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Polish Diplomat Blames JTA For Worldwide Concern Over Polish Jews

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA)--An official spokesman of the Polish Government, Andrzej Konopacki, charged today at an Embassy press conference that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was "the main agency of slander" and complained that JTA had created worldwide concern over the fate of Polish Jewry. Konopacki is listed by the State Department as First Secretary of the Embassy in charge of all propaganda activities in the United States. He met with reporters following picketing of the Embassy by Jewish leaders including presidents of national organizations. The presidents, led by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major National Jewish Organizations, had called on Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach this morning to ask U.S. Government intercession to aid Jewish victims of Polish anti-Semitism.

The Polish diplomat denounced the JTA and the agency's Washington correspondent Milton Friedman, for waging an allegedly "slandorous campaign" that created a "false impression" that a Jewish problem exists in Poland. He said the JTA was a "subservient mass media" and that the Government of Poland had carefully followed JTA dispatches. Konopacki became so emotional in raging against JTA's alleged "confusion of public opinion" that he lost control of himself and broke off the conference. He sought to evade the focus of photographers who tried to photograph him as his arms flailed about.

Earlier in the press conference, Konopacki attacked the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington for presenting a "slandorous" statement to another Embassy official, First Secretary Jan Kinast. He said that Kinast had three times interrupted the reading of the statement by a Jewish community official because its language was "inappropriate" and charges "false." The Polish diplomat forced the Jews to listen to quotations from Communist Party boss Wladyslaw Gomulka and Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Konopacki said in describing the confrontation between Kinast and the Jewish community delegation led by Dr. Isaac Franck. The presidents of major Jewish groups picketed outside but did not accompany the Washington leaders who met with Kinast in the Embassy.

Embassy Official Denounces Jewish Delegation For 'Slandorous' Statement

Konopacki said he was unaware of any protest by the U.S. Government or representation on behalf of Jews. (State Department sources said that the U.S. Government deemed it inappropriate to intrude into the "internal affairs" of Poland. The sources said that the U.S. would reject any intercession by a foreign government, for instance, on the Negro problem here.)

The Polish Embassy did not permit the Jewish delegation to finish reading a statement voicing moral concern over "the Polish Government's virulent anti-Semitic campaign." It was learned that the delegation was curtly received and virtually dismissed. Kinast refused to answer questions raised by the delegation on the status of Jews. More than 100 pickets marched in the rain. Among them were Protestant, Catholic, Negro and Jewish clergymen and leaders.

Katzenbach told the group representing major national organizations, led by Rabbi Schacter, that the Department of State was keeping developments affecting Polish Jewry under constant vigilance. John Gronouski, U.S. Ambassador to Poland, was scheduled to participate but did not appear because of his resignation last night. A decision was made by the Department to remain in touch with the Jewish conference. The purpose of the visit to the Department was to voice concern over the anti-Semitic campaign in Eastern Europe, especially Poland. Accompanying Rabbi Schacter were Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the President's Conference; Rabbi Jacob Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council of America; Rabbi Israel Miller, American Zionist Council; Rabbi Pesach Levovitz, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Henry Rapaport, president of the United Synagogue of America, national commander Samuel Samuels of the Jewish War Veterans, and representatives of all other constituent bodies.

(The Bureau of the Socialist International adopted a resolution calling on the Polish authorities to end their "anti-Jewish policy and the persecution of those fighting for freedom of self-expression." The resolution expressed concern over the "dismissal of officials on racial grounds and as punishment for deeds attributed to their children." In Brussels, three organizations, one representing concentration camp survivors, one veterans of the Belgian underground and one a youth group, petitioned Polish Communist Party boss Wladyslaw Gomulka to permit Polish Jews to leave the country, and protested the Warsaw regime's espousal of "Arab fascism." In New York, seven local Jewish pro-Communist fraternal and cultural groups sent letters to the Polish ambassadors in Washington and at the United Nations decrying the Warsaw regime's anti-Jewish campaign as "the age-old maneuver to make the small remnant of Polish Jews the scapegoat in the present difficult situation.")

Students Around World Hit Soviet Anti-Semitism; Non-Jews, Leftists Among Them

LONDON, May 23 (JTA)--Demonstrations demanding an end to the repression of Soviet Jewry took place in front of Soviet embassies and legations in more than 30 countries, from Finland to Costa Rica yesterday as thousands of students observed International Solidarity With Soviet Jews Day, organized by the World Union of Jewish Students. The extent of the demonstrations, which were joined by non-Jews as well as Jewish students, was reported today by Michael Hunter, world chairman of the Union. He said that the student bodies of 45 universities and colleges in England participated. Over 400

telegrams were addressed to the Soviet Embassy, to UN Secretary-General U Thant and to the Communist Party of Great Britain. Although the demonstrations were directed against the USSR, they were joined by left-wing societies and even some Communist student groups, Mr. Hunter said.

