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Jordan, Ready For Peace Talks, Is Balked By Egyptian Refusal To Approve

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--Jordan, in principle, is still ready for direct peace negotiations with Israel but "certain difficulties" bar the way to such talks, political circles said here yesterday. The "difficulties" were not specified, but it is understood that part of the trouble lies in Egypt's refusal to give Jordan a green light for talks with Israel.

This assessment of the situation was based on the talks between Foreign Minister Abba Eban and UN peace envoy Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring in The Hague two weeks ago and Dr. Jarring's meeting in London this week with Ambassador Gideon Rafael, director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry. Mr. Rafael spoke to Dr. Jarring shortly after the latter's meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister, Abdul Moneim el-Rifai, also in London. It is not expected here that Dr. Jarring will bring the Arab-Israeli dispute back to the Security Council. Observers said that he does not consider his mission to have reached either an end or an unbreakable deadlock.

According to some West Bank Arab leaders who recently visited Amman, and a circumstantial report published in a Beirut daily, King Hussein pleaded desperately with his top military commanders last week for their endorsement of separate peace negotiations with Israel "without the advice or approval of any other Arab state." According to the reports, the generals angrily rebuffed Hussein and a deep rift now exists between the King and his Army.

Hussein reportedly summoned about 100 men, whom he regarded his most loyal and devoted officers, to a secret session in Amman. He told them that "Jordan alone cannot and will not be able to fight Israel." He is reported to have said, "we are losing all the time. We have lost half our territories. We lost half our warriors in the guerrilla bands. We have lost all of our income from tourists and our hardships continue."

He then reportedly told the officers, "I called you here to get your support to try to reach a political solution with Israel." He told them of his failure to get support for Jordan from either France, England or the United States. He said there was no hope of aid from the Arab countries.

The Egyptian television broadcast a recorded interview with King Hussein who took a hard line on the Arab-Israeli dispute and asserted that the Arabs will never give up their rights to Jerusalem or "one inch of land." The ruler said that "Israel must realize that there can be no peace in the Middle East until Arab rights are regained."

Israel Sees No Change in Egyptian Policy Following Nasser-Soviet Talks

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--Israel today saw no change in Egyptian policy emerging from President Nasser's week of talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow which ended yesterday. The first official comment on those talks was made at a press conference here tonight by Ambassador Gideon Rafael, director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, who was sharply critical of the joint Soviet-Egyptian statement issued prior to Nasser's departure from Moscow.

The statement said that peace in the Middle East "must be based on the lawful rights of the Arab peoples, including the Arab population of Palestine." There was not even a hint, said Mr. Rafael, of the rights of the Jewish people which include life, sovereignty and peace. Nor, he said, did the Moscow statement make any reference to the tried and accepted method of settling international disputes around the negotiating table, such as the current Vietnam peace talks. "The only arena where the conflict can be brought to an end and which Egypt has so far refused to try out is the negotiating table," he said.

He observed that the Arabs of late have begun to regard the problem of their dispute with Israel on two levels. One is the 1967 war and the other is the existence of Israel itself. They think that if they bring about the "liquidation of the consequences" of the June war they will still be free to dispute the existence of Israel, Mr. Rafael said. This, he added, is not included among the problems that Nasser wants to settle by "political means."

He said that the "solution of the refugee problem" has always meant, in the Egyptian terminology, the return of the refugees to what is now Israel. He noted that the Egyptian leader said, in a German television interview some time ago, that the return of the refugees will mean the destruction of Israel. When Egypt ties in a refugee solution with the opening of the Suez Canal, he is misinterpreting the Security Council's resolution of last November and is in fact using the question of the refugees as a means for perpetuating the Arab-Israeli conflict, the diplomat said.

The head of the Foreign Ministry said that Israel could not accept the phrase in the Moscow statement which promises continued Soviet arms support for the defense of Egypt. "Since 1955 an unending stream of all types of weapons has been supplied by the Soviet Union including weapons meant for attack and aggression," he said. "These have been used to attack Israel. If Moscow wants the conflict ended in accordance with the Security Council's resolution of last November, as stated in the joint announcement, then it must recommend the signing of a formal and regular peace treaty. So far no hint of this has been forthcoming either from Moscow or Cairo," Mr. Rafael said.

American Skyhawks Center Of Attraction In Display Of Israel's Air Power

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA)--Recently delivered American Skyhawk jets were the center of attraction in a display of air power that marked Israel Air Force Day at a base in the Negev today. Despite blistering temperatures, several thousand people attended the event which was addressed by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, and the commander of Israel's Air Force, Col. Mordechai Hod.

The latter, who pinned wings on newly graduated pilot officers, declared in a radio interview that Israel's Air Force has the means to stand up against the equipment now possessed by the Arab states and will always maintain a qualitative superiority of Israeli flyers over Arab flyers.

