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Israeli Sources See 'Slight' Softening By Egypt on Jarring Mission

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--Official circles here detected today a slight softening in the Egyptian attitude toward the mission of United Nations special envoy Dr. Gunnar Jarring which a Cairo spokesman described only yesterday as having made "zero" progress.

The change was noted, they said, after Ambassador Jarring's visit to Cairo yesterday when the Egyptians, for the first time in weeks, did not repeat their contention that his mission had failed completely. While Egyptian spokesmen reiterated their demand that Israel implement the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution -- meaning Israel's unconditional withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, they did not say again that Cairo would break off talks with Dr. Jarring and bring the Middle East question up at next week's session of the U.N. General Assembly, these circles pointed out. It was believed here today that the Soviet Union does not favor raising the matter at the General Assembly for fear of another diplomatic setback. Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, is in Moscow to clarify the Soviet stand.

It was also believed here that no country will make an overt move to end the Jarring mission as long as Dr. Jarring himself considers it unconcluded.

Two Israeli cabinet ministers meanwhile, declared today that the settlement of what they called "greater Israel" -- the occupied Arab territories -- was no less urgent or important than the colonization of the Beisan and Jordan Valleys was during the days of the Palestine Mandate.

Labor Minister Yigal Allon and Minister of Information Israel Galilee spoke at the Kibbutz Meuchad movement conference being held at Maoz Chaim, the Beisan Valley settlement that has been a frequent target of Jordanian shelling. Gen. Allon said that even if Jordan's King Hussein was in jeopardy, Israel would not be prevented from defending itself and its population, adding that "Israel will not be used as a figure in an international chess game." The Labor Minister was understood to be referring to warnings from certain friendly countries abroad that continued reprisal raids by Israel against terrorist bases in Jordan might topple Hussein's throne and bring about a much more radical regime in Amman.

Israel Silent on Jordan Complaint of Israeli Commando Raids

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA)--Official circles in Israel declined comment today on a complaint by the Jordanian Government that Israel was sending its own commando forces across the Jordan to attack Arab guerrillas on Jordanian soil. Reports from Amman claimed that Jordanian troops drove off a party of Israeli soldiers trying to cross into Jordan under cover of darkness Tuesday night. Observers here said that if such an action had taken place it would be in keeping with statements by the Chief of Staff that Israel would employ a wide range of tactics against terrorist incursions.

(The Times reported in London today that since the end of March, Jordan has been convinced that Israel would abandon partly its tactics of strong conventional strikes at terrorist bases and would attempt to infiltrate commandos of its own to hit the terrorists. Israel, the Times said, used the same tactic in the middle 1950s with its so-called 101st guerrilla battalion that raided Arab commando bases in the Gaza Strip.)

Raids against Israel from Jordanian bases continued unabated. An Israeli patrol killed three saboteurs and captured three others in a fierce gun battle yesterday afternoon near the Jordan River south of the Beisan region, a military spokesman reported today. Two of the captured saboteurs were wounded and the third surrendered. There were no Israeli casualties. Jordanian units opened fire on Israeli positions north of Jericho last night, precipitating an artillery duel that lasted for one hour. There were no casualties on the Israeli side, a spokesman said.

The battle with the saboteurs occurred when an Israeli patrol intercepted a heavily armed band of six men near the Jordan River in the vicinity of the Damiyah Bridge. The infiltrators climbed a hill and took refuge in a cave which was besieged by the Israelis. One of them soon came out with his hands up. A search of the cave yielded two dead and three wounded men, one of whom died shortly afterwards. The patrol found six Kalachnikov assault rifles, bazookas, shells and explosives in food cans.

Blaze in Kibbutz Factory, Previously Shelled by Jordan, Cripples Output

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA)--Experts investigated today a fire that destroyed the greater part of the plywood factory at Afikim in the Jordan Valley south of Lake Tiberias. The blaze, which lasted a full day, did an estimated IL 5 million (\$1.4 million) damage and paralyzed production for at least several months. The Government has promised to provide all necessary assistance to start the factory producing again. Afikim was damaged by Jordanian shells several weeks ago. Its plywood factory, the largest in Israel, produces mainly for export. It was one of the first kibbutzim to establish an export industry and, in the early 1950s began importing tropical logs from West Africa.

Israel Expropriates Jewish Area in East Jerusalem for Slum Clearance Project

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--The Israel Government has expropriated 16 acres of land in the Jewish quarter of East Jerusalem for a slum clearance project and also took over a large parcel of land in a former Jewish suburb which was occupied by the Jordanians in 1948. The expropriation orders were published in the official gazette today.

