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Israel, Arabs And Major Powers Reported To Favor Continuation Of Jarring Mission

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)--Neither side in the Middle East dispute nor any of the Big Powers want United Nations peace envoy Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring to end his mission, although so far it has accomplished little or nothing toward bringing Israel and the Arab states to the peace table, it was reliably reported here today. But sources close to the Israel Government are increasingly concerned that the latest "peace offensive" by Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad may gain credence abroad. What the Egyptians are after is not a peace treaty with Israel but some sort of formula for an armed peace such as the one that followed the 1949 armistice agreements, they said. Mr. Riad's talk of "sweet reason" head in several European capitals recently may influence other governments toward accepting the Egyptian viewpoint, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban met with Dr. Jarring in The Hague last week and reported to the Cabinet today on his latest talk with the UN emissary. It was reliably learned that Dr. Jarring will submit only an interim report to Secretary General U Thant next month, not a final report, and that he will not ask for a change in his terms of reference which seek to promote an agreement between both sides in the Middle East conflict. It is believed here that Dr. Jarring will continue to occupy himself with marginal questions such as the release of 15 merchant ships that have been stranded in the Suez Canal shutdown since June, 1967. Success in that effort might improve the atmosphere sufficiently to further negotiations on more substantive matters, observers here said.

It was learned that Dr. Jarring brought up with Mr. Eban the so-called Allon plan for peace with Jordan and Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan's remarks at a Labor Party caucus last week urging Israel to reject the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Middle East. Labor Minister Yigal Allon had proposed partitioning the West Bank into Israeli security zones and an autonomous Arab enclave. Mr. Eban is reported to have told Dr. Jarring that neither the Allon plan nor Gen. Dayan's reported remarks have official standing. He reiterated to the UN envoy that Israel's policy remains unchanged and that Israel considers that anything and everything can be discussed in direct talks with the Arab governments.

Alarm over the influence that Mr. Riad may be having centered on his statements at a press conference in Oslo yesterday. He said that Egypt fully accepts the Nov. 22 resolution including its provisions for freedom of shipping. He did not specifically mention the Suez Canal in that connection. He also said that the Arab summit conference at Khartoum last August did not preclude peace with Israel. According to Mr. Riad, "in Arabic there is one word for both peace and a peace treaty" and what the Khartoum conference decreed was that there should be no formal peace with Israel.

It was reliably learned here that some Western nations, including Denmark and The Netherlands, which have been conspicuously friendly toward Israel, are advising Israel not to "miss the opportunity" that they believe Egypt is offering with its "soft" line and to abandon its insistence on direct talks with the Arabs. Israel has stated, however, that it will not accept the formula of an armed peace reached through intermediaries, as suggested by Mr. Riad. Furthermore, Israel's friends are being told, Israel does not accept Egypt's insistence on the evacuation of all territories captured in last June's Six-Day War. Israel says this is not a provision of the Security Council's resolution.

Sees Moscow Working With Moderate Arabs To Influence Israel

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--The London Observer reported from Moscow today that Soviet Russia is looking for a political solution of the Middle East conflict and is working in concert with the more moderate Arab leadership to bring Israel around to accepting a solution that will insure its safety in return for a troop withdrawal from occupied areas and other measures. The Observer made this assessment in comments on United Nations peace envoy Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's talks in Moscow this week with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov. Mr. Kuznetsov headed the Soviet delegation at the last session of the UN General Assembly.

The London Times reported today that Dr. Jarring, who is officially on vacation, discussed the Middle East situation in talks with the Soviet diplomats. Dr. Jarring is Sweden's Ambassador to Russia but was given a leave of absence to take up the Middle East peace-seeking mission assigned to him by Secretary General U Thant last year. He met with Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in The Hague last week and was visited in Stockholm earlier by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad.

According to the Observer, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin and Foreign Minister Gromyko are convinced that the key to a Middle East solution lies in Washington, not Israel, and "calculate that the United States will not continue their estrangement from the Arabs indefinitely" but "may exercise gentle pressure on Tel Aviv to come to terms as soon as the American Presidential elections are over."

