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Egypt Refuses To Permit UN Envoy To Probe Treatment Of Jews Remaining There

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA)--Egyptian refusal to agree to permit a United Nations envoy to investigate the treatment of the remaining Jews in Egypt is the reason for Secretary-General U Thant's delay in naming a special representative to report on the situation of the civilian population in the areas held by Israel after the Six-Day War, it was learned here today. The appointment was to have been made under a Security Council resolution. Israel had agreed to give the UN representative facilities to study the situation in the occupied areas on the understanding that the envoy would also report on the situation of the Jewish minorities in the Arab lands involved in the war.

Egypt, according to information here, has refused to give the proposed UN envoy means to make a first-hand study. Syria, it was learned, did not even answer the United Nations' request. Mr. Thant announced his intention to nominate a special representative almost on the eve of the reconvening of the General Assembly last spring. He has not, however, announced the appointment.

It was recalled that a special envoy representing the Secretary-General, Nils Gotten-Gussing, who had been similarly charged, completed his mission last December without having been permitted by either Egypt or Syria to study the Jewish situation in those countries.

(According to a report in Paris today, the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian Governments have also refused to allow Karl Brunnel, a Swiss, special representative of UNESCO, to inspect cultural properties belonging to the Jews now sequestered in these states. The Israel Government had asked UNESCO to inspect 97 such properties in these states and in Lebanon, but only Lebanon permitted the UNESCO delegate to make an inspection. The other three governments refused to give him access to the properties. M. Brunnel disclosed here.)

Israel Reversing 1967 Go-Slow Economic Policy, Plans Large Scale Expansion

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA)--Israel will reverse its go-slow economic policies of 1967 and embark on large scale economic expansion this year despite an increased foreign trade deficit that such a policy may incur, it was learned from Treasury sources here today. A principal reason for the change is the need for a rapidly expanding economy to attract more immigrants from the West. Another reason is the huge defense expenditure which has exceeded previous estimates for this year by about \$145 million.

The policy change is a response to reports by researchers who said that only dynamic economic growth can create the conditions necessary to absorb newcomers and find them jobs. But as a result, Israel's foreign trade deficit is expected to rise from \$425 million in 1967 to \$550 million in 1968. The new policy will also affect the annual growth rate of Israel's gross national product.

At the world economic conference called here earlier this year by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, it was reported that the GNP was expected to rise by 11 to 12 percent during the current fiscal year. That estimate was scaled down to between six and eight percent following a warning by David Horowitz, governor of the Bank of Israel, that inflationary tendencies were in evidence. But the estimate was revised upward again following consultations by a Ministerial committee on economics. The new policy is expected to speed up economic activity to the 1966 pace. At that time, the Government ordered a slow-down because of rising inflation.

British Press Sees London, Washington Increasingly Concerned Over Mid-East Deadlock

LONDON, June 24 (JTA)--Two leading British newspapers reported today that Britain and the United States are becoming increasingly concerned over the lack of progress in Middle East peace efforts and are prepared to put pressure on both sides to compromise.

The Daily Telegraph reported, in a dispatch from the NATO Ministerial Council meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, that British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart and United States Secretary of State Dean Rusk have discussed what they regard as an urgent need to get Middle East peace talks going. "Britain considers the present situation highly dangerous and it might lead to a demand in the Security Council for sanctions against Israel," the paper said. The dispatch noted, however, that "with the American Presidential election pending and with a large Jewish vote to consider, the U.S. might find herself with the embarrassing choice of deciding whether to use her veto against sanctions." The Telegraph said that when Mr. Stewart was in Moscow recently, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko hinted that he would be ready to join in efforts with Britain and the U.S. to initiate Middle East peace talks. "This apparently is not envisaged at present but may be taken up if efforts by United Nations peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring to bring Arabs and Israelis together remain unsuccessful," the paper said.

The Daily Mail reported that "Britain and America are prepared to put pressure on both sides" to give Dr. Jarring one more chance "but they need Russia's influence as the main Arab arms supplier to soften Arab opposition to Israel's existence. Israel will also be told by the Western powers that she must review her stubbornness toward a withdrawal of forces and an end to hostilities," The Mail said. The paper noted that Mr. Stewart is particularly concerned by the continued shutdown of the Suez Canal which is costing Britain \$48 million a month. Dr. Jarring is now on a vacation in Europe. The UN reported that during his absence he will keep "in close touch with developments relating to his mission." He expects to resume his mission in mid-July.

One Israeli Killed In Clash With Fatah; Two Wounded During Exchange At Suez

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA)--Egyptian forces opened fire on Israeli positions at several points along the east bank of the Suez Canal yesterday, a military spokesman reported. He said that two Israeli soldiers were wounded in the clash that lasted 85 minutes. (The Egyptians claimed that six Israelis were hit.)

