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Tekoah Reports To Thant On Discrimination Against Jews In Arab Countries

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 3 (JTA)--Discrimination and persecution of Jews is continuing in the Arab states, especially in Syria, Egypt and Iraq, Israel Ambassador Yosef Tekoah reported in a letter to Secretary General U Thant sent Friday and made public here today. "Recent reports," declared Mr. Tekoah, "indicate that a particularly serious aggravation has occurred in the situation of the Jewish community of Iraq." Noting that after Israel attained its independence in 1948, some 120,000 Iraqi Jews had fled to Israel, Mr. Tekoah stated that "the Jews who remained in Iraq have been subjected to ever greater restrictions and deprivations. These have assumed alarmingly grave proportions since the hostilities of June, 1967. The Iraqi Government has passed laws denying Jews their civil liberties, their freedom of movement, and the possibility of employment. The Jews of Iraq are under constant fear for their lives. The Iraqi authorities, and particularly the secret police, threaten them even with murder."

According to Mr. Tekoah, the Iraqi actions are the first since the Nazi anti-Jewish laws during the Hitler regime in which "the oppression of Jews has been formally promulgated" through legislation. Mr. Tekoah cited specific actions taken against the Iraqi Jews including a legislative provision which orders "all Government and private offices and businesses not to pay out any sums 'due to the Jews' but to notify the Minister instead." The only exception to this confiscatory rule, according to Mr. Tekoah, is one exempting salaries up to 100 dinars (\$180) per month which is approximately the salary now paid in Iraq to a beginning clerk "and does not suffice to support a family." Mr. Tekoah noted in his letter that "the Nazi-like persecution of the Jews of Iraq constitutes a wanton violation by the Iraqi Government of the charter of the United Nations, of fundamental human rights and of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council." Mr. Tekoah stated that "an end must be put to this revival of Hitlerite practices which requires immediate international attention." In accordance with Mr. Tekoah's request, the letter was circulated today as an official document to all members of the United Nations including the 15 that are members of the Security Council.

Arabs Warn Of Massive Israeli Attack Planned Against Jordan

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--Al Ahran, the authoritative Egyptian Government newspaper, joined today in the concerted Arab chorus of warning against alleged Israeli plans to launch a massive attack on Jordan just prior to or after the June 5 anniversary of the outbreak of the Arab-Israel war last year. The Cairo paper, according to a dispatch to the London Evening Standard, reported from Amman that Israel was massing 30,000 men, plus tanks and armored cars, along the Jordan-Israel cease-fire line in preparation for attacks on Arab commando camps.

(The Christian Science Monitor reported today from Amman that military circles there were apprehensive of a new Israeli attack around June 5. In addition to attacks from Israeli forces concentrated near the Sea of Galilee, the Jordanians told American newsmen, Israelis would also sweep down from the heights of Golan in a move to capture Amman and cut off 25,000 Iraqi forces garrisoned in the Irbid area.)

Jordanian sources asserted in Amman today that Israeli patrols which tried to cross the Jordan to the East Bank last night were repulsed in a 35-minute battle. The Jordanians said the incident took place near the King Hussein Bridge, about 20 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

Arab leaders today called off a mass march of Palestinian Arabs from Jordan to the West Bank which was supposed to take place June 5. The march had been announced by the "Committee of Palestinian Intellectuals" and was modeled after the Poor Peoples March in Washington, D.C. It was cancelled for "technical reasons" according to a spokesman for the group in Beirut, Lebanon. Arab radio broadcasts said the war anniversary would be marked by a massive air display, speeches by King Hussein in Amman and assorted rallies, strikes, fasting and prayers.

Halpern Assails Shipment Of U.S. Weapons, Including Tanks And Planes, To Jordan

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA)--A New York Congressman today denounced as "Unconscionable" the shipment of United States arms, including tanks and military planes, to Jordan, while El Fatah terrorists based on Jordanian soil raid Israeli territory and shell Israeli villages. Rep. Seymour Halpern, Republican, said he would raise a question in Congress about the financing of the arms by American taxpayers for terrorist collaborators abroad.

The State Department yesterday confirmed the arms shipment. They said it was part of a "package deal" reached with Jordan last March, not related to any immediate military situation but intended to maintain the security and stability of King Hussein's regime. Officials refused to divulge the types of arms but it was reliably learned that they include 100 Patton M-48 tanks, being shipped by sea via the Jordanian port of Aqaba, and anti-tank weapons, mortars, artillery, ammunition and anti-aircraft equipment, part of which is being rushed to Jordan by U.S. Globemaster transport planes. In addition, 12 F-104 Starfighter jet fighting planes have been "consigned" to Jordan for air defense. Their delivery was described as "in process." Halpern said "it would appear that King Hussein's reward for refusal to enter peace negotiations and his obvious collaboration with terrorist guerrillas is the supply of American arms financed by U.S. taxpayers." The Congressman added, "this policy is absurd."