The Observer reported that Russia wants to maintain the political prestige and ascendancy in the Middle East which they won as a by-product of the Arab-Israel war last June but "are showing signs of impatience with inter-Arab disputes." The paper said that the Russians are making a strong effort to bring about unity in the Arab camp. What they fear most at present is the danger of the extinction of left-wing Arab regimes under right-wing pressure, the Observer said. In response to this threat, they are doing all they can to shore up the left-wing regimes, are striving to bring the warring factions together and are working with the more moderate Arabs for a settlement with Israel, according to the paper.

'Financial Times' Says Nasser Expected To Seek More Soviet Economic, Military Aid

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--The Financial Times reported over the weekend that when President Nasser of Egypt visits Moscow next month he is expected to ask for more Soviet economic and military assistance. But Russia has indicated that it has given Egypt all the economic aid it can spare, the paper said. According to the Financial Times, the Egyptians are not convinced by the Soviet arguments especially as, the paper said, they are being tempted by aid offers from the United States. In that connection, the Times noted that Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank and former United States Secretary of Defense, is due in Cairo early next month to make offers of assistance to Egypt's faltering economy. If Egypt accepts World Bank credits through Mr. McNamara, it may find it difficult to continue to refuse to resume diplomatic relations with Washington, another matter that Nasser will bring up with the Soviet leaders, the Financial Times said.

Three Small Railroad Bridges Near Gaza Strip Slightly Damaged By Arab Marauders

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)--Three small railroad bridges in the northern sector of the Gaza Strip were slightly damaged by explosive charges that went off during the night but were quickly repaired this morning and rail traffic is proceeding normally, a military spokesman reported today. A search for the Arab saboteurs is going on.

Two Arab saboteurs were killed Thursday night in a clash east of Jericho when a gang of infiltrators was intercepted by an Israeli patrol. There were no Israeli casualties. A Russian-made assault rifle and a Karl Gustav submachinegun were found on the bodies along with hand grenades and a quantity of ammunition. (Press services reported from Beirut yesterday that Arab commandos said they destroyed the Israeli military command headquarters in Jericho and killed the Israeli military governor and a large number of officers and men in the raid.)

A military spokesman reported today that automatic fire was aimed at Israeli forces in the Golan Heights last night. It came from Jordanian territory. There were no casualties. Two Arab marauders were killed early today in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near the Damiyah Bridge on the Jordan River cease-fire line. No injuries were reported by Israel.

(Amman appears seriously concerned that it will be attacked soon and has begun civil defense preparations for the first time since the Six-Day War, according to a report today in the London Sunday Observer. Sandbags went up in the Jordan capital last week at entrances to office buildings, ships and other places. Following recent Israeli attacks, in particular the artillery shelling of the town of Irbid, in retaliation for terrorism in Israel, there has been widespread criticism of the lack of protection for the civilian population, the Observer reported. Frontline soldiers have also reportedly complained to King Hussein about inadequate military equipment and lack of air cover with which to ward off any Israeli attacks along the cease-fire line.)

Cabinet Portfolios, Issue Of Mixed Praying At Western Wall On Cabinet's Agenda

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)--Israel's Cabinet was scheduled to hold two sessions today to take up a number of pressing issues, the main one being the reshuffle of Cabinet portfolios proposed two weeks ago by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Mr. Eshkol wants to elevate Labor Minister Yigal Allon to the rank of deputy prime minister in charge of the new Absorption Ministry. He would be succeeded in the Labor Ministry by Yosef Almogi.

Mr. Eshkol also faces pressure from the religious bloc in the Cabinet on another matter on today's agenda. It concerns the right of men and women to pray together at the Western Wall. The Ministry for Religious Affairs refused to give permission for mixed prayer to the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a Reform group which will hold its convention here this week. The Union has appealed to the Knesset and the Cabinet which are studying the matter despite protests by the Orthodox bloc. It is possible that, as in the past, Mr. Eshkol may be inclined to yield to religious party pressures in exchange for their favorable votes on what he regards as a more important issue.

