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Eshkol Tells Cabinet Thrust Wrecked Fatah Plans for Massive Terror Raids

JERUSALEM, Mar. 24 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told the Israel Cabinet today that information obtained as a result of the Thursday thrust into terrorist bases in Jordan had made it more obvious than ever that the El Fatah commando group had been planning widespread terrorism against Israel and that these plans had been disrupted by the destruction of the bases.

Officials meanwhile reported a two-hour artillery and small arms fire duel touched off by Jordanian shelling of a tractor in the northern Beisan Valley at the Neveh Or settlement. The Jordanian guns were silenced without Israeli casualties. Settlements in the Beisan Valley were shelled last night. No casualties resulted. Israeli and Jordanian guns duelled Friday near the Sea of Galilee after Jordanian gunners fired at a tractor on the fields near Ashdod Yaacov. Israeli artillery halted that shooting. A tractor driver was seriously injured this morning when his vehicle hit a mine in the Gilboa area near the Jordan River. The reports came while funeral services were being held in ten cities and villages for the 23 soldiers killed in the Thursday action.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported at the Cabinet meeting that he had sent notes to the Foreign Ministers of many countries, explaining the reasons for the Thursday action. Mr. Eshkol and Mr. Eban spoke after the Cabinet received a detailed report from Chief of Staff Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev and from the Army Chief of Intelligence Brig. A. Yariv on the findings of arms, and on information on El Fatah plans obtained from Jordanian prisoners captured in the operations.

The Foreign Minister, speaking at a conference of the British Settlers Association before leaving for a curtailed visit to European countries, assailed Soviet "indulgence" for Arab terrorist aggression. He said that Israel would respect and give attention only to statements and resolutions -- and apparent reference to the current Security Council session on the Thursday clash -- which respected Israel's inherent right to life and security and which placed central emphasis on the causes and not the results of regional tension. Mr. Eban left for Britain for a meeting with the new Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, and for visits to Holland and Belgium but not to Italy, as previously scheduled. He said he would return to Israel shortly to continue to direct Israel's activities at the Security Council session.

Report 1,000 Terrorists Based at Main Jordan Camp at Karameh

Israeli officials reported that about 1,000 terrorists were based at Karameh, which Jordan insisted was a refugee camp but where huge quantities of arms, ammunition and high explosives were found. Karameh and the surrounding area encompassed nine raider bases, two headquarters, a training center, equipment stores and a barracks. More than 80 of the prisoners taken there were identified as El Fatah members. Two of them were brought to Tel Aviv for questioning by newsmen. The terrorists revealed under interrogation that their operations against Israeli and Israel-held territory were regularly supported by the Jordanian army which laid down covering artillery barrages. Jordanian units which intervened in Thursday's fighting were reported to have suffered heavy losses of weapons. At least 30 Jordanian tanks were knocked out in armored battle on a plateau east of the Jordan Valley. Israeli military circles estimated Jordanian army casualties at 100 dead and a total of 40 tanks destroyed.

The list of Israeli war dead included one captain, three lieutenants, several sergeants and other non-commissioned officers as well as privates. Among the latter was 20-year-old Benzion Netter of Deganya, whose father was killed in Israel's war for independence in 1948, the year young Netter was born.

The sorrow of most Israelis reportedly was compounded by uncertainty as to whether the strike did indeed improve Israel's security position, whether the toll paid was too high for the results achieved and how the fundamental issue of peace in the Middle East would be effected by the episode. Israeli newspapers generally supported the Government's decision to send the Army into Jordan to destroy terrorist bases. Davar said the action was unavoidable because no nation could honor a cease-fire its adversary failed to honor. Haaretz declared that the thrust was a police action to capture El Fatah members and to destroy their bases. For that objective, the paper said, a strong military push was necessary. Even the Communist daily, Kol Haam, supported the Government and said it would be naive to expect Israel to observe a cease fire repeatedly violated by Jordan.

Israelis were also concerned by repercussions abroad and within Jordan which many considered the Arab state most amenable to a peace settlement with Israel. Reports from Amman indicated that King Hussein was not so much determined not to take action against terrorists using Jordan as a staging area as he was helpless to do so. Observers here recalled Hussein's statement of Feb. 16, following an intensive Israeli barrage, that he would not permit terrorists to give the enemy "further pretext for aggression." He was, in effect, repudiated the next day by his own Prime Minister who said the Government planned no action against Arab commandos.

(The New York Times reported from Amman yesterday that King Hussein declared that neither he nor his government "would accept responsibility for the safety of Israel or the security of Israeli forces" occupying Jordanian territory on the West Bank. The King also said that about 50 people were

killed at Karameh. "Newsmen found Arab commandos still in control yesterday at the camp there," The Times reported, adding that King Hussein reported 30 "commandos" and about 60 civilians dead throughout the Jordan Valley and claimed that Israeli casualties "must have exceeded 200.")

