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See Israeli Allegation Of Soviet Flights In Egyptian Planes As Move For Phantoms

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--State Department officials told the press today that an allegation by Israel that Soviet pilots were flying for the Egyptian Air Force was a maneuver to pressure the United States into approving the sale to Israel of 50 Phantom jets that it is seeking. The officials spoke for "background only" and insisted on anonymity.

A press association report from Jerusalem today attributed to Israeli intelligence sources a statement that between 70 and 100 Soviet fliers were working as test pilots and instructors for Egypt and were flying extensive air patrols throughout the Middle East. (Newsweek Magazine said several weeks ago that 100 Soviet pilots are flying Egyptian jets.)

The Jerusalem report said this information was passed to the U.S. Government some time ago. Israel reportedly stressed that Soviet arms aid totalling \$1.5 billion had been poured into Egypt and had now turned the power balance heavily in the Arabs' favor. Israel has only one plane for every four Arab aircraft. The ratio was one to three at the start of the Six-Day War.

The State Department officials said that the Israeli intelligence disclosure in Jerusalem was to some extent true. It was confirmed that between 70 to 100 Soviet Air Force experts were working as instructors or test pilots for Egypt. But the U.S. sources would not confirm that the Russians were actually flying widespread air patrols.

Officials here said they had received many "pressures" from Congress to approve sale of the Phantom jets. This had produced no results, they said, because President Johnson remains unconvinced that Israel needs them. The status of the Israeli bid for the Phantoms was said to be exactly where it was last January, when the President met at the LBJ ranch with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Israel and promised to keep Israel's request under review.

Celler Appeals To Rusk To Make Phantoms Available

Congressman Emanuel Celler has called upon Secretary of State Dean Rusk for "immediate approval" of Israel's application to buy American supersonic Phantom jet fighter planes. The New York Democrat, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said in a letter to Mr. Rusk that "it appears imperative that Israel's application...be acted upon favorably and forthwith." Rep. Celler said there is a five-to-one Arab superiority over Israel in supersonic aircraft which cannot be balanced by delivery of American subsonic Skyhawk jet fighters to Israel. He also noted that while "the Israelis are better trained and superior fighters...it is estimated that 2,500 Russians are now training the Egyptians, plus an unknown number training armed personnel in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Algeria."

"Just as we uphold our defenses and defense materiel to act as a deterrent against any possible aggressive acts against us, so I most strongly believe that Israel must have the Phantom jets to deter the Arabs who acknowledge openly and insistently their intent to destroy Israel," Rep. Celler wrote. "It is a matter of acute concern to us that the Soviet Union has penetrated the Middle East with arms, materiel and personnel and that Israel, as a Western-oriented democracy in the Middle East, is of major importance to American security." Mr. Celler said that to the best of his knowledge, approval of Israel's application for the Phantoms was being held up against the possibilities that France would deliver the Mirage jet fighters purchased by Israel or that the Russians might agree to suspend arms shipments to the Arabs. "We know that neither of these events has come to pass," he wrote.

Debre Indicates French Stand Firm On Mirage Embargo

PARIS, June 13 (JTA)--Michel Debre, France's new Foreign Minister, declared in a radio interview that the balance of power in the Middle East should not be disturbed, in replying to a question about the reasons for the de Gaulle regime's refusal to deliver to Israel 50 Mirage jet fighter planes which Israel ordered and paid for. President de Gaulle placed an embargo on shipment of the jets when the June war broke out last year. Justifying the French policy toward Israel, Debre asserted that "France wants to eliminate the causes of war and therefore our foreign policy will be maintained."

London Newspaper Reports That Kennedy's Alleged Assassin Returned To Mid-East Twice

LONDON, June 13 (JTA)--The Evening Standard reported today that an unidentified Arab Government has produced startling new evidence on the background of Sirhan Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and is supplying the United States with information that "may open up an entirely new line of inquiry into the motivation and organization" of the Kennedy murder.

According to a front page article by Jon Kimche, the new information shows that Sirhan, whose full name is given as Sirhan Bistrara Sirhan Abu Khatar, was first brought to the United States in 1948, at the age of four, not in 1957 at the age of 12, as previously announced and that he returned to the Middle East three times for extended periods. The purported record also shows, according to Mr. Kimche, that he was married near Amman, Jordan, on June 27, 1957 (if correct, he was 12 years old at the time) and that he returned to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966. In the former year, he reportedly spent seven months there, four of them in Damascus. In 1966, his stay included a five month stretch in Cairo. He returned to the United States early in 1967. The Arab Government, said Mr. Kimche, is convinced that its records are ac-

curate but they are being sent to the United States to check against information developed by the FBI.