Menahem Beigin, Herut Party leader, said on his return here from the United States that he would report to Mr. Eshkol on his talks with high ranking U.S. Government officials. These included Presidential advisors Eugene and Walter Rostow; Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach and Lucius Battle, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Religious Affairs Ministry Reports Divorce Rate Is 10 Percent Of Marriages

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)--The Ministry for Religious Affairs reported yesterday that divorces are running at a rate of 10 percent of marriages among Israel's Jewish population. The rabbinate registered 18,200 marriages and 1,960 divorces last year. Civil marriage and divorce are prohibited in Israel. In another area, the Ministry announced that it had found pulpits for 19 new immigrant rabbis during the past year and had helped them find housing with interest-free loans provided by the Wolfson Foundation.

Desalination Plant Ordered For Nahal Outpost Fishing In Northern Sinai

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)--A water desalting plant will start operations shortly at Nahal Yam, a para-military settlement established on the northern Sinai coast near the Bardawil lagoon. The settlers are engaged in fishing. The Jewish Agency's settlement department ordered construction of the plant to provide the settlement with fresh water for domestic uses and irrigation. The plant will operate on the principle invented by Alexander Zarchin, a Russian-born Israeli engineer who holds more than 20 patents for the desalination of sea water.

Captain, Four Lieutenants Killed In Auto Accident Returning From Reserve Duty

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)--Five army reserve officers, a captain and four lieutenants, aged 24 to 38, were killed in an automobile accident last weekend when their private car hit a concrete column near Jerusalem. All had completed their tour of reserve duty and were returning to their homes.

Rumania's Chief Rabbi Praises Regime For Helping Jewish Community Rebuild

BUCHAREST, June 30 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania today praised the Rumanian Government for its support in helping to rebuild the war-ravaged Jewish community of this country after World War II. At the same time, he reaffirmed Rumanian Jewry's spiritual ties with Israel. Rabbi Rosen spoke from the pulpit of the Choral Synagogue where he was feted on the 20th anniversary of his accession to the office of Chief Rabbi. He declared that his experiences over the past 20 years proved that Jews can create a viable existence under either capitalist or Socialist forms of Government. He cited the participation of Rumanian Jewry in the creation of a Socialist state in this country.

Rabbi Rosen received the personal felicitations of Jewish and non-Jewish religious leaders and from representatives of Jewish communities and organizations in the United States, Israel and throughout the world. Among the religious dignitaries present were the Patriarch Justinian of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, the Moslem Mufti and Archbishop Augustin of the Roman Catholic Church. Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, headed a list of rabbinical leaders from five other countries, among them Chief Rabbi emeritus of Great Britain, Dr. Israel Brodie. Greetings were received from Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow, who is currently visiting the United States.

American Jewish leaders who attended the ceremonies at the Bucharest synagogue, the first event of its kind ever held in Rumania, included Rabbi Max Nussbaum of Hollywood, Cal., president of the American section of the World Jewish Congress, and Phillip E. Hoffman of Newark, N.J., chairman of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee. Louis D. Horowitz of the Joint Distribution Committee in Geneva headed a JDC delegation. Israel was represented by Maurice Yaffe of Jerusalem, president of the Union of Israeli Synagogues and Zalman Shragai, a leader of the Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrahi, the religious Zionist party. Also present were representatives of the Jewish communities of Canada, Argentina, France and Yugoslavia, and of Rumania's 72 Jewish communities. Elias Katz, Chief Rabbi of Slovakia, was also present. But neither delegates nor messages were received from Poland or from neighboring Bulgaria.

Deputy Chairman Of Right-Wing National Democrats Quits After Clash In Baden

BONN, June 30 (JTA)--The deputy chairman of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party, who has a Nazi record dating back to the pre-World War II era, resigned yesterday from that post but not as a member of the NPD's parliamentary faction in the Baden-Wurttemberg state legislature. Wilhelm Gutmann, 67, gave ill health as the grounds for his resignation, but it came just after a clash with Erich Ganzenmueller, head of the Christian Democratic Party in Baden-Wurttemberg, who refused to cooperate with the NPD and denounced Mr. Gutmann for mistreatment of Jews 30 years ago for which he served a prison term in 1947.