An explosive charge detonated near Neot Hakikar, south of the Dead Sea, early today, damaging a tractor that belonged to the Dead Sea chemical works. A hand grenade and Russian-made rifle ammunition were found at the scene of the explosion.

An Israeli soldier and an El Fatah saboteur were killed early today in an encounter between an Israeli Army patrol and a group of saboteurs near the Damiyah Bridge area in the Jordan Valley. Other saboteurs escaped across the river.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman today offered Jordanians "heavenly quiet" a long its border with Israel if the Amman Government would halt terrorist incursions against Israel from Jordanian territory. The spokesman referred to reports from Amman today that the Jordanian Government had asked foreign students in that country to help out in the border villages where their presence might deter Israeli shelling. "Jordan does not need to use students for that," the Israelis said. "All they have to do is halt terrorist infiltration across the border and the cease-fire lines and there will be heavenly quiet."

Warhaftig Says Israel Must Retain Jerusalem Even If Occupied Territory Is Returned

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA)--Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs said here today that realities may force Israel to give up part of the territories occupied in last June's Arab-Israel war but there can be no question of Israel's right to retain all of Jerusalem which has been a Jewish city for most of its history. Dr. Zerach Warhaftig spoke at the world conference of Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, the Orthodox parties. He said Israel should, however, try to hold as much of the "liberated territory" as possible. He pointed out that Jerusalem has been under non-Jewish rule for comparatively short periods historically and was never the capital of any nation but Israel.

Levin Refuses To Discuss Prayer At Wall With Israeli Editors, Suggests Letter

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA)--Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow, currently visiting the United States, told the editors of an afternoon daily here in an overseas telephone conversation that any invitation to him to visit Israel should be put in writing because "one cannot talk of such things over the phone." The editors of Yediot Achronot, who placed the call, had asked Rabbi Levin if "there is any possibility that you will come to pray near the Western Wall?"

(The New York Times today carried an advertisement consisting of an "open letter to the Chief Rabbi of Moscow" from the American Association for Jewish Education which deplored the lack of Jewish spiritual and cultural facilities in the Soviet Union. The letter described in detail the extent of Jewish education in the U.S. where "almost 600,000 of our children between the ages of five and 17 regularly receive Jewish religious and cultural education in a large system of one-day, afternoon and all-day Hebrew schools." The letter also noted that the Jewish educational establishment here was supported voluntarily by American Jews to the extent of nearly \$100 million per year. "No doubt our brothers in the Soviet Union will be thrilled to learn these and other facts," the letter said. "We are told that the Constitution of the Soviet Union guarantees to its ethnic group of three million Jews, as it does to all other ethnic minorities, the right to preserve their cultural and religious identity. We wonder, therefore, why five and a half million Jews in the U.S. are able to provide the kinds of facilities described above while three million Jews in the Soviet Union are not able to provide religious or cultural education of any kind to their several hundred thousand of children.")

Liberia To Return Embassy To Jerusalem; Most Countries Represented in Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA)--The Liberian Government will disregard the refusal of most countries to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and will move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem soon, it was learned today. The Liberian ambassador, who is dean of the diplomatic corps, recently returned after seven months at home. Liberia originally had its mission in Jerusalem but moved it to Tel Aviv under pressure from the Western powers who insist that Jerusalem, under a United Nations decision, must be internationalized, and do not recognize Israel's sovereignty there. Venezuela, The Netherlands, some other Western countries and a number of African states have their legations in Jerusalem although the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union have maintained theirs in Tel Aviv.

Interior Ministry Reports 60% Increase In Civilian Permits For Carrying Weapons

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA)--The Ministry of Interior announced today that the number of permits issued to civilians for carrying weapons has increased 60 percent over 1967. The issuance of gun permits has normally increased by about 10 percent per annum. The weapons involved are mainly pistols and shotguns for hunting, the Ministry said. Israel has no gun control law. Permits are issued more or less freely to anyone who has served in the armed forces -- this includes a large portion of the country's adult population. Permits are denied only when police or security objections are raised.

Memmi Urges Arab, Jewish Intellectuals To Get Together To Work For Peace

PARIS, June 24 (JTA)--A call to Arab and Jewish intellectuals to get together to work out a peaceful solution of the Middle East problem was published this week by the Tunisian-born Jewish writer Albert Memmi in the weekly Jeune Afrique, a magazine that reflects North African opinion. Mr. Memmi proposed the creation of a Jewish-Arab committee because "peace between the Arabs and Israel is necessary and possible."