State Department Says It Has No Evidence On Sirhan Return Trips

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today in response to queries about the London report that State Department information is that Sirhan Bashira Sirhan came to the U.S. in January, 1957, with his family and it has no evidence that he left America and returned to the Middle East subsequently.

Official sources in the Departments of State and Justice disclosed today that the Government has much more information on Sirhan than has been made public. But while the Government will no doubt provide the prosecution with any evidence needed to convict the accused, there is no intention of disclosing any of the facts at this time, they said.

Justice Department attorneys cited previous revelations of alleged evidence against Sirhan by Los Angeles Mayor Samuel Yorty and complaints by the American Civil Liberties Union that this compromised Sirhan's right to a fair trial. But State Department officials have stressed that in the interests of national security they must suppress any findings that might inflame passions against the Arabs. At this juncture, it was pointed out, the U.S. is trying to rebuild its relations with the Arab states that suffered badly in the aftermath of last June's Six-Day War.

A top priority is the avoidance of any disclosure that might embarrass the Administration's policy of rearming Jordan and its support of the Hussein regime, it was reported. Nevertheless, Congressmen have started to speculate that the assassination was in line with the proclaimed terrorist policies of El Fatah, the principal Arab guerrilla band that operates against Israel, mainly from bases in Jordan.

Eshkol Proposal To Elevate Allon To Absorption Department Chief Opposed

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol was locked in intensive "consultations" with members of his own Israel Labor Party and with his coalition partners in the national unity government today. His aim was to persuade them to agree to his proposal to elevate Labor Minister Yigal Allon to the rank of Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the projected new Absorption Department. But Mr. Eshkol has run into serious political opposition, even among elements of his own party. The basis of the opposition appeared to be a resistance to any drastic changes in the Cabinet only a year before the next national elections. (In Cairo, the Government's official spokesman, Dr. Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, said that a call by Mr. Eshkol for greater Jewish immigration to Israel was presumptuous and an act of moral aggression against Jews elsewhere in the world.)

The 27th World Zionist Congress will probably be extended by at least another day beyond its 10-day tenure, it was indicated here today. Congress committees were making no headway in hammering out policies to be submitted to a vote by the full Congress. A plenary session scheduled for tomorrow was postponed so that the committees can continue their work.

The committee on Zionist organization has apparently run into a snag in deliberations over the Jerusalem Program and decided to set up a sub-committee composed of its members and members of the Congress' political committee to take up the matter. The Jerusalem Program was laid down in 1951 at the first Zionist Congress held after Israel's 1948 War for Independence. It outlined very broadly the tasks of the Zionist movement in light of the achievement of the main Zionist goal -- establishment of Jewish Statehood. One aim of the present Congress is to spell out in greater detail the Zionist tasks, particularly in the areas of immigration and Jewish education abroad.

Jordanian Mortar Barrage Hits Kibbutz Gesher, Six Settlers Suffer Injuries

TEL AVIV, June 13 (JTA)--A sudden mortar barrage hit Kibbutz Gesher in the Jordan Valley shortly before midnight yesterday, injuring six settlers, one of them seriously, and touching off a half-hour exchange of fire in which Israeli artillery aimed at the Jordanian village of Shuneh. A military spokesman said the attack with 120 millimeter mortars apparently came from an El Fatah unit based in the Shuneh area. It sent the residents of Gesher and several nearby settlements scrambling for bomb shelters and trenches. Six Gesher settlers who took refuge near a house were hit by splinters. Damage to the settlement itself was relatively light.

Israel Investigating Funds Smuggled From Amman To Subsidize Arab Opposition

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that Israeli authorities are investigating the source, amount and use of funds being smuggled from Amman to former Jordanian Government officials on the West Bank to subsidize opposition to Israel. Gen. Dayan said there was no indication that a stoppage of the funds would make the West Bank Arabs less loyal to King Hussein.

Meanwhile, all former Jordanian civil servants on the West Bank, numbering about 12,000, have reportedly been ordered by Amman to stop working for Israelis. The order is said to affect teachers, doctors and nurses paid by both Israel and Jordan. King Hussein has issued a royal decree forbidding any form of Arab cooperation with Israeli authorities. This has resulted in the suspension of practice by four of the six West Bank lawyers who refused to join the general strike of Arab lawyers on the West Bank which began shortly after last June's Six-Day War. But Arab magistrates and public prosecutors appointed by the military government to deal with civil matters have not stopped work.