The clash occurred in the Baden-Wurttemberg parliament Friday when the question of committee assignments came up. The NPD won its first seats in the state legislature by 9.8 percent of the votes cast in an April election. Mr. Ganzenmueller, speaking for the Christian Democrats and for the Social Democratic and Free Democratic Party factions as well, said that those parties, as liberals, could not cooperate with the NPD. Mr. Ganzenmueller referred to Mr. Gutmann's role in the notorious "crystal night" in Germany in 1938 when Jewish property was destroyed and thousands of Jews were arrested by the Nazis. He also noted that Mr. Gutmann, as mayor of the south German town of Tiengen before the war, took part in actions against Jewish citizens and was sentenced to a prison term. Members of the NPD faction reacted with shouts of "de-Nazification." One of them, Karl Bassler, insisted that the 1947 verdict had no bearing on Mr. Gutmann's 1968 status and declared that the NPD stood behind him.

But apparently Mr. Gutmann was proving more of a liability than an asset to NPD chairman Adolf von Thadden, who is trying to cleanse the image of his party which has been denounced as neo-Nazi in West Germany and abroad. Last April Mr. Gutmann lost a defamation suit against the Work Committee Against Right-Wing Radicalism which had accused him of terrorism against Jews in Tiengen. The state prosecutor declined to pursue the charges on the grounds that they were true.

The Muenster administrative high court has ruled that the city of Duesseldorf must rent municipal halls to the NPD.

Defendant Ill, Trial For Deportation Of Bulgarian Jews Is Suspended; Ex-Nazi Gets Life

FRANKFURT, June 30 (JTA)--The trial of Adolf Beckerle, Nazi minister in Sofia, Bulgaria, during World War II, was suspended yesterday because the defendant is sick and in the hospital. Mr. Beckerle was charged with participation in the mass deportations of Bulgarian Jews. Also deferred was the testimony of West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger who was called as a defense witness. Mr. Kiesinger, who was an army officer at the time, is alleged to have had contacts with Mr. Beckerle. Whether the trial will resume or a new trial will be ordered depends on the length of Mr. Beckerle's illness. According to German procedure, if there is more than a 10-day gap in the proceedings, the trial must begin anew.

A sentence of life imprisonment was imposed in Cologne on Kurt Wiese, a former SS officer charged with participation in the wartime shooting of 177 Jewish men, women and children in the Grodno ghetto in occupied Poland, between 1941 and 1943. The trial opened last March 11. Another defendant and former SS officer, Heinz Errelis, 55, of Bochum, was acquitted for lack of proof. He had been sentenced in 1967 to six and a half years imprisonment at hard labor but the sentence was never carried out because of procedural appeals.

Italian Court Will Decide Whether Jews Were 'Enemies' Or Have To Pay Postwar Tax

ROME, June 30 (JTA)--An Italian court will decide shortly whether Jews in Italy were treated as "enemies" under the Mussolini regime during World War II and therefore should be exempt from payment of a 1946 head tax to cover war damages. The question has been the subject of many lawsuits in civil and administrative courts since the tax was decreed.

NCRAC Parley Opens With Appeal To Jews To Remain Active In Negro Rights Struggle

SAN FRANCISCO, June 30 (JTA)--A call to the American Jewish community not to react to Black extremists by becoming "disengaged" from the Negro struggle for full equality today opened the annual plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Jordan C. Band of Cleveland, NCRAC chairman, said in a keynote address that the Jewish community "has a massive stake" in the urban crisis and must not be diverted "because some Negroes are violent, or ungrateful, or anti-Semitic."

"Nor are we in it to reward Negroes for their forbearance, respectability, courtesy or amiability, or to win their gratitude," Mr. Band told 250 delegates representing the nine national Jewish organizations and 81 local community relations councils that are NCRAC's constituents. The Jewish community cannot withdraw from the struggle that is "a crisis of conscience" without forfeiting "what Jews have gained over many years and without repudiating the very principles of democratic pluralism on which we have rested our claim to equal acceptance," he said. Warning that a polarizing of attitudes "which defy reconciliation" will evoke continued "violent confrontations," Mr. Band urged Jewish organizations to work for a lessening in racial tensions.