Czech Writer Replies In Party Paper To Vicious Anti-Jewish Attack

LONDON, June 24 (JTA)--A virulently anti-Semitic anonymous letter threatening the life of Dr. Edward Goldstuecker, a leader of the progressive wing of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, was published yesterday in the party newspaper, Rudo Pravo, along with an article by Dr. Goldstuecker urging the party to cleanse itself "of people who have tried to smuggle Nazi demagoguery into it." According to press dispatches received here today, the unsigned letter called Dr. Goldstuecker a "Zionist hyena" and a "disgusting Jew" and warned him that "your time will come, your days are reckoned."

Dr. Goldstuecker, who is chairman of Czechoslovakia's Writers Union, attributed the attack to hard-line opponents of the new Communist regime's liberal policies probably associated with former President Antonin Novotny. The letter alleged that the democratization now taking place in Czechoslovakia was the work of Jews like Dr. Goldstuecker. Dr. Goldstuecker, himself a victim of Stalinist persecution in the 1950s, expressed the belief that the anonymous writer was a member of the state security apparatus because the language of the letter was much the same as that used against him and other defendants in the anti-Semitic atmosphere of the purge trial of Rudolf Slansky, former Secretary-General, of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, executed in the 1950s.

The letter and Dr. Goldstuecker's article were prominently featured in the party newspaper. According to some sources, it was reported here, progressive Communists are concerned that the democratization process so far has benefitted mainly intellectuals and journalists like Dr. Goldstuecker, more than the masses of the population. Jews hold leading positions in Czech politics and culture.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Says Government Won't Lobby In Middle East For Peace

THE HAGUE, June 24 (JTA)--The Netherlands Foreign Minister said in Parliament today that his Government will take no steps to try to influence either Israel or the Arab states by trade or political means in connection with peace talks. Dr. Joseph Luns spoke in reply to a Socialist MP who had asked the Government to take measures to further an Arab-Israel understanding. He said it was up to "United Nations members to do everything to ensure (peace envoy) Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring's success and to avoid any interference with his work."

(In Tel Aviv, Rumania's deputy foreign minister George Macovescu left this weekend after two days of talks on the Middle East situation with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. He ended speculation that his country might serve as a mediator between Israel and the Arab states when he told newsmen that "Rumania does not wish to mediate in international conflicts" although it wants peace everywhere. Eban said at a public meeting later that Rumania aims at peace in the Middle East but does not aspire to become a mediator in the Arab-Israel dispute. Speculation on a possible mediation role for Rumania was prompted here by the fact that Mr. Macovescu visited Egypt 10 days before he came to Israel and had talks with President Nasser and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad. Rumania is the only Communist bloc country that did not sever diplomatic relations with Israel after last June's Arab-Israel War.)

Hussein Tells Magazine Jordan Is Rebuilding Air Force With British, U.S. Planes

LONDON, June 24 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan disclosed in an interview published in a British aviation journal that his country is rebuilding its Air Force with British and American military planes and expects to complete the first phase next year. The Jordanian Air Force was destroyed by Israeli aircraft in the first hours of the June, 1967 war.

According to the interview in the magazine "Flight," when the first phase is completed the Jordanian Air Force will have two squadrons of Hawker Hunter close support aircraft and one squadron of United States Starfighter interceptors. New air bases are being built in Jordan. The King said that a second phase in the rebuilding process may be the purchase of the British Hawker Siddeley "Harrier" jump-jet tactical fighter planes. He assured the interviewer that Jordan had no intention of turning away from its traditional arms suppliers, Britain and the U.S., to Russia or any other country.

5,000 Resistance Fighters Demand That Government Ban National Democratic Party

BONN, June 24 (JTA)--Some 5,000 former resistance fighters and survivors of Nazi death camps rallied on the site of Dachau yesterday, the first of the death camps, and demanded that the Government ban the extreme rightist National Democratic Party, which they denounced as neo-Nazi. The rally took place following a meeting in Munich of delegates representing 25,000 resistance fighters. Munich was the birthplace of the Nazi Party.

Meanwhile, discussions were under way here on a proposed electoral reform that would prevent the NPD from getting seats in the next Bundestag, West Germany's lower house. The proposal would replace the present system of proportional representation with a system based on a majority vote. The NPD has won seats in seven of West Germany's 11 state legislatures on votes ranging from six to under 9.8 percent of the ballots cast. In Berlin today, four men putting up NPD posters assaulted and badly beat a man who had shouted "down with the NPD."

The Egyptian Government is stamping the passports of Egyptian citizens "not valid for West Germany" in an effort to keep them from travelling to this country, it was reported here.

In another West German-connected development, the president of Keren Hayesod, fund-raising arm of the Zionist movement, praised today the contribution of West German Jewry to the 1967 emergency fund for Israel launched at the time of the Six-Day War. Receiving a delegation of West German communal leaders in Jerusalem, Dr. Israel Goldstein noted that the campaign in West Germany last year had raised more than \$7 million.