The Air Force Day celebrations were highlighted by a demonstration of bombing, rocket launching and strafing. In addition to the Skyhawks, the Air Force showed off its French-built Mirage and Mystere jets and Fouga-Magister trainers in a display of aerial acrobatics. Gen. Dayan sounded a sober note when he observed that the Arabs have rebuilt their smashed Air Forces as if nothing had happened in June, 1967 and Israel faces a new confrontation. "We have always been dragged into wars we did not want but we won because of the superior quality of our men," he said.

4 Arab Saboteurs Killed, Another Captured, In Clash With Israeli Patrol

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA)--Four Arab saboteurs were killed and a fifth was captured along with a quantity of arms and ammunition in a clash with an Israeli patrol about 15 miles west of the Jordan River, a military spokesman reported yesterday. An Israeli soldier was injured when his jeep hit a mine near Ein Yahav on the Eilat road east of S'dom. Other Israeli soldiers escaped injury when their halftrack was attacked with bazooka and machinegun fire while patrolling the Beisan Valley area near Tirat Zvi. The Israeli soldiers returned the fire at unidentified persons seen hiding on the east bank of the Jordan.

A military court in Nablus today sentenced an El Fatah gang leader to 20 years in prison and one of his henchmen to a 15-year term. The leader, Djoua Daloul, and Abou Roub, were both captured in lower Galilee recently. Roub served as liaison between El Fatah and the local Arab population. He told the court that he was forced to join El Fatah when they kidnapped his small son. He said the boy was released only after he joined.

Israel Offers Blankets, Food, Medical Supplies To Biafra's Suffering Population

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--The Israel Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that aid had been offered to relieve the suffering of the population of Biafra, the break-away eastern province of Nigeria where thousands of people were reported dying of starvation each day. A Ministry spokesman said Israel's offer of aid had been made through the International Red Cross headquarters in Geneva. Israel was waiting to hear from the IRC whether such items as blankets, food and medical supplies were wanted, or just the funds to buy them, he said.

Informed sources here noted that the problem was less a matter of acquiring supplies for Biafrans than getting supplies to them. Biafra is under siege by the Nigerian Government which has refused to allow an airlift of supplies. The Biafrans, on the other hand, will not accept the offer of a land corridor through Nigerian Federal territory, they said.

Israel Plans To Buy Three Supertankers To Transport Oil To Port Of Eilat

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--Israel will purchase three 250,000-deadweight-ton supertankers to transport oil to Eilat, on the Gulf of Aqaba, where a 42-inch pipeline is being laid to the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon, Minister of Transport Moshe Carmel told the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday. He said that these vessels, which will be among the largest afloat, will make Israel independent of foreign shipping in hauling the oil, a vital resource. He said that a fourth supertanker has been taken by Israel on a 15-year charter.

Mr. Carmel also disclosed that a survey is being made of the feasibility of transporting goods other than oil over the "land bridge" from Eilat to the Mediterranean. In that connection, an American company has reportedly asked for a concession to produce, maintain and repair 20-ton containers for use on an Eilat-Mediterranean transportation link.

Israel already owns tankers in the 60,000-ton class, a size that was considered "super" up until a few years ago. Several of these vessels however are registered abroad and fly foreign flags.

The Israeli Government will buy Israel's "little pipeline" -- a 16-inch one -- from Eilat to Haifa from the original investment corporation, headed by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, for \$22,000,000.

Israel Offers Export Incentives To Arab Traders In Occupied Territories

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--Israeli authorities have agreed to offer export incentives to Arab traders in all Israel-occupied territories, including the Gaza Strip. The incentives will be identical to the premiums earned by Israeli exporters. Earnings in foreign currency, which entitle exporters to premiums, will include Jordanian dinars paid for exports to the East Bank. Like other foreign currencies, the dinars will have to be converted into Israeli pounds to qualify for the premiums.

233-Year-Old Synagogue From German Village Loaned To Israel Museum In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA)--The 233-year-old synagogue from the village of Horb in Germany, on loan to the Israel Museum, was unveiled here by Mayor Teddy Kollek, chairman of the Israel Museum's board of directors. The ancient synagogue, made of painted wooden boards had been donated to the town of Bamberg in Germany with the stipulation that it never be sold.

World Jewish Congress Governing Council Told Of Hate Propaganda In Latin America

GENEVA, July 11 (JTA)--A Latin American delegate to the meeting of the World Jewish Congress governing council reported here today that Jews were deeply concerned over widespread, systematic anti-Semitic propaganda in Latin America that seems to emanate from one central source.

According to Marc Turkow, there had been no physical attacks on Jews in recent months but Nazi-like propaganda continued to appear in legal as well as in illegal publications. Although it was spread over various countries, it was often identical — indicating that it was being circulated by an international organization, Mr. Turkow said. He said the centers of the propaganda seemed to be Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Barcelona, Spain. The propaganda was supported quite openly by the Arab League, he reported. Mr. Turkow's report was confirmed by other Latin American delegates — Gil Lasky and Jose Kruze, of Mexico; Georg Salomon, of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America; and Dr. Victor Winterstein, of Brazil.