The property in East Jerusalem includes buildings erected since 1948 which house 600 Arabs. The buildings stand on the site of scores of synagogues, yeshivas and other schools which the Jordanians tore down. The Arabs who are to be dispossessed, will receive compensation when they are requested to move. They will be permitted to go to court to contest the sums offered them. Officials explained that the expropriation was necessary in order to re-plan the entire quarter, which degenerated into a slum during the past 20 years. Much of the land involved belongs to Jewish institutions. None of it, however, is Moslem religious property or belongs to foreign institutions, officials said.

The second expropriation order covers land in Kfar Ivri (Neve Yaakov) which was officially incorporated into the Jerusalem municipality last year. Jews evacuated the suburb when Jerusalem was under seige in 1948 and it was subsequently occupied by Jordan. Most of the land now being taken over by the State was occupied by an Arab Legion military camp. Some of it belongs to Jews and less than 10 percent belonged to Arabs, according to the officials.

Israel Army Will Open First World's Military Yeshiva in August

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA)--The world's first military yeshiva will open here in August under the auspices of the Israel Army Chaplain, it was announced today. It will serve as a dormitory for religious students who will have to wear Army uniforms. To be eligible for admission, applicants will have to have had two years of study at a civilian yeshiva and to have completed military training and officers' candidates courses. A civilian branch of the yeshiva will be opened for students from abroad.

Technion Students Build and Fire Small Solid-Fuel Missile

HAIFA, April 18 (JTA)--A three foot long "mini-missile" constructed by third-year students at the Haifa Technion, was successfully fired today and soared to an altitude of almost four miles. The missile, which took 60 students working in their spare time a year to build, was powered by solid fuel. It was six inches in diameter, had a range of 1600 feet and a speed of 1600 feet per second. The missile came down in the sea.

Fulbright Denies Goldmann Asked Him to Intervene With Israeli Government

GENEVA, April 18 (JTA)--Sen. J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, denied in a letter to Dr. Nahum Goldmann that the President of the World Zionist Organization had ever asked him to put pressure on the Israel Government to change its policy. In the letter, which Dr. Goldmann made public here, Sen. Fulbright said that "if any of the reports from Cleveland suggest that you made such a request, they are clearly in error."

The senator expressed regrets that he had made reference to a private conversation in his Cleveland talk, noting that "it was simply an inadvertent slip by me to make reference to our visit, which was private, and in no way did you ask me to bring pressure on any government."

Polish Press Assails American Jewish Groups on Warsaw Ghetto Plans

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA)--Jewish organizations in this country, specifically the American Jewish Committee, came under attack in the state-controlled Polish press today for allegedly planning to slander Poland in the course of observing the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. A dispatch from New York by Stanislaw Glabinski of the official Polish Press Agency (PAP) claimed that "the political significance of these ceremonies is being revealed by the bulletin issued by the American Jewish Committee which does not pull any punches when it comes to the slandering of Poland." The dispatch was widely published in Polish newspapers, it was reported here.

The American Jewish Committee, in a statement issued here by Bertram H. Gold, executive director, declared that the AJC "has never pulled punches in the defense of the human rights of Jews and of all people, nor does it pull punches in applauding those governments that have extended human rights." Mr. Gold said that the organization, until recently, had held Poland up as an example of how a Jewish minority can develop a communal life in a Communist country. Now, however, "day after day we read the cynical accounts of how 25,000 Jews, the pitiful remnant of nearly 3-1/2 million Jews destroyed or dispersed as a result of the Nazi holocaust, apparently are being blamed for the rising wave of protests against the rigid totalitarianism of the ruling United Workers Party," he said. "It is particularly ironic," the statement continued, "that these events should be taking place during the international year for human rights and during the time of the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We are not engaging in what the Polish report calls 'slander' since we clearly enjoy the defense of truth. Recent attempts by Polish anti-Semites to downgrade the heroism of the thousands of valiant Jews who died in the Warsaw Ghetto, resisting deportation are obscene and clumsy attempts to re-write history... This latest outburst on the part of the Polish Government, through its press agency, should double our efforts to make the clear truth of the Warsaw Ghetto known in the anniversary observances."