(Christian Science Monitor correspondent John Cooley reported from Beirut yesterday that "there is a real risk now, qualified observers believe, that the militant Palestine element will take over effective leadership of what remains of Jordan" as an aftermath of the Israeli attack. "Arab military tacticians are beginning to believe that Algerian and Syrian theories on the value of permanent guerrilla warfare may be substantially correct," Mr. Cooley wrote. He added that "one aim of Arab propaganda media will be to discourage prospective Jewish immigrants which Zionist organizations are seeking.")

State Dept. Confirms Planned Arms Shipments to Jordan Despite Clash

WASHINGTON, D.C., Mar. 24 (JTA)--Officials of the Defense and State departments were in agreement today that the shipment of United States arms to Jordan would proceed in "the very near future" despite the activities of Jordanian-based terrorists and Israel's push into Jordan Thursday to smash the terrorist bases, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said, however, that arms negotiations with Jordan "have reached an advanced state but there is no final agreement yet."

Mr. McCloskey said that last week's eruption of fighting between Jordan and Israel did not affect U.S. policy toward Jordan in connection with its commitment to maintain a military balance. His view was sustained by authoritative sources which said that the American weapons represented no real threat to Israel but could prevent the overthrow of King Hussein and the emergence of a radical Arab regime in Jordan.

Gen. Bull, Israel in Sudden Dispute Over Use of Mixed Armistice Unit

JERUSALEM, Mar. 24 (JTA)--A dispute developed here suddenly between Israel and the chief of the United Nations cease-fire observer corps, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, when Gen. Bull tried to revive the Israel-Jordan mixed armistice commission which Israel considers defunct, it was learned today.

Gen. Bull, with no advance notice, reportedly called representatives of Israel and Jordan to an emergency session of the commission on Friday on Israel's action Thursday against terrorist bases in Jordan. Israel rejected the General's request on grounds that the 1949 armistice agreements ceased as a result of the six-day June war and were superseded by the present cease-fire pacts arranged under U.N. Security Council aspects.

Agreement Reported Near Tonight At Security Council on Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 24 (JTA)--Intensive behind-the-scenes negotiations continued here tonight in efforts by Security Council members to agree on a formula for a resolution to deal with Jordanian and Israeli counter-complaints stemming from Israel's military thrust last Thursday at terrorist bases in Jordan.

At 6 p.m. tonight, the resumption of the Council session, set yesterday for 4 p.m., still had not taken place as delegates apparently awaited the compromise formula.

The Security Council session began Thursday night as Israel was withdrawing the last of its forces after the raid. On Friday, a five-power resolution was proposed which would condemn Israel's "large-scale military action" in "defiance" of the United Nations charter, in "violation" of the cease-fire and warning that such actions could not be tolerated. The five-power proposal included a hint of U.N. sanctions if Israel made further raids. It was sponsored by Algeria, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Senegal.

The United States, Britain and Brazil opposed any proposal containing no reference to the terrorist raids. The negotiations for an acceptable formula, it was understood, were led by United States Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg and the language, it was reported, would include a condemnation of the raids as well as criticism of Israel.

Commerical Traffic, Visitor Movement Between West Bank and Jordan Resumes

JERUSALEM, Mar. 24 (JTA)--Commerical traffic and the two way movement of visitors between the West Bank and Jordan was back to normal today after a brief halt that followed Israel's military action against terrorist bases in Jordan last Thursday. An estimated 3,000 persons crossed the Allenby Bridge near Jericho today, among them East Bank residents returning from visits to the West Bank and West Bank residents who were visiting in Jordan when the military action began. Traffic actually resumed on Friday, only hours after Israeli troops returned to their bases. But it was limited to a few trucks loaded with produce. The volume rose on Saturday when several hundred trucks crossed in each direction and Jordanians and West Bank residents exchanged visits.

Leftist Mapam Votes for Common Front With Labor Party in Parliament

TEL AVIV, Mar. 24 (JTA)--The Mapam Party, which has been in convention here since Wednesday, voted today by a large margin to establish a common front with the United Labor Party in Parliament and in the local town councils with cooperation in Histadrut, the Israel Labor Federation, subject to a number of conditions. More than 64 percent of the votes cast at the convention were for this association under which Mapam would retain its ideological independence, its independent kibbutz system and its relation with socialist organs abroad.