A message from President Lyndon B. Johnson lauded NCRAC's efforts in the enactment of recent civil rights legislation. "But poverty, racism and illiteracy still plague our society," Mr. Johnson said. "We are a nation challenged — but a nation on the move. Together, we can and must move — away from violence, frustration, hate, fear and intolerance and toward conciliation, orderly change and general fulfillment."

Addressing a session on Middle East problems, Israel Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin said that those who charge Israel with "rigidity" in its relations with Arab states "overlook reality and tend to persuade by tactical moves and evasive formulations instead of looking at the roots of the problem." Mr. Rabin said "It is not rigidity" to demand direct negotiations that can lead to peace treaties or the occupation of territories reinforcing Israel's security until such agreements are reached. Citing the 1949 armistice agreements, he asked, "Is it rigidity to have the same negotiations procedures as were conducted then under the sponsorship of the United Nations?"

In a session on Soviet Jewry, Isaiah Minkoff, NCRAC's executive vice-chairman, welcomed "the action of Soviet authorities in permitting Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin (of Moscow) an opportunity to see first-hand the vitality of American Jewish life in a free society." Mr. Minkoff expressed hope that the visit "was not just a happening" but a forerunner of other actions "leading to a reversal of Soviet policy that will accord Russian Jews the same rights granted other Soviet ethnic and religious groups."

Organizations, Individuals Take Steps To Combat Cause, Results Of Urban Crisis

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA)--Jewish organizations and individuals in three major Eastern cities have developed programs to combat the causes and consequences of the urban crisis. The board of trustees of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County, N.J. has voted support of the Newark Urban Coalition and a grant of funds to that agency. Sidney M. Weinstein, JCC president, announced. The action was part of an overall program approved by the Council to help deal with the problems of urban deterioration, civil rights, race relations, minority group deprivation and poverty.

The Council approved a series of recommendations from its community relations committee for active support of legislative proposals and community programs offered by the Governor's Commission on Civil Disorders. It also established guidelines for dealing with proposals for core-city help from the Council's local agencies.

A group of Philadelphia Jewish residents, acting in their individual capacities and not as representative of Jewish organizations, has been meeting with representatives of the Black Coalition to develop a program for racial progress and to promote better Negro-Jewish relations. Robert Klein, executive vice-president and general manager of radio station WDAS, and Stanley Branche, executive director of the Black Coalition, said the meetings represented "a joint effort to create new lines of communication and develop affirmative action programs in order to deal with the current racial crisis." Areas of activity include attracting more Negroes to become businessmen, development of machinery to investigate complaints or charges of exploitation in the ghetto, programs of educating both communities to the needs and aspirations of the other, and joint statements on public issues confronting the two communities.

(In Washington, D.C. a coalition of Jewish agencies has established a special fund to provide interest free loans to Jewish businessmen who are in financial straits because of damage suffered during rioting in April. The loan fund will be operated by a committee that will consider applications for aid from small retail firms that are no longer able to borrow money through customary channels. Morris Rodman, chairman of the committee, said the decision to establish the committee and fund was made at a United Jewish Appeal executive committee meeting. He said the UJA unit will act as coordinating agency and work with the Jewish Community Council and other agencies in the capital.)

United States Visit Ends For Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin and Cantor David Stiskin

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA)--Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow and Cantor David Stiskin of Leningrad will end their two-week visit to the United States tomorrow. But the hour and place of their departure are being kept a closely guarded secret in order to avoid possible demonstrations, according to Gottfried Neuburger of the Friends of Jerusalem, the organization that has been managing the latter part of Rabbi Levin's American tour. It is believed, however, that the Soviet Jewish religious leader will leave this country as he entered it — by way of Canada where he will board a Soviet airliner for Moscow.

The Friends of Jerusalem is the American counterpart of the Neturei Karta, a sect of ultra-Orthodox religious zealots who live in Jerusalem but refuse to recognize the authority of the Israel Government. The group took over Rabbi Levin's itinerary from the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism which originally sponsored his trip.