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Memorial Day Observances Precede Israel's Celebration of Independence

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Israel today observed Memorial Day, an occasion of national mourning for the nation's war dead. The observance was officially opened when President Zalman Shazar kindled a memorial candle in his home last night. Today he lit a memorial flame in Bar Kochba Square in Jerusalem in the presence of an honor guard of veterans of Haganah, the Irgun and the Sternists, the para-military organizations of pre-statehood days.

But Israel had, in effect, been observing memorial day throughout the entire week preceding tomorrow's festive Independence Day celebrations. Moments of silence and prayer were observed in the principal cities several days ago as well as today. The memorials embraced not only Israel's fallen soldiers but the six million Jews who perished under the Nazis in Europe during World War II and, particularly the Warsaw Ghetto fighters whose uprising against German military might 25 years ago was the first instance of organized Jewish resistance to the campaign of extermination.

Today, as in memorial observances earlier this week, movie houses, cafes and restaurants were closed. Street lights were dimmed last night and the streets partially deserted. Thousands of Israelis attended public memorial meetings here, in Jerusalem, Haifa, Petach Tikvah, Ramat Gan and in scores of other towns and settlements. Today, primary and secondary school students were assembled in auditoriums for remembrance services. When they ended, each youngster was given a memorial candle to take home. Mayor Namir, of Tel Aviv, kindled a memorial torch outside the Great Synagogue. A special Air Force memorial service was held in the hills outside of Jerusalem, near the spot where the first Israeli pilot lost his life in a crash during the 1948 war for independence. Other services were conducted at military cemeteries, attended by military leaders and cabinet ministers.

Sirens At Sundown Herald Advent of Israel's Independence Day Celebrations

Israel's 20th Independence Day was ushered in this evening by the prolonged wail of sirens and the switching on of thousands of colored lights in cities, towns and settlements which, up to that moment, had been observing a national day of mourning in honor of Israel's war dead. With the sound of the sirens, flags that had flown at half mast were raised. Automobile horns sounded and tens of thousands of persons broke into spontaneous cheering. There was literally dancing in the streets, halting traffic in some of the main thoroughfares of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other cities. Obviously, this Independence Day, occurring almost a year after Israel's greatest military victory yet, at a time of grave tension and anxiety for the future, has aroused greater emotions than any previous "Yom Haatzmaut."

Official ceremonies opening Independence Day were held on Mt. Herzl this evening. Speaker of the Knesset (Parliament) Kaddish Luz presided. Impromptu outdoor festivities were held all over town, encouraged by mild weather. Scores of people brought folding chairs into the streets, many of them apparently with the intent of camping out during the night to be assured of a good spot to view tomorrow's Independence Day parade.

The foreign diplomatic corps assembled in full strength at President Zalman Shazar's home tonight to convey their good wishes on the occasion of Israel's 20th anniversary celebrations. Present were many diplomats whose countries do not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, among them Ambassador Walworth Barbour of the United States and Ambassador Reginald M. Hadow of Great Britain. An official statement of congratulations was read by Mrs. Francesca Fernandez Hall, of Guatemala, acting dean of the diplomatic corps. President Shazar responded with a statement of thanks.

Thousands of Israelis from all parts of the country and tourists from abroad continued to pour into Jerusalem for the Independence Day parade tomorrow which will be viewed by an anticipated half million people. Although today was a day of mourning for Israel's war dead, tomorrow will be a festive occasion and the city looks the part. Decorative lanterns of silver and gold have been strung along the streets. Giant murals depicting scenes from Israel's history are already hanging from the walls of buildings in the main squares. Many streets in the city have been closed to traffic. The principal highways leading to and from Jerusalem will become one-way tomorrow in order to speed traffic. In the morning, they will carry vehicles entering the city only. In late afternoon, when the festivities are over, the direction will be reversed for the outward rush.

(The London Daily Telegraph reported from Jerusalem today that there was considerable nervousness and, in some cases, panic among Arabs and Jews in the Old City over possible terrorist strikes at the parade tomorrow. The Washington Evening Star reported from Beirut that a "warlike mood" had developed in the Arab states and that "it is fairly clear that the rumble of tanks in Jerusalem will shatter whatever remained of the fragile hopes for a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arabs.")