The Polish Press Agency dispatch charged that the anniversary ceremonies to be held in New York on April 22 had been planned in advance to adopt "resolutions directed against People's Poland." It also charged that a New York TV documentary on the ghetto uprising had been deliberately altered so that

"all fragments showing the assistance of Poles (to the Jews) have been removed from it and a new commentary, unfriendly toward Poles, has been written." The dispatch claimed further that Polish press reports of an alleged anti-Polish campaign being conducted by "Zionist circles" was being used by "American Zionists as proof of anti-Semitism in Poland."

World Jewish Congress Issues Booklet on Jewish Resistance in Warsaw Ghetto

LONDON, April 18 (JTA)--An illustrated booklet describing Jewish resistance to the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto was published here today by the World Jewish Congress to mark the 25th anniversary of the ghetto uprising. The booklet was edited by Jack Winocour. It contains articles by WJC president, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, and by two survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto, Jonas Turkow, a Yiddish actor, and Haim Frimimer. There are photographs of the ghetto in the final stages of the revolt.

New York Witnesses Identify Suspect as Wartime Killer of Jews in Grodno

COLOGNE, April 18 (JTA)--Two New Yorkers, testifying at the Grodno war crimes trial here today identified the defendant, Kurt Weiser, as the man who cold-bloodedly murdered Jews in that city on Jan. 18, 1943, and on other occasions. Their testimony brought to five the number of eye-witness accusations against Weiser by Grodno survivors now living in the United States. He was identified on Monday by three Chicago residents.

But the New Yorkers who testified today differed with each other on details. According to Sylvia Kersch, who lived in the Grodno ghetto from the beginning of 1941 to March, 1943, Jews selected for deportation to Auschwitz were temporarily herded into the synagogue. Weiser started shooting into the crowd which was so densely packed that the victims could not fall, she said. Asked by the judge if she was certain it was Weiser, she replied, "I saw him shooting."

The other witness, Boris Sulkies, 51, recalled the scene but said that Weiser only entered the synagogue and shot out the lights. He testified, however, that on another occasion he had seen the defendant, wearing white gloves, kill two men and hang a Jewish girl, Lena Bresska. The girl, according to Sulkies, spat in Weiser's face and shouted, "some day you'll pay dearly for this." One of the two men was hanged for not informing on an attempt by the girl to escape, Sulkies testified.

Soviet Jews Enjoy 'Negative Freedom' of Expression, Observer Reports

LONDON, April 18 (JTA)--Jews in the Soviet Union enjoy freedom of expression of a negative sort, according to a report here by a Jewish community leader from a Western country who has just returned from a private visit to the USSR. The informant, a trained and diligent observer, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that despite ceaseless attacks on Israel and Zionism and other pressures, the Jewish individual has as much freedom of expression as any other Soviet citizen. He exercises that freedom by refusing to attack Israel privately or publicly. Jews say they see no reason why they should suddenly begin to hate Israel and love the Arabs merely because of what they call "international politics," the traveller said.

The young Soviet Jew, the visitor declared, is the "new Soviet man," like the rest of his generation but with Jewish ancestors. "He considers himself fully entitled to have his own views about art, literature and politics, including Middle East politics."

British Liberal and Reform Rabbis Merge Movements, Create Joint Council

LONDON, April 18 (JTA)--The Liberal and Reform rabbis of Britain have combined their movements which will hereafter be known as the Progressives, it was announced here today. The rabbis have established a joint council under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Van Der Zyl, senior minister of the West London Reform Synagogue, who will also serve as its official spokesman. Rabbi John D. Rayner, of the St. Johns Wood Liberal Synagogue, has been elected Vice Chairman.

The move was seen here as an assertion that there are different points of view on Judaism as well as on Jewish affairs among British Jews, but not as a revolt against the status of Immanuel Jakobovits, Orthodox Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth who is regarded as the religious spokesman for Anglo-Jewry. It was pointed out, however, that there has been little cooperation between the Orthodox and the Progressive Jews.

To Establish Dutch Jewish Cultural and Historical Center in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, April 18 (JTA)--Plans for early establishment of a Dutch-Jewish cultural and historical center to conduct studies on the history and culture of Holland and its Jewish community, were announced here today. The center will have a branch in Israel. Dr. J. Z. Baruch, president of the Amsterdam Sephardic community, will serve as chairman of the new center. This city's Jewish Burgomaster, Dr. Ivo Samkalden, is one of the founders. Two Israelis of Dutch origin, Dr. R. J. Z. Werblowsky and Prof. S. Gitter have set up a committee in Israel.