Hersch Cynowicz, president of the Central Jewish Board of India, noted that the Indian Jewish community will soon mark its 1,900th anniversary. The New Delhi Government has already announced that it will issue a stamp to celebrate the occasion. Mr. Cynowicz said that representatives of the Government, possibly even the Prime Minister, would attend anniversary ceremonies.

The governing council appealed to Soviet authorities to remove all obstacles to the full exercise by Soviet Jews of their religious and cultural rights and to permit those who so desire to emigrate in order to be united with their families abroad. The council expressed its concern over the rise of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party in West Germany and the anti-Semitic propaganda of radical right-wing publications there.

Egypt Charges Israel With 'Unprovoked Aggression' In Shelling Of Port Suez

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 11 (JTA)--Egypt yesterday charged Israel with "unprovoked aggressive action" that caused heavy civilian casualties and severe property damage in Monday's shelling of the town of Port Suez. In a letter addressed to this month's president of the Security Council, Twefik Bouattoura of Algeria, the Egyptian deputy permanent representative, Amin Hilmy II, said that 46 persons were killed and 67 were wounded, and that one church, two mosques and one child welfare center were completely destroyed. He said that 25 houses, one hospital and the railway station were partially destroyed.

The shelling he cited occurred during the course of a six-hour artillery and small arms duel between Israeli and Egyptian units on opposite banks of the Suez Canal which, Israeli authorities said, was started by the Egyptians late Monday afternoon. Hours before, an Israeli soldier was killed by an Egyptian sniper. A report by United Nations cease-fire observers along the Suez Canal, made public yesterday, made no attempt to assess blame. But it related that in a variety of separate exchanges, Egyptian troops initiated rifle, machinegun and mortar fire. Sources here in a position to know the facts had the impression that Egypt was responsible for starting the shooting but said that Israeli retaliation was out of proportion to the provocation. (Dr. Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, the chief spokesman for the Egyptian Government, warned in Cairo yesterday that the Israeli shelling of Port Suez invited Egyptian retaliation.)

Arab Guerrilla Organizations Confer On Coordinating Anti-Israel Activities

LONDON, July 11 (JTA)--The new "Palestinian National Council," a group made up of about 100 representatives of various guerrilla organizations, is meeting in Cairo to discuss the coordination of their activities against Israel, their relationship with the Arab governments and rivalries between guerrilla groups, it was reported here today.

The principal components of the council are El Fatah, the Popular Front for Palestinian Liberation, and the Palestine Liberation Organization. But the council has dissociated itself from the discredited policies of the PLO's former chairman, Ahmed Shukairy, and emphasizes its independence from Arab governments, the reports said.

Commenting on the Cairo meeting, the London Times said today that it remains to be seen whether the council can avoid simply being a forum for the quarrels of its principal components. There is no indication that it intends to set up a government-in-exile but its relationship with the Arab governments remains undefined, the Times said.

AJCommittee Delegation Assured By Bonn Officials That Restitution Will Be Paid

BONN, July 11 (JTA)--A delegation representing the American Jewish Committee conferred yesterday with West German officials here and were assured that all pending restitution claims will be paid this year. Last year there had been a postponement of payments, and new cases were not accepted.

The delegation also discussed possible electoral reform that would have the effect of curbing the rise of the right-wing National Democratic Party and was told that the question will probably be presented to the Cabinet in the autumn and that an electoral reform plan will be ready for presentation to the Government for possible implementation in 1969, when Federal elections will be held.

The delegation conferred with State Secretary George Duckwitz, Justice Minister Gustav Heinemann, and Interior Minister Ernst Benda.

Heading the delegation was Philip E. Hoffman of South Orange, N.J. The members included AJCommittee executive vice president Bertram H. Gold; Jerry Goodman, the organization's specialist on Europe; and Martin Gang, Max Bay, Norman Raab, Richard Maass, Zachariah Schuster, Simon Segal and Gerard Weinstock.

Humphrey Urges Sale Of Jets To Israel, But Does Not Say If He Means Phantoms

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA)--Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey today called for "continued U.S. military assistance, including jet planes, to Israel" but the kind of planes he had in mind was left up in the air. Staff aides to the candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination could not say whether Mr. Humphrey was referring to the supersonic F-4 Phantom jets that Israel formally requested six months ago or the subsonic Skyhawks previously sold to Israel.

Last January, Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, meeting with President Johnson at the LBJ Ranch in Texas, requested 50 Phantom fighter-bombers, fastest and most modern warplane in the American arsenal. Israel claims it needs the Phantoms to balance the ultra-modern jets supplied in large numbers by Soviet Russia to Egypt and Syria. The Administration sold the older and slower Skyhawks