Rockefeller Proclamation Hails Israel As 'One of Our Most Cherished Allies'

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York proclaimed the period of April 29-May 4 as "Israel Independence Week" in this state. "We look upon the State of Israel as one of our most cherished allies," the Governor declared in his proclamation. "We heartily join our Jewish fellow citizens in the most fervent prayers for just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We join them too in the warmest admiration for what the Israelis have accomplished by the building of a modern, enlightened state in only two decades." The Governor will read the proclamation tomorrow at ceremonies in his New York City office to an assemblage including Consul General Michael Arnon of Israel.

A proclamation designating May 5 as "Salute to Israel Day" was issued by Mayor Sam Yorty, of Los Angeles. He and California's Governor Ronald Reagan will personally deliver greetings to Israel on that day at the Jewish Federation-Council's city-wide "Salute to Israel."

In Washington, it was announced that Rabbi Saul I. Wisemon, Librarian at Philadelphia's Dropsie College, will deliver the invocation before the U.S. House of Representatives when it marks Israel's anniversary tomorrow.

U.S. Senate Luncheon To Mark Anniversary and Honor Gen. Rabin

About one-third of the members of the Senate will participate tomorrow in a luncheon at the Capitol Building, honoring Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence. The co-hosts are Sen. Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania Democrat, and Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican.

Sen. Clark said the event will be especially significant because of the new ambassador's role as commander-in-chief of the Israeli armed forces during the Six-Day War. He lauded Israel as "more than ever before an oasis of democracy in the Middle East and a nation that deserves every kind of support — economic, political, and military — that the United States can possibly extend."

Javits Says U.S. Should Deliver Supersonic Aircraft To Israel

Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, urged here tonight that the United States guarantee future deliveries to Israel of sophisticated supersonic aircraft so that she can keep pace with the continuing rearmament of the Arab states by the Soviet Union. Senator Javits also called for increased efforts to bring an end to the Middle East arms race. The glimmerings of a Vietnam peace breakthrough and U.S.-Soviet agreement to the atomic non-proliferation draft treaty may indicate the possibility of progress in that direction, he said.

Senator Javits was the principal speaker at an Israel Independence Day celebration at Philharmonic Hall, Lincoln Center, sponsored by the American Zionist Council. Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, was guest of honor. Messages of greeting were received from Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, of New York.

Addressing a dinner in San Francisco of the Northern Pacific region of the Zionist Organization of America held in his honor, observing Israel's 20th anniversary, Dr. Emanuel Neumann said that "we must prepare our people and steel ourselves to face whatever trials or struggles that may still lie ahead." He said that every Zionist family should send one of its members on aliyah to Israel.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, announced that more than 600 meetings of various kinds, from breakfast and parlor meetings to mass rallies will be held under Bond Organization auspices during the month of May to celebrate Israel's 20th anniversary.

Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in a special anniversary message, appealed to the great powers of the world to "see to it that direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs begin." He said that "until then, we assure Israel of our full support in standing fast against all those who want it to give up the fruits of its victory without a permanent peace settlement."

Australian Premier Pledges Support of Middle East Peace Efforts

SYDNEY, May 1 (JTA)--Prime Minister John Gorton, of Australia, said here last night that the path to peace in the Middle East would be made much easier by face-to-face negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors and pledged that his Government will pursue a Middle East settlement that accepts the right of all states to live in peace with each other. Mr. Gorton received a standing ovation from 2,500 persons attending an Israel Independence Day rally at Town Hall here, sponsored by the New South Wales Zionist Council. It was the Prime Minister's first appearance before a Jewish audience since his election.

British Jews Mark Israel's Anniversary at Special Religious Services

LONDON, May 1 (JTA)--All branches of British Jewry's religious community participated in special services at Marble Arch Synagogue here last night marking the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence. The event was sponsored by the United Synagogue, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, the Federation of Synagogues, the Zionist Federation and the Mizrahi Federation. Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of the British Commonwealth participated in the services along with the Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic community and other religious leaders. (Denmark's small Jewish community celebrated Israel's 20th anniversary here today with services at Copenhagen's main synagogue and at a gala concert in the famed Tivoli Gardens which was addressed by the Danish Minister of Justice. The event was sponsored by the Danish-Israel Society. Special celebrations were also held in Jewish schools.)

Three Shooting Incidents Reported Along Jordanian Border

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA)--Jordanians fired on Israeli forces along the demarcation line in three separate incidents today but no casualties were sustained, a military spokesman reported today. An Israel Army jeep was fired on as it moved along the Arava road near Beer Orah in the Negev. The fire was not returned and the occupants escaped unhurt. Several hours later, Jordanians again fired on Israelis in the same region. This time the fire was returned in an exchange that lasted almost an hour. In the evening, Jordanians opened fire from the Umm Shurt region, north of Jericho, precipitating a 15 minute exchange with Israeli units.