16,000 North Africans Have Fled To France Since Six-Day War, Face Serious Problems

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA)--Over 20,000 Jews have fled from North Africa since last June, with more than 16,000 of them finding a haven in France, the Joint Distribution Committee reported today. Mr. Samuel L. Haber, executive vice chairman of JDC, said in his semi-annual report to the board of directors that events in France, "where the new refugees have crowded into communities already swollen with refugees who came in prior waves, have worsened already difficult conditions." Analyzing problems in France, Mr. Haber said that recent nationwide strikes have driven the cost of living up and thus will increase financial pressure on the French Jewish welfare organizations and on the JDC, which receives funds for its health and welfare programs from the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. Haber's report indicated that despite hardships, the North African refugees in France are better off than Jews who remained in the Arab countries since last June's Six-Day War. In Egypt only a fraction of the former Jewish community remains, many of them still in jail, he said. In other Arab countries, "the plight of Jews, tragic even before the war, has worsened." The Jewish community of Libya no longer exists, he indicated.

Mr. Haber reported on the expansion of JDC programs in Rumania during recent months. JDC will spend \$1 million there this year. The program includes monthly cash grants for relief purposes, kosher kitchens, supplementary food packages, Passover relief, fuel and clothing distribution. In Israel, JDC programs are aiding over 90,000 men, women and children. Malben, the JDC health and welfare agency there, is aiding some 40,000 aged, sick and handicapped immigrants. JDC is also operating 118 yeshivot and ORT vocational schools in the Jewish State, Mr. Haber reported.

Dr. Frederick Tavill, former director of the JDC medical programs in Iran and Morocco, told the JDC board that "socially and healthwise, the distance between the mahallehs and mellahs (ghettoes) of Iran and Morocco and the urban ghettoes and rural slums of this country is not so great as we might imagine." Dr. Tavill said "it is ironic that while attempting to resolve the problems of poverty abroad, the United States has not faced up to this same problem in its own backyard."

B'nai B'rith Urges Rescinding Of Poland's 'Most-Favored-Nation' Tariff Privileges

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith today asked Congress to revoke Poland's most-favored nation tariff privileges. Herman Edelsberg, B'nai B'rith director of international affairs, testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee, said the time had come to rescind the preferential treatment accorded Poland because of its "Government-inspired anti-Semitism" and "consistent aping of her Soviet master."

Members of the committee told Mr. Edelsberg that there was increasing sympathy in Congress for the B'nai B'rith view. Edelsberg also gave similar testimony to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

(In Bonn, it was reported that the Bonn correspondent of the Polish Communist Party newspaper, Trybuna Luda, has refused to return to Poland and has been branded a "traitor" by the paper. According to reliable information, Adiran Kowalski is opposed to the Warsaw regime's current anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda, of which Trybuna Luda has been one of the principle mouthpieces, and believes that a re-Stalinization is taking place in Poland.)

General Assembly Recesses, But Could Be Called Back To Consider Middle East

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 13 (JTA)--The current session of the General Assembly recessed yesterday after its president, Corneliu Manescu, indicated that adjournment was not possible because the Middle East question remains on its agenda. Two other agenda issues, Southwest Africa and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, have been resolved.

Mr. Manescu announced that agreement had been reached that the Assembly could reconvene when the Assembly president, after consulting member states and Secretary-General U Thant, determines that conditions are suitable. The current session is officially a continuation of the 22nd regular Assembly session which convened last September and recessed in December until April. The 23rd Assembly is scheduled to get under way in December.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yosef Tekoah, conferred with Mr. Manescu and discussed the Middle East picture, an Israel source said.

Foreign Minister Of Tunisia Says Israel Must Be Seen As A Fact

BUENOS AIRES, June 13 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, who is on an official visit here, said at a press conference today that his country regards the creation of Israel as a new form of colonialism infringing on the Arab world. But, he maintained, the Arabs have to accept the realistic view that Israel is a fact and resolve their conflict through the United Nations. He said that "both parties should make concessions and, above all, abandon extremism." Mr. Bourguiba's remarks were generally in line with the views expressed by his father, President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

FBI Probing Lines Between Racist Party And Meridian, Miss. Synagogue-Bombing

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--The FBI is investigating possible links between the violently racist and anti-Semitic National States Rights Party and the May 27 bombing of a synagogue in Meridian, Miss., the Washington Post reported today. The party has been recruiting Ku Klux Klansmen in the Meridian area, the newspaper said. The FBI has evidence indicating that some of the same people responsible for the bombing of a synagogue and a rabbi's house in Jackson, Miss. last November are also involved in the Meridian violence. No arrests have been made in either of the cases but rewards have been posted.