Gomulka Reportedly Defied By Party Over Dampening Anti-Zionist Drive

NEW YORK, Mar. 24 (JTA)--The attribution of student unrest in Poland to a "Zionist plot" by the Polish Communist regime continues to evoke sharp protests in this country today despite reports that Polish Communist party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka was trying to ease the anti-Zionist campaign, reportedly in the face of defiance from members of his party.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith announced it was completing a "fully documented study and analysis" of the anti-Semitic aspects of the situation in Poland. Dory Schary, ADL chairman, called the campaign "the oldest political maneuver in the world and one of the nastiest."

(The New York Times reported from Warsaw yesterday that the Communist party was defying Gomulka's effort to dampen down the anti-Zionist campaign and that "observers here believe that the defiance within the party on the 'Zionist' issue constitutes a greater threat to the authority" of Gomulka than the student arrest.)

In Cleveland the Jewish Community Federation urged the public to write or wire protests to the Polish Ambassador in Washington, D.C. The Zionist Organization of America executive committee, meeting in Grossingers, N.Y., urged all Americans "to join in defense of Polish Jews by making plain to all, the anti-Semitic nature of the attack upon them." The appeal was contained in a resolution which also urged the United States Government "to protest Polish excesses against Jews."

Bayard Rustin, a Negro civil rights leader, declared in a statement here that "a pogrom atmosphere" was being created in Poland to make "the tiny minority" of Polish Jews "the scapegoat" of the regime. He added that "the black community in this country, so long the victims of 'scapegoatism,'" was "especially sensitive to outbursts" against all other minorities and that "their struggle is our struggle."

ZOA Rejects World Zionist Organization Plan to Re-Organize Movement

GROSSINGERS, N.Y., Mar. 24 (JTA)--The leadership of the Zionist Organization of America rejected today proposals of the World Zionist Organization's reorganization committee as "harmful to the further development of the Zionist movement" and reaffirmed "the long held view of our organization" that the existing system of separate Zionist groups be continued. The statement was embodied in a resolution adopted by 200 members of the ZOA's national executive committee meeting here. They also endorsed the continuation of the American section of the Jewish Agency. "Any attempt" to dissolve it, they said, would weaken Zionist activities "in the largest Jewish community in the world."

In an address to the group, ZOA president Jacques Torczyner said that Israel's preventive thrust against terrorist bases in Jordan Thursday came as no surprise because it was a result of repeated provocation. "Israel cannot let her women and children be at the mercy of Arab terrorists," he said, adding that "if the Arab world were not certain of the support of the Soviet Union, the Arabs would have been more inclined to talk about peace in direct negotiations."

On the domestic scene, the ZOA head called for "genuine cooperation" between Jews and Negroes to reduce tensions and charged that the Jewish defense agencies have not been able to establish a constructive relationship with Negroes because of their general attitude and philosophy. He called for an educational program to explain Jewish problems to Negroes and the true meaning of Israel and Zionism.

UJA of New York Dinner Raises to \$16,500,000 Pledges in 1968 Drive

NEW YORK, Mar. 24 (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York launched its 1968 drive with a weekend dinner that brought to \$16,500,000 the amount already pledged to the Israel Emergency Fund and the general UJA campaign for this year in New York City, Long Island and Westchester.

The 800 leaders of the Jewish community attending the dinner were addressed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, General Itzhak Rabin, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, and Sir Isaac Wolfson, prominent British merchant, who received the Herbert H. Lehman Memorial award from the Governor, acting on behalf of New York UJA.

Other speakers in the dinner included Albert Parker, president of the UJA of Greater New York and Charles C. Bassine, a trustee of the New York UJA. Samuel Hausman, Honorary Chairman of New York UJA's Board of Directors, presided. He presented a silver menorah to each of the five general chairmen of the 1967 New York UJA campaign. The recipients were Mr. Parker, Benjamin Duhl, Andrew Goodman, Morris L. Levinson and Chester H. Roth.

B'nai B'rith Appeals to Kosygin for Evidence in Babi Yar Trial

WASHINGTON, D.C., Mar. 24 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith has appealed to the Soviet Union to provide documentary evidence and Soviet witnesses for the trial now underway in Darmstadt of 11 Nazis accused of participating in the 1941 Babi Yar massacre, the order reported today.

In a letter to Premier Kosygin earlier this month, Dr. William A. Wexler, B'nai B'rith president, deplored the failure of Soviet authorities to "respond affirmatively" to West German requests for such materials and eye-witness testimony. Babi Yar, a Kiev ravine, was the scene of the mass slaughter of 100,000 Russians, mostly Jews. Dr. Wexler said it was "difficult to reconcile" the Soviet Union's silence on the Darmstadt trial with its "persistent challenges" to West Germany to punish Nazi war criminals.