Israel Affirms Categorical Acceptance of Security Council Peace Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 1 (JTA)--Israel made a categorical declaration to the Security Council today that it accepted the Council's Nov. 22 resolution "for the promotion of agreement on the establishment of a just and durable peace." The declaration was made by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, replying to a challenge from the Jordanian envoy, Muhammed El-Farra, to put Israel on the record. Mr. Tekoah told the Council that "I am also authorized to reaffirm that we are willing to seek agreement with each Arab state in all matters included in that resolution."

The Arab and Soviet envoys have repeatedly taxed Israel with failure to state positively that it accepted the Nov. 22 resolution but in Jerusalem today, Gideon Rafael, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry and former head of the Israeli delegation at the UN, said categorically he had made such a declaration to the Security Council and that Israeli acceptance of their resolution had been affirmed by Prime Minister Eshkol on Dec. 1 and in "various clarifications" to Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN special envoy in the Middle East.

Mr. Tekoah pointed out to the Council that "more recently, we have accepted the proposal of Ambassador Jarring to bring about a meeting between Israel and each of its neighbors under his auspices in fulfillment of his mandate for the purpose of reaching a peaceful and accepted settlement. No Arab state has yet accepted this proposal."

Mr. Tekoah clashed sharply again today with Soviet Ambassador Yacob A. Malik who accused Israel of taking a "cynical" position which failed to accept U.N. resolutions. The Soviet envoy did not follow the Jordanian's proposal that military intervention be taken against Israel by the U.N. but did state that the Soviet Union would approve "any measures" to curb what he called "Israel's aggression." Mr. Tekoah told the Council that Israel would listen to the Soviet Union's statement more carefully if it were based on "equality of treatment and fairness." He noted that there was a time in the United Nations when the Soviet Union opposed Arab hostilities and declared "the Soviet Union's subsequent change of policy does not affect the truth of the situation."

United States Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg pleaded with the Council to halt all "investive" and push ahead instead toward full support of the efforts being made in the Middle East by Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the special U.N. peace envoy. He told the Council that now "cooperation with Ambassador Jarring must be the principal objective. The need of the hour is for conciliation, magnanimity and a just settlement among all the states in the region as well as the status of Jerusalem."

Mr. Tekoah replied to the Jordanian representative, Muhammed H. El-Farra who once again called upon the Security Council to take effective actions against Israel's planned military parade in Jerusalem, scheduled for tomorrow. He had demanded that unless Israel halt that event, which he called "expansionist" in its aims, the Security Council should take all measures possible including invocation of the sanctions article in the Charter which would permit United Nations military intervention against Israel. In answer, Ambassador Tekoah read into the record the letter sent to Secretary General U Thant yesterday by Foreign Minister Eban, explaining that the parade, to be held entirely inside the cease-fire lines, would not alter the status of Jerusalem. The Council will resume debate tomorrow morning.

Pincus Calls on U.S. Zionists To Create Strong, Unified Movement

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Declaring that the creation of a strong, unified Zionist movement in the United States was one of the imperatives of the reorganization of the World Zionist movement that will be considered at the 27th World Zionist Congress this June, Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said that the American Zionist Council must be strengthened as a functioning agency so that it can more effectively conduct a program for aliyah and education in the United States.

Mr. Pincus spoke before several hundred delegates representing 13 national Zionist groups from all over the country at an annual leadership conference of the American Zionist Council. He emphasized the urgency of developing a coordinated program for American aliyah that will translate the existing deep sympathy for Israel into the reality of the manpower that it so sorely needs.

"The need for an effective, operational unified Zionist organization in the United States," Mr. Pincus said, "transcends the individual organizational programs and aspirations of the various groupings within the Zionist movement. Unless this is accomplished," he warned, "American Zionists will not meet their responsibilities."

Rabbi Miller told the delegates that if Zionism was to be "a source of strength" in the American community, the American Zionist Council "must be transformed" into an integrated agency. He added that the Zionist movement could not afford "the luxury of being a speech-making or speech-listening body, or even an agency which acts only through its constituent groups."