Kennedy, McCarthy Support U.S. Commitments To Israel, Favor Sending Phantom Jets

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Senators Robert F. Kennedy, of New York, and Eugene J. McCarthy, of Minnesota, both candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination, agreed in a nationwide telecast Saturday night that the United States must honor its commitments to Israel even though it should scale down many of its commitments elsewhere in the world. Kennedy reiterated his Portland, Ore. proposal of last week to send 50 Phantom jets to Israel. McCarthy said that if 50 jets were necessary to help Israel "rebuild the strength they lost in the most recent war...I am for 50 jets." The two Presidential aspirants made their remarks in reply to questions on the "Issues and Answers" program which originated in San Francisco where they are campaigning for Tuesday's California primary elections. It was their first face-to-face confrontation since they announced their intentions to seek their party's nomination.

Kennedy was the first to refer to Israel. He said that the U.S. cannot continue to be a global policeman and intervene in internal disputes all over the world. But, he said, "I do think we have some commitments around the globe. I think we have a commitment to Israel for instance that has to be kept."

McCarthy said that he thought America had "clear moral and legal responsibilities in the Middle East and Israel." He acknowledged that he believed the U.S. should work toward a moratorium on arms shipments to the Middle East but he stressed that "we had to maintain the military strength of Israel against the Arab nations, and I've said that we had at least to help them rebuild the strength that they lost in the recent war. If that means 50 jets, well I'm for 50 jets." The Minnesota senator said the U.S. obligations to Israel stemmed from the fact that "we were one of the nations that wouldn't open our doors to Jewish expellees and refugees after the war and suggested that the British take care of it in Palestine and then moved on from there to support in the UN the establishment of the State of Israel and we've underscored that commitment time and time again since '45 or '47."

See No Differences in Principle Between US, Israel On Middle East Peace

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--There are no differences in principle between the United States and Israel on the question of a final settlement of the Middle East conflict. The two countries differ only on methods by which a settlement can be reached, Government officials said at a press conference here tonight.

The subject was brought up in questions relating to press interviews given here by Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Maj. Gen. Itzhak Rabin, who was in Jerusalem last week for consultations. The Government officials said that the differences between the U.S. and Israel must be considered in perspective. The United States Government has made it clear that it believes peace can come only through negotiations which must lead to a signed agreement between the two sides, they said. Israel regards direct negotiations as a matter of principle, according to Foreign Minister Abba Eban in an interview with the Jerusalem Post last Friday. Ambassador Rabin said, in interviews published in the Hebrew dailies Haaretz and Davar, the same day, that the U.S. considers the type of negotiations only a technicality.

(In Washington today it was reported that the U.S. Government has advised Israeli authorities that it regards the islands of Senafir and Tiran in the Strait of Tiran as the lawful possessions of Saudi Arabia and Israel's continued occupation of them as illegal. The islands, which command the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba and Israel's port of Eilat, were captured by Israeli forces in last June's war to break the Egyptian blockade of the gulf. The islands were "loaned" to Egypt by Saudi Arabia in the 1950s for the purpose of blockading Israel.)

Lebanon Asks US To Press For Peace Formula Avoiding Face-to-Face Talks

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fouad Boutros urged Secretary of State Dean Rusk to press Israel to accept a Middle East peace formula that does not involve direct negotiations, it was reliably reported here today. The Lebanese diplomat met with Mr. Rusk for lunch and reportedly expressed Lebanon's concern over Israeli policies. He was said to have underscored the urgency of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories to avert a new war. Mr. Boutros also met with Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow and Assistant Secretary Lucius Battle.

Daily Scolds Minister For Warning That Israelis May Have To Tighten Belts

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--Israel Galilee, Israel's Minister of Information, warned here yesterday that the nation will have to tighten its belt if it is to stand fast on the present cease-fire borders until a peace settlement is achieved. Mr. Galilee was the second Cabinet Minister to issue such a warning in recent days. But he was taken to task for it today by the newspaper, Maariv, which accused him of hurting the country's morale.

Mr. Galilee, speaking at Beth Sokolow, said a continuation of the present situation might force Israelis to lower their living standards and accept cuts in salaries. He said that Russia is giving Egypt massive military aid and "our friends could pressure us by supplying us with essential goods thus forcing us to heed their advice through our dependence on them." Maariv argued today that "Israel, which has stood up against heavier pressures and situations, will be able to face any hardships that it may encounter in the wake of its struggle for peace and sovereignty."

Last week Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that Israel could manage the triple burdens of a new war with the Arabs, the control of terrorist activities and the administration of the occupied territories for years if necessary. But, he warned, in those circumstances the nation would have to sacrifice its expanding economy and reduce its living standards.