Washington Community Council, National Council of Jewish Women, Back Solidarity Day

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington announced today that it had voted to endorse and support the Solidarity Day March next Wednesday in support of the Poor People's Campaign, and had also reaffirmed the vote of its delegate assembly last March 28 endorsing the goals of the campaign. The council urged its member groups to mobilize participation in the march "in large numbers."

A recently-organized militant Jewish youth group, Jews for Urban Justice, will not only participate in the march but is helping to gather and distribute food for the marchers and is arranging transportation for elderly poor, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who do not have the means of getting to the demonstration area.

(In New York, the National Council of Jewish Women said that an executive board meeting yesterday had approved the NCJW's previous decision to support the march, and that several members of the national board were expected to participate. A number of local sections of the NCJW are expected to send contingents to Washington for the march.)

A number of Jewish organizations were expected to be represented here tomorrow at a meeting with Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sponsors of the Poor People's Campaign, at which final plans for the march will be considered.

CJFWF Undertakes First National Study of Jewish Population in United States

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA)--The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has undertaken the first national study of the Jewish population of the United States — on a county-by-county basis — and expects it to provide "basic planning information never before available to the American Jewish community."

The first phase of the study has been completed, according to Louis J. Fox, Council president. It consisted of the pooling of all known information on the Jewish population in every county in the United States. The next steps will be the selection of 10,000 sample households for personal interviews, drafting of a questionnaire and the actual interviewing. The study will provide basic information on attitudes, patterns of Jewish identification, intermarriage, the use of Jewish and other organizations and services, and contributions. It will also furnish basic demographic data — age, sex, vocation, education and similar facts. This data, Mr. Fox said, "will be an invaluable tool in designing and delivering services best suited to the current and future needs of American Jews."

Pennsylvania Gov. Shafer Expected To Sign Bill On State Aid To Parochial Schools

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 13 (JTA)--The Pennsylvania Senate yesterday passed a bill to provide state aid for parochial schools. The measure permits state payment to non-public schools for purchase of secular services, including instruction in mathematics, modern foreign languages, physical sciences and physical education. The chief beneficiary of the measure, which Gov. Raymond P. Shafer said he would sign, are the Roman Catholic parochial schools which educate the bulk of the state's 600,000 non-public school pupils. But Jewish parochial schools are also eligible for aid.

The measure won in the Senate by a 30 to 17 vote, with 25 required for passage. It now goes to the House of Representatives for concurrence in major amendments providing for financing. House acceptance is considered virtually certain. The bill, first of its kind ever to reach the floor of the Pennsylvania legislative chambers, was opposed by civil libertarian and other groups, including some Jewish organizations, on grounds that it would violate the principle of separation of church and state. It was supported by Roman Catholic and Orthodox Jewish groups. State aid would become effective on July 1 and would be financed initially by \$4.3 million from harness race track revenues.

Trade Unions Raise \$100,000 For Histadrut Emergency Fund; Kennedy Eulogized

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA)--Trade unions here have raised \$100,000 for the Histadrut emergency fund in support of the Israel labor movement during the continuing Middle East emergency. The announcement was made at a "Labor Salute to Israel" rally attended by 5,000 unionists, including 3,000 Puerto Ricans, at the Manhattan Center. Moe Flikman, chairman of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut, Israel's federation of labor, announced that the Council had allocated \$5,000 for two scholarships in Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's memory. They will benefit Israeli youngsters annually.

Israeli 'Peace Corps' Coordinator Finds Evidence Of Idealistic Service

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA)--A program of voluntary service in Israel has demonstrated "a genuine idealistic trend within important groups of American students and young professionals who are in search of meaningful social experiences," according to Dr. Aryeh Neshet, coordinator of Sherut La'am, an Israeli version of service abroad modeled on the American Peace Corps.

Dr. Neshet said at a conference here yesterday that a survey taken by the Bureau of Social Research of Columbia University showed that more than 70 percent of American volunteers who went to Israel during the past three years did so mainly to find self-fulfillment and to meet meaningful challenges. Out of 500 volunteers, over 60 percent had no previous organizational or ideological links with Israel, Dr. Neshet said, but after a year in Israel the proportion who felt there was a good chance of settling there permanently more than doubled. The idea behind Sherut La'am, Dr. Neshet said, was to bring young people to Israel not on the basis of ideological identification but on the desire to be helpful in solving vital social problems for humanitarian reasons.