named to the faculty last fall as a resident lecturer and teaches courses in introduction to Judaism and Jewish religious thought.