The reaction of Soviet officials varied. In London the Soviet press attache made an unprecedented television appearance in debate with one of the co-chairmen of the Inter-University Committee on Soviet Jewry, a sponsoring organization. He claimed that there is no discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union. But in Lausanne, Switzerland, Soviet officials stormed out of their legation to tear up placards carried by demonstrators declaring solidarity with Russian Jews. In Brussels, members of the rightist anti-Semitic group, "Occident," threw a gasoline bomb at the building where a press conference was being held by the Belgian Commission for Human Rights and the Anti-Nazi Organization.

Jewish students demonstrated in front of the Soviet Embassy in the West German capital of Bonn yesterday. A delegation of five was admitted for a talk with the press attache, Alexander Bogomolow, who claimed that there was no discrimination in Russia against Jews as a nationality. The demonstration lasted several hours and was joined by about 100 students while crowds looked on from the sidelines. Participants were members of the Association of Jewish Students in Germany. Their placards demanded freedom for Soviet Jews and read, "Socialism yes, Racism, no."

The purpose of the demonstrations, according to Mr. Hunter, was to "shatter the wall of silence surrounding the problem of Soviet Jewry." He said the World Union of Jewish Students was moving its headquarters from Paris to London in protest against the French Government's unfriendly attitude toward Israel.

Rabbi Levin of Moscow and Delegation To Arrive Here on June 10th

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA)--Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow is expected to arrive in New York on June 10 in response to an invitation from the American Council for Judaism, it was learned today. He will address a special meeting of the anti-Zionist organization on June 13 in New York. A Council spokesman said today that the meeting would be the only one under its auspices at which the Moscow rabbi will speak. He said the Council had no information on other plans for Rabbi Levin and the three members of a Jewish religious delegation who will accompany him here.

U.S. Makes Representations To Israel on Occupation of Tiran Island

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA)--The United States Government informed Israel today that it was "concerned" over Israeli military occupation of Tiran Island at the entrance of the Straits of Tiran. Robert McCloskey, spokesman for the State Department, announced that "we have noted with concern Israeli press reports that Israeli forces had occupied the Island of Tiran." He disclosed that formal representations had been made to the Israeli Government. The Department described the island as Saudi Arabian territory. Egypt's closing of the Strait of Tiran last May was an immediate cause of the Six-Day War. The strait is the exit from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Red Sea.

Last Sunday, the Israel Foreign Ministry confirmed a report that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv had asked Israel to withdraw its forces on the island. The request had been made some months earlier and rejected by Jerusalem. According to the Tel Aviv daily, Maariv, the U.S. Embassy notified Israel that Arabia was seeking the return of Tiran which it had "loaned" to President Nasser of Egypt so that Egypt could blockade the Israeli port of Eilat. Maariv reported that the Embassy received word of the Arabian demand from the U.S. Embassy in Riad. Israel reportedly told the U.S. that Tiran, captured from Egypt last June, was vital to Israel's security.

Eshkol Insists Lasting Peace Is Achievable Only By Direct Negotiations

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA)--Premier Levi Eshkol rejected today any Middle East settlement through guarantees by the United Nations or from foreign countries or any other "nebulous arrangements" and insisted that there was no substitute for an open peace treaty achieved by direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

The Premier spoke at a Labor Party secretariat meeting and said his words were meant for the world at large, including small and large powers, individuals and movements. He called for a peace treaty "stable and unambiguous, achieved by direct talks" to bring real peace "and real acceptance by our neighbors" with secure borders. Until such a peace was achieved, he added, Israel would carry the burden of ensuring peace and security "as we do today."

He reported that since the June war last year, the Strait of Tiran had been open to all ships and that in recent days, almost a ship per day had passed through the Strait to the port of Akaba "at a time when Jordan harassed us not a little and gave bases for El Fatah men even in the Gulf of Akaba area."

U Thant Seen As Seeking To Facilitate Ambassador Jarring's Peace Search

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 23 (JTA)--A series of diplomatic talks here today gave rise to belief that Secretary-General U Thant was acting to facilitate the peace exploration mission of Gunnar V. Jarring, his special envoy in the Middle East. Dr. Jarring shifted his headquarters here from Cyprus early this month.

Mr. Thant conferred today with Corneliu Manescu, president of the General Assembly, which may yet take up the Middle East question before its adjournment. Later he met with Ambassador Yosef Tekoah of Israel, with Dr. Jarring and with the envoys of Lebanon and Iraq. Mr. Manescu, after his meeting with Mr. Thant, talked with the delegates of India, Egypt, the Soviet Union, Lebanon and Iraq. The conference with the Soviet delegation was attended by V.V. Kusnetsov, the USSR's First Deputy Foreign Minister.