Exodus of Jews From Egypt Is At Standstill, United Hias Official Reports

GENEVA, June 3 (JTA)--The movement of Jews from Egypt has come to a standstill after "many hundreds" were permitted to leave the country in the months following the Six-Day War, Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice president of the United Hias Service, reported today. Speaking at a conference of country directors of the international Jewish migration agency and leaders of agencies concerned with refugees and migrants, Mr. Jacobson said that there were still an estimated 200 Jews in prison in Egypt. He expressed the hope that they would be released and permitted to rejoin their families.

The United Hias executive said that most of the Jews of Poland were anxious to be reunited with their families in overseas countries. "We trust that necessary measures will be taken by the governments concerned to facilitate such family reunion," he declared. He noted that many Jews in various countries in Eastern Europe and the Middle East faced a "distressing and precarious situation" and said that United Hias faced "serious challenges" in meeting resettlement service needs in the coming months.

Barbara M. Watson, acting administrator of the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, told the three-day workshop conference that the 1965 immigration law, which takes effect July 1, "removes the last vestiges of racial discrimination in U.S. immigration and fosters family reunion." She said that under the new law there had been a 60 percent increase in immigration from Eastern Europe, mainly for family reunion. The figure would have been "considerably higher," she said, "except for difficulties encountered in obtaining passports and exit permits in many Eastern European countries."

Harry M. Friedman, assistant secretary and comptroller of United Hias, warned the conference that the agency's 1968 budget of \$2,375,000 "might well be exceeded."

Bundestag President Qualifies Stand On Statute Of Limitations In War Crimes

BONN, June 3 (JTA)--The President of the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house, who in the past called for abolition of the statute of limitations that would bar the prosecution of Nazi war criminals after Dec. 31, 1969, has apparently had a change of heart on the matter. Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, a leader of the Christian Democratic Party, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview today that he thought the statute should not apply in cases of murder. But as for its outright abolition, he said one had to take into account the sentiment for an amnesty. In any event, the West German leader said, the statute is still a subject for discussion. Dr. Gerstenmaier told a World Jewish Congress meeting in Brussels two years ago that he favored abolition. Now he apparently prefers to wait and see how the majority acts.

Walter Scheel, president of the rightist Free Democratic Party, told the JTA at the press conference that his party opposed abolition of the statute two years ago and would not now change its attitude. He remarked that it was somewhat late for new investigations of Nazi war criminals. Mr. Scheel also offered the opinion that it would be a good thing if the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party, often described as neo-Nazi, won seats in the Bundestag in next year's elections. According to Scheel, the NPD would then have to account for its activities and the German people would realize that the party has nothing to offer them. The NPD now holds seats in the legislatures of seven of the 11 West German states. Its recent electoral gains in the reputedly liberal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg was cause for alarm inside and outside of Germany.

Jews And Moslems Clash In Belleville Quarter Of Paris

PARIS, June 3 (JTA)--Jews and Moslems battled each other with paving stones, bottles and fists in the Belleville quarter of Paris last night and today. Police arrested 14 persons. An undisclosed number were injured and at least 12 stores and cafes in the neighborhood were wrecked. Some were plundered. A Moslem crowd smashed the front door of a synagogue and tried to burn the building, but police prevented them from entering the building. The strife erupted suddenly Sunday night in a cafe where Jews and Moslems were playing cards. It broke out again at noon today. Police said there was no previous record of violence between Jews and Moslems in Paris. They attributed the fighting to the idleness and unrest stemming from the two week old general strike in France. It is believed that most or all of the Jews involved were immigrants from North Africa, some of whom lived in Israel before moving to France. Some 15,000 Tunisian Jews live in Belleville.

Jewish Singer's Tour Exploited By Soviets To Prove Jews Have 'Cultural Facilities'

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--The Soviet propaganda machine is using concerts by a popular Yiddish singer to bear out the Russian claim that Soviet Jews have "cultural facilities" if they want them, according to reports here from the USSR today.

The singer is Nechama Lifshitz, of Vilna, who has been on a highly successful concert tour of various Jewish centers in Russia. But her repertoire avoids any music remotely connected with Israel or composed by anyone outside of the Communist bloc, according to the reports. Most of Miss Lifshitz' songs are in the prewar traditional genre. One or two new Yiddish songs were written by Soviet composers with words by Soviet Jewish poets.

New Center At Hebrew University Will Add Jewish Education In Other Lands

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--Prof. Moshe Davis, head of the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry, announced here today that the Center for Hebrew Education in the Diaspora had been set up as a joint effort of the institute and the university's School of Education. The new center, he said, would not supplant any existing bodies but would strengthen them through provision of supplementary training of Israelis and Jews from abroad for teaching.