Jewish Chaplains Oppose 'Selective Objection' to Vietnam Service by Rabbis

NEW YORK, Mar. 24 (JTA)--The executive committee of the Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces was disclosed today to have taken a stand of strong opposition to refusal by any rabbi to serve as a military chaplain in the Vietnam war on grounds of "selective conscientious objection." That stand was revealed by Rabbi Bertram W. Korn, a Naval Reserve chaplain and association president, in a letter to "present or future" colleagues.

Rabbi Korn said the statement was sent to association members, to presidents of the cooperating Jewish seminaries, to heads of their student groups, and to the presidents of the rabbinic organizations. These are the Reform Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the Central Conference of American Rabbis; the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Rabbinical Assembly; and Yeshiva University and the Rabbinical Council of America. Yeshiva University reported recently that it had dropped its participation in the military chaplaincy draft, as of last January, and was permitting its graduating student rabbis in the Rabbi Elchanon Rabbinical Seminary to volunteer in a one-year experiment. The Jewish Theological Seminary disclosed recently that it had established last year the category of conscientious objector in its participation in the draft program.

Rabbi Korn declared, in his letter, that the association had been informed that "at some of the seminaries and in some of the national rabbinic organizations, there are those who feel that a rabbi who is opposed to our present military involvement in Vietnam should refuse to serve as a military chaplain in the ground of 'selective conscientious objection.'" He added that the Jewish military chaplains, attending a recent meeting of the executive committee and representing all three branches of Judaism, had agreed that because many soldiers might be fighting in Vietnam for a cause which they either did not understand or opposed, the military chaplain was particularly needed.

Asserting that the chaplains at the meeting constituted a group which, "militarily, knows whereof it speaks," he reported also that they had agreed that "any clergyman who uses 'selective conscientious objection' as a reason for avoiding service as a military chaplain does not understand the essential nature of the military chaplaincy, which is that the military chaplain's task is to give spiritual solace and religious guidance to troubled human beings, not to act as a special pleader for any particular ideology or course of political action."

Rabbinical Head Urges Voluntary Military Chaplaincy For All Faiths

Rabbi Eli Bohnen, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, proposed last night that chaplains of all faiths cease to be part of the military establishment so that they can counsel servicemen according to conscience, not military rules. Delivering his presidential report to 500 delegates at the Rabbinical Assembly's 68th annual convention at Kiamesha Lake, Rabbi Bohnen also proposed that "selective conscientious objection" should be recognized as valid for exemption from the draft. The military chaplaincy issue will be debated at a special convention session tomorrow, he said.

He told his rabbinical colleagues that as part of the military, the chaplain was "unable to question the premises on which war is fought," adding "what is he to say to a pilot or bombardier who tells him he has been ordered to drop bombs in an area where he knows that women and children" will be killed. The changing nature of war, he declared, has made it imperative "that we rabbis join with our counterparts in other faiths" to re-examine the role of the clergy in relation to the military. He stressed that he did not oppose sending spiritual advisors to the men in service, asserting that fighting men must be served whether or not one believes in the war they are fighting.

Rabbinical Assembly Convention Told of Major Revision of Liturgy

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Mar. 24 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Assembly announced here today that it was nearing a comprehensive revision of the synagogue liturgy which will focus attention on the three major Jewish events of the past 2,000 years — the Hitler holocaust, the rebirth of Israel and the reunification of Jerusalem. The status of the revision was reported at the 68th annual convention of the association of Conservative rabbis by Rabbi Jules Harlow, Assembly director of publications.

Declaring that the liturgy "must also express our concern for peace in our time" and that "all these factors must be integral to the fabric of each service," Rabbi Harlow stressed that the basic elements of the liturgy would be retained in new prayerbooks for the Sabbath, the High Holy Days and the festivals. He reported that a new daily prayerbook, incorporating these elements, had already been published. He told his colleagues that "God is not dead; he has merely fallen asleep at some of our services."

Several rabbinical delegates reported experimental efforts to make synagogue services more relevant to the times, including substitution of scenes from contemporary plays for sermons, and use of musical instruments — such as the recorder and cello — in place of the organ.

Christian Committee Seeks Funds For UJA in Tucson, Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz., Mar. 24 (JTA)--A committee of leading Christians has been established in this city to obtain support for Tucson's Combined Jewish Appeal which includes the United Jewish Appeal, the Israel Emergency Fund and the regular budget of the Jewish Community Council. William R. Mathews, editor of the Arizona Daily Star, is chairman of the committee. In a letter to leading residents of the city, Mr. Mathews urged them to "join us in a demonstration of true Christian brotherhood, fellowship and charity" by contributing to the combined appeal.