Foreign Ministry Confirms Israeli Acceptance of Nov. 22 Resolution

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry yesterday reaffirmed Israel's acceptance of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Middle East. A Ministry spokesman said that the May 1 statement on the resolution by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief of the Israel delegation to the United Nations, represented the "exact and authorized position of the Israel Government." Mr. Tekoah's statement was that "Israel accepts the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22 for the promotion of agreement on the establishment of a just and lasting peace and is willing to seek agreement through direct negotiations with each Arab state on all matters included in the resolution." The Foreign Ministry took pains to restate Israel's acceptance of the resolution in response to a barrage of propaganda that emanated from Arab capitals yesterday to the effect that Israel had repudiated the resolution.

West Germany Refuses To Sell Transport Planes To Israel, Observing Arms Embargo

BONN, May 23 (JTA)--An embargo on the shipment of West German arms to the Middle East was affirmed here today. Deputy Foreign Minister Georg Duckwitz said in an interview that it applied even to unarmed transport planes that Israel asked for last November. The Foreign Ministry official said it was the Federal Republic's policy to ban all arms shipments to crisis areas. He denied rumors that 54 M-48 tanks of West German origin had been delivered to Israel via Italy. He disclosed for the first time that the Israel Government last November sought to order 20 German transport planes but was turned down even though the planes are unarmed and can be used only for transport missions. The planes are of French-German design and were recently put into service by the West German Air Force. Duckwitz said. He added that if Israel should ask for the delivery of helicopters they would also be refused. He said the embargo applies to Arab countries as well as Israel.

Egyptians, Jordanians, El Fatah Attack Israelis On Canal, In Beisan Valley, Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 23 (JTA)--Egyptian positions on the West Bank of the Suez Canal initiated the exchange of fire with Israelis on the east bank Wednesday morning, according to an official report today from Lt. Gen. Odd, Bull, chief of UN cease-fire observers. Gen. Bull said the Egyptians started the shooting after threatening to fire because an Israeli soldier was swimming in the canal. At the time the Egyptians started firing, Gen. Bull reported, two Israelis were swimming in the canal but when the shooting started, they "left the water and remained on the canal bank." Israel returned the Egyptian fire but later the Egyptians and Israelis agreed to stop shooting. Gen Bull reported that the UN observers said that at least 10 explosions were observed near the UN observation post on the East Bank of the canal.

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TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA)--Jordanians attacked the Beisan Valley settlement of Gesher with shells and automatic weapon fire last night, a military spokesman reported today. There were no casualties. Israeli units returned the fire and flames were seen rising from Jordanian positions. The Jordanian village of Shuneh, which returned to normal last week after being occupied by El Fatah terrorists, was blacked out when the Jordanians began firing.

Two veteran members of Kibbutz Nahal were killed and five injured, three seriously, when their jeep struck a mine on a road which is in daily use. The mine was the sixth planted in the settlement, east of the town of Gaza, in recent weeks. The Arabs had set fire to a wheat field which was nearing harvest time, possibly to attract the kibbutz members to the field and death by mining. The jeep hit the mine as the seven members were returning home after dousing the blaze.

Israel To Pay Compensation To Jerusalem Churches For War Damages

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA)--Israel has agreed to pay compensation to three major churches in Jerusalem for damages to their property in fighting since the 1948 War of Independence, regardless of which side was responsible for the damage, it was learned here today. The amount was not disclosed but it is believed to run into several million Israel pounds.

The churches involved, the chief holders of church property in Jerusalem, are the Greek Orthodox, the Armenian Orthodox and the custodians of Terra Sancta, an organ of the Vatican. Some of the property is located in what was a "no-man's land" between the Old and New Cities of Jerusalem. Under the agreement, the Greek and Latin churches have placed a 9,800-square-yard belt of land around the Old City wall at Israel's disposal. It will be transformed into a landscaped area.

Liberal Party Leader Says Israel Should Make Start on Arab Refugee Settlement

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA)--Moshe Kol, a leader of the Independent Liberal Party and a member of the coalition Cabinet, suggested here yesterday that Israel should make a start toward a settlement of the Arab refugee problem even though peace has not yet been achieved. He praised the Government of national unity established during last May's war crisis as a "positive development" but said it should not be preserved at the expense of principles regarding Israel's future and the nature of peace with the Arabs.

Mr. Kol, who is Minister of Tourism and Development, spoke at the opening of the Independent Liberal Party's first national convention since it was established three years ago. The 600 delegates and alternates were joined for the occasion by President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. The Independent Liberal Party was founded by members of the original Liberal Party who refused to join the Liberal-Herut alignment in the Knesset (Parliament) known as Gahal.