Polish Jews Better Off Than Poles in America, Gomulka Asserts in May Day Speech

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Polish Communist Party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka claimed in a May Day speech in Warsaw that Jews in Poland are better off than Poles are in the United States. Gomulka charged that the U.S. discriminates against Polish Americans but Jews in Poland are free from any bias. Gomulka made his remarks at a celebration attended by U.S. Ambassador John Gronouski who stood among the diplomats of various nations. Mr. Gronouski, who is of Polish descent, did not walk out when the U.S. was attacked.

Denunciation of the Polish regime's anti-Semitic policies was voiced in all parts of the world as ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising continued. From Paris, JTA reported that Gen. Pierre Koenig, French hero and former Minister of Defense, urged the press to give the public full information on the situation of the Jews in Eastern Europe. He condemned the renewal of anti-Semitism in Poland. In Teheran, where an international human rights assembly is in session, two leading Iranian newspapers deplored the existence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and Poland "in this day and age." In Rome, some 150 members of an extreme left-wing youth group demonstrated in front of the Polish Embassy with placards reading, "true Socialists are not anti-Semites," and similar expressions. In Bucharest, an anniversary gathering in the Great Synagogue heard Chief Rabbi Moshe Rosen extol the heroes of the Ghetto fighting. He made no reference to the present situation in Poland. In Washington, Senator Charles H. Percy, Illinois Republican, denounced anti-Semitism in Poland and called on his Senate colleagues to "encourage world opinion to protest against such practices."

British MPs Move Resolution Expressing Concern Over German Neo-Nazism

LONDON, May 1 (JTA)--Twenty members of Parliament introduced a motion today expressing anxiety over the rise of neo-Nazism in West Germany. The motion, which has Sir Barnett Janner as one of its sponsors, was prompted by the success of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party in the Baden-Wurtemberg state elections last Sunday.

(In Antwerp, an international congress of former inmates of the Mauthausen concentration camp adopted a resolution warning against the revival of Nazism in Germany and other countries.)

(In Bonn today, Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger warned during a Bundestag debate that votes for the ultra-rightist National Democratic Party could harm the country. But, he said, the "global conviction" that the NPD's electoral successes implied a revival of Nazism in West Germany was "not true" and a "terrible over-simplification." He appealed to world opinion to have faith in German democracy.)

British Conservatives Seek To Amend Anti-Bias Bill To Cover Race, Religion

LONDON, May 1 (JTA)--An amendment to Britain's race relations bill that would broaden its scope by banning discrimination on grounds of religion, race and sex as well as color, was introduced in Parliament today by Quinton Hogg, Opposition spokesman on home affairs. The amendment, one of several designed to broaden and strengthen the measure, would afford protection to Jews and other racial minorities. British Jewry, on the whole, has supported the bill on principle even though in its present form it is limited to discrimination on grounds of color.

Canadian Jewish Congress Urges Hockey League To Probe Anti-Semitic Incident

TORONTO, May 1 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress urged the National Hockey League today to re-open its investigation of an anti-Semitic incident that occurred during a game here last March and to make punishable under its rules the use of epithets "which degrade and humiliate the individuality and dignity of all of us."

The incident involved anti-Semitic taunts and references to Hitler's gas chambers voiced by team members of the Boston Bruins against Larry Zeidel, of the Philadelphia Flyers, the only Jewish player in the Hockey League, in the heat of the game. The continued taunting resulted in a brawl between Zeidel and Eddie Shack, of the Boston Bruins, for which both were penalized. Zeidel received a four-game suspension and Shack was suspended from three games. The request to re-open the case and to take steps to punish similar incidents in future games was contained in a letter to Clarence Campbell, president of the National Hockey League, from Louis Herman, national chairman of the Joint Community Relations Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith.

"The statement issued by the Philadelphia team indicates that it would prefer to consider the penalties imposed on Zeidel and Shack as the end of the matter," Mr. Herman wrote. "However, as we have stated in our letter of March 14, 1968, our concern is not really with the exchange of stick swinging on the ice but rather the language allegedly used by the Boston players. Our deep concern is that professional athletes who are regarded as public heroes and are adulated by youngsters should not be permitted to set a style of behavior which is reprehensible. We cannot regard it as a matter of course, nor should any civilized human being, that people should indulge in the use of derogatory and obscene epithets in respect to race, religion or national origin. We especially refuse to believe that taunts referring to 'gas chambers' — the connotation being plainly the mass annihilation of Jews and others by Hitler — can be indulged in without the most severe censure and punishment. Such comments contradict everything that sportsmanship is purported to represent."