Intellectuals Petition Polish Embassy For Warsaw Repudiation of Anti-Semitism

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA)--Former Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith and Prof. George Wald, a Nobel Prize winner, headed a group of 55 American scholars and artists who signed a petition urging the Polish Government "to repudiate unequivocally all anti-Semitism, including that disguised as anti-Zionism," it was revealed today. A delegation presented the petition to Ambassador Jerzy Michalowski at the Polish Embassy here. Others who signed the petition included Prof. Simon Kuznets, of Harvard, Pulitzer Prize winning writers, Bernard Malamud and Justin Kaplan; William Alfred, the playwright; I.F. Stone, editor of the I.F. Stone Weekly; and members of the faculties of Harvard, Brandeis, University of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, Wellesley College and University of California.

The petition notes that the undersigned "have been watching with growing dismay, the thinly disguised anti-Semitic campaign pursued in recent weeks by certain elements of the Polish Government and press." It said that "the foreign policy of Poland and its relations with the State of Israel are a matter for Poland alone to decide." But, it added, "world opinion cannot remain silent when the memory of three million Polish Jews who perished in Poland during World War II is insulted, and the dignity and security of the small remnant of this community is jeopardized for the sake of political expedience."

The petition pointed out that "such appeals to the basest instincts of the most ignorant elements of society have been in the past the classical method employed by discredited reactionary governments." It seems to us outrageous," it added, "that a socialist Government should resort to methods typical of reactionary regimes. We urge the Polish Government to repudiate unequivocally all anti-Semitism, including that disguised as anti-Zionism."

Authorities Run Warsaw Yiddish Paper, Cannot Find Editor

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--Polish authorities have in effect taken over control of the Warsaw Yiddish daily, Folkstimme, which has been without an editor since the official anti-Jewish campaign began in Poland several months ago, it was learned here today.

According to reports from Warsaw, the Folkstimme's editor, Hersh Smolar, was removed from his post by the Jewish Social and Cultural Association, which publishes the paper, on orders from authorities. But the Association was unable to find a new editor. Two staff members who were offered the job declined and the paper is now being run collectively by the staff with "guidance" from higher up. The "guidance" consists of filling its columns with communiques of the official Polish Press Agency (PAP) which are well translated into Yiddish. But there is no editorial comment and the paper's standards have declined appreciably, according to the reports. It was also reported that the Folkstimme has stopped printing news from Israel and other Jewish communities abroad, which it had been doing for 20 years. The only Jewish news appearing now covers activities of Communist front groups.

Arrangements for summer camps for Jewish children in Poland were not made this year after the Polish Education Ministry withdrew approval for such camps, it was reported here from Warsaw. In prior years, the summer period was used for rest, recreation and instruction in Jewish history and other fields to fill gaps in the regular school programs. The Education Ministry reportedly asserted that the camp programs fostered affinities with "foreign countries" and "alien ideas."

Soviet Jewish Delegation Will Consist Of Rabbi And Cantor; 2 Others Drop Out

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA)--Two of the four members of the Soviet "religious delegation" scheduled to visit the United States this month will not be coming, the Soviet Embassy has disclosed. Novosti Press Agency reported from Moscow that Rabbi Israel Shvartsblat, of Odessa, and Rabbi Israel Bronfman, of Derbent, Daghestan, will not make the trip.

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, and Cantor David Stiskin, of Leningrad, are still scheduled to come. Rabbi Levin, 74, is the Soviet Union's best known rabbi. Cantor Stiskin was concertmaster of the Leningrad Conservatory and is described as Russia's leading cantor. He is expected to sing during his visit.

The visitors were invited by the controversial anti-Zionist group, the American Council for Judaism. Novosti gave no reason for the cancellation of the announced visit by Rabbis Shvartsblat and Bronfman. It was indicated that they may come at a later date.

Rabbi Levin and Stiskin are expected to arrive about June 10. Novosti said Rabbi Levin will "report on the situation of the Jewish religion in the Soviet Union." The visit is approved by Soviet authorities who agreed to the American Council for Judaism auspices. Rabbi Levin is expected to address the public in Town Hall, New York City, on June 13.

Dr. Charles E. Shulman, Bronx Rabbi, Dies At 67; Author of Books, Articles

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Funeral arrangements were being made today for Dr. Charles E. Shulman, rabbi of the Riverdale Temple in the Bronx, and author of books and numerous articles on Jewish topics, who died here yesterday at the age of 67. Rabbi Shulman was ordained by the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1927 and held a doctor of laws degree from Ohio Northern University. He was a former president of the Chicago Rabbinical Association, a member of the executive of the New York Board of Rabbis, the national administrative committee of the American Jewish Congress and the religious advisory committee of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. Rabbi Shulman was also chairman of the editorial board of the American Zionist Magazine, organ of the Zionist Organization of America, and a member of the editorial board of The Reconstructionist Magazine.