British Zionists Ask Tories To Repudiate Official's Anti-Zionist Statement

LONDON, May 23 (JTA)--The British Zionist Federation called upon Conservative Party leader Edward Heath today to repudiate an anti-Zionist statement made by one of his colleagues, Dennis Walter, at a pro-Arab Palestine Day rally here last week. Mr. Walter, who was billed at the rally as chairman of the Conservative Party's foreign affairs committee, declared that "Zionism should be obliterated." The Zionist Federation asked Mr. Heath to reconfirm his party's previously stated friendly stand toward Israel in the Middle East conflict.

Keren Hayesod Head Reports Twelffold Increase in Collections Since June War

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA)--Contributions to Israel from Jews all over the world, but excluding the United States, have increased twelve-fold since last June's Six-Day War, Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Keren Hayesod, disclosed at a press conference here. Keren Hayesod is the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization. Dr. Goldstein said that the greatest monetary increase came from the 770,000 Jews of continental Europe who contributed 17 times more than they had in previous years. This was followed by a 10-fold increase from English-speaking countries, such as Britain, Canada and others, but again excluding the U.S. A twelve-fold increase was marked throughout the rest of the Western world, he said. Dr. Goldstein refused to state the figure or percentage of increase from the U.S.

He said that the number of contributors had more than doubled in the past year. In many countries, almost 45 percent of the Jewish population made contributions and in some countries, 10 percent came from non-Jews. Dr. Goldstein said he thought there were good prospects for a 50 percent increase in contributions this year over last year.

Committee, Brandeis To Make Joint Study of Impact of Non-Violence

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA)--Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, announced here tonight that Brandeis University at Waltham, Mass. and the AJCommittee have agreed to explore together the possibility of undertaking the first major project to study the impact of non-violence on American life and in all of its historic forms. Mr. Abram, who is president-designate of Brandeis University, said that if the study proved feasible it would be done at the Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis.

Mr. Abram made the announcement at the annual dinner of the AJCommittee opening its 62nd annual meeting which will continue through Sunday. He addressed himself to the "problems of race, poverty and upheaval which confront us on every side." He said that upheaval among Negroes and among students in the United States, "so far as it is reasonable and justified, is clearly the demand for fairness in the allocation of the economic fullness of American life, and a protest against the discrimination, and indeed racism, which the President's riot commission found endemic in American society." Mr. Abram said that at the national level, lack of commitment is present in only one organ of Government -- the Congress -- "which should be most directly responsive to the peoples' wills and influence." Nevertheless, he said, "it is a fact that Congress is fully committed to the elimination of hoof and mouth disease amongst cattle...but clearly it is not committed to the elimination of poverty, discrimination and human neglect in the United States."

Mr. Abram said that one of the "watchwords" of the AJCommittee is "integration with identity." It "is the guiding rule toward peace in the international arena, and particularly in the Middle East," Israel, he said, "will be secure and will play its proper role in the development of this crucial area only if all the inhabitants come to accept this principle. Israel is, I know, prepared to play its role as an integrated part of the Middle East," Mr. Abram said. "Prime Minister Eshkol has called for a Middle East Common Market; successive Israel governments have asked for the implementation of the Johnson plan for the allocation of water resources in the area. The present Israeli Government stands ready to work on common programs of water desalination. The block to progress on these fronts and to peace is, in my judgment, the psychological and emotional immaturity of much of the Arab world," Mr. Abram said.

Nathan Perlmutter, director of domestic affairs, told the opening session that efforts to overcome poverty must embrace the white poor no less than the Negro poor if Americans are to understand that the war on poverty is in the interests of all. He said that "as the Negro accelerates his demands, as riots erupt and Negroes gain political power, low-income and low-middle income Americans become more resistant, saying in effect, 'why doesn't someone look after us?' To dismiss such people simply as white racists makes no more sense than calling all rioters hoodlums," Mr. Perlmutter said.

Mr. Perlmutter warned Congressmen that they have more to fear from failure to finance the recommendations of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Kerner Commission) than from voting a tax increase.

116,000 Made Pilgrimage To Anne Frank's House in Amsterdam Last Year

LONDON, May 23 (JTA)--Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam was visited by 116,000 people in 1967, according to Otto Frank, father of the teen-age girl whose diary of her family's ordeal in hiding from the Nazis during World War II has become a world classic. Mr. Frank, now 78, is the only survivor of the Dutch-Jewish family that perished in Nazi concentration camps.

Brisbane Jewish Community Dedicates Memorial To Victims of The Holocaust

BRISBANE, Australia, May 23 (JTA)--The small Jewish community of this city has dedicated a monument to the memory of the six million Jews who died in the Nazi holocaust. The monument was built through the efforts of a small group of concentration camp survivors with the support of the native Jewish community. It was unveiled by the president of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, A. Newhouse.