BBC To Televisé Interview With Ben-Gurion on Israel's 20th Year

LONDON, April 18 (JTA)--An interview with former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and his late wife, Paula, will be televised by the British Broadcasting Co. on May 1 to mark the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence, it was announced here today. The filmed interview was conducted by the British writer, Malcolm Muggeridge. It was Mrs. Ben-Gurion's last interview before her death.

Three More Suits Filed Against Metropolitan Life in Sabbath Bias Charges

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA)--The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs announced today it was filing three new lawsuits against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company over the company's alleged continuing refusal to hire Sabbath observing Jews for positions other than as insurance salesmen.

Dr. Marvin Schick, president of the organization, said the new lawsuits were being filed because, after two years of negotiation and legal action, it had become "crystal clear" that the insurance firm, one of the largest in the country, had no intention of reversing its company-wide policy of rejecting job applications from Sabbath observers. The action will bring to five the number of lawsuits filed by COLPA against Metropolitan.

Two years ago, the organization brought suit before the New York State Commission on Human Rights in behalf of Bernard Rubin of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was denied a position by the company as a computer programmer. The commission initially rejected the suit on grounds that the employer was not obligated to accommodate Sabbath observers. COLPA took the case to the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan which, last July, remanded the case back to the commission for reconsideration in the light of new federal guidelines which provide that an employer may not bar a prospective employee for such reasons unless it can show that doing so would cause the employer undue hardship.

The second COLPA suit against the insurance company involved Sheila Sachs, of the Bronx, who was hired and promptly fired as a secretary by Metropolitan, Dr. Schick said. The Sachs case has been heard by the state commission and presumably will be decided on the basis of the commission's ruling on the Rubin case, Dr. Schick said. He added he had been informed there would be a ruling in the Rubin case in four to six weeks.

In the three new cases, Dr. Schick said, the organization has decided to seek to by-pass the state commission with an appeal to the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to intervene directly, rather than to use its customary procedure of referring cases back to the appropriate state commission. Dr. Schick said there was a precedent for such action by the Federal agency. He said COLPA filed such a direct appeal to the Federal agency two days ago for Miss Sheila Stein of Brooklyn, a senior at Brandeis University. He said she was interviewed on campus by the insurance company and told explicitly that it was company policy not to hire Sabbath observers for office jobs.

The other two cases, which will be filed after Passover, involve two girls, both high school seniors, who applied for permanent jobs, to start after graduation this June, and were told by Metropolitan that it did not hire Sabbath observers, Dr. Schick declared. He said that while the Federal agency may refer the case back to the New York commission technically, it could begin immediate hearings on the three cases. When cause is found of violation of the Federal guidelines, the Federal agency seeks to conciliate the disputes. In the event conciliation fails, Dr. Schick said, court action may be taken to compel the offending firm to hire the job applicants.

Boston Federation Gives Negro Community Buildings Worth \$1,125,000

BOSTON, April 18 (JTA)--The Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston announced today it had purchased two buildings valued at \$1,125,000 and contributed the structures as a gift of the Jewish community to the Boston Negro community for cultural and educational use. The buildings, formerly the property of Temple Mishkan Tefila, are located in what is now a predominantly Negro neighborhood.

Bernard D. Grossman, CJP president, emphasized that the funds to buy the buildings were obtained from private sources and that no funds from the current CJP fund-raising campaign were used. One of the buildings is a former synagogue with a 1,500-seat sanctuary, a chapel and a social hall. The other, a school building now occupied by the New England Hebrew Academy, has 20 classrooms, an auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria. Miss Elma Lewis, one of the Negro community leaders with whom the project was discussed, accepted the gift for the Negro community. Transfer of the buildings will become effective July 1.

Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, CJP executive director, said he believed the gift was the first such action by any community. It was arranged after discussions with Negro leaders in which the Jewish Community Council took part.

A number of Negro community organizations are cooperating with cultural groups in plans for a black Art Museum and Drama Center to be housed in the buildings. The complex also will house temporarily Boston's first integrated metropolitan academic school. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, which will have a major role in creating the black Art Museum, hailed the CJP gift.

Goldberg Reported Planning Early Resignation as Ambassador to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 18 (JTA)--Informed sources said here today that the resignation of Arthur J. Goldberg as United States Ambassador to the United Nations was "imminent." They also reported that he may be replaced by another Jewish leader, Sol M. Linowitz, who is at present Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

It was also reported that President Johnson may soon announce the resignation of Mr. Goldberg and the appointment of his successor. It was indicated that Mr. Linowitz was not the only candidate under consideration for the U.N. post.