Commerce Undersecretary Says U.S., Russia Must Act To Ensure Israel's Survival

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA)—A member of the Johnson Administration said here today that the United States, "hopefully supported by a new Russian understanding of our commitment" to Israel, must take the lead among world bodies "to develop new strategy, new policies insuring Israel's survival." He said this was essential "if the mistakes of the past decade in the Middle East are not to be repeated."

Howard J. Samuels, Undersecretary of Commerce, who represented the U.S. at the International Trade Fair at Tel Aviv, told the New York committee of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee here today that he had been concerned for years "about the failure of the institutions of the Government of America to be responsive and responsible to our changing needs and to our new opportunities." He returned from this visit, he said, "concerned that we Americans may not fully recognize the continuing and possibly growing peril in the Middle East." He warned that "the Russians, playing dangerous politics in the Middle East, are rearming the Arabs with even more modern aircraft and missiles."

A new strategy and policy, he said, were "essential to insure the survival of Israel." The failure of Israel to survive, he asserted, "would be a major tragedy in the history of mankind." He deplored the fact that despite Israel's victory last year, "peace still eludes her. There has been little or no progress toward peace between Israel and the Arab nations."

The committee announced that Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, its chairman, and Irving Kane, its co-chairman, will appeal to the national political conventions for strong Middle East planks urging direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations.

Levovitz Finds Christians, Moslems, Greek Orthodox Enjoy Full Freedom In Israel

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 24 (JTA)—Christian, Moslem and Greek Orthodox communities in Israel and the occupied areas are enjoying complete religious liberty and cultural freedom without the slightest restraint or hinderance by the Israel Government, according to the president of the Rabbinical Council of America. The Council is the largest Orthodox rabbinical body in the United States with over 1,000 members.

Rabbi Pesach Levovitz of Lakewood, N.J., the president, who has just returned from a mission to Israel to study the status of religious denominations there, said in his presidential address to the Council's convention, opening today, that religious "leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Moslem faiths told me in unequivocal terms that their spiritual activities were being carried on within a framework of maximum encouragement, assistance and freedom." He said that he met in Israel with Armenian Patriarch Elisha II; Greek Orthodox Patriarch Constantine; Dr. Douglas Young, director of the Holy Land Institute (Protestant); and leaders of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, as well as Moslem.

Rabbi Levovitz told the 500 delegates from the United States and Canada that non-Jewish clergymen said that there had been no interference or restriction on access to Holy shrines, houses of worship and centers of their respective movements. Rabbi Levovitz said Christian and Moslem leaders with whom he met vehemently opposed internationalization or fragmentation of Jerusalem. They said they were experiencing more religious freedom today than ever before. Rabbi Levovitz said they believe that the unification of Jerusalem is proving to be essential for proper and effective administration of the Holy Places.

Rabbi Levovitz also assailed the Reconstructionist movement for what he said was its position "regarding the recognition as a full-fledged Jew of a person born of a non-Jewish mother without any official conversion to Judaism." He said this flouts Jewish tradition, is without precedent and detrimental to "the future survival and viability of Jewry" since it "undermines the structure of Judaism in a most strategic and crucial sector of the faith." He said it was a "direct kind of intermarriage."

Seminary's American Jewish Religious Archives Acquires Richards' Personal Files

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA)—The Jewish Theological Seminary of America (Conservative) has acquired the personal files of Bernard G. Richards, founder and director until this year of the Jewish Information Bureau here. Mr. Richards' correspondence is the first major acquisition of the American Jewish Religious Archives, established at the Seminary last year as a repository for source materials about the history of Judaism in the United States and Canada.

"The Richards' files contain a wealth of historic material concerning the early days of Zionism," according to Dr. Moshe Davis, co-director of the Seminary's American Jewish History Center here. In addition to confidential reports on the problems of Jews around the world in the 1920s and 1930s, the file contains more than 1,000 letters from such historic figures as Louis D. Brandeis, Jacob Schiff, Julian W. Mack, Louis Marshall and Stephen S. Wise, among others. The History Center is devoted to the preparation of historical materials and the writing of history.

Mr. Richards was a correspondent and an editor for various Yiddish newspapers after coming to this country from Lithuania at the age of nine in 1886. He was a feature writer for Boston and New York newspapers and was a founder and executive secretary of the American Jewish Congress.

Three Branches Of Judaism Inaugurate Scholarship Program At Hebrew U.

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA)—A national campaign has been undertaken by the three branches of Judaism in America to provide a maximum number of scholarships for Israeli and American students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, it was announced here by Samuel Rothberg, national chairman of the Mt. Scopus scholarship program. Nearly 1,000 American students have enrolled at Hebrew University for the 1968-69 academic year starting next October. They will constitute more than half of the foreign student body which is expected to total 1,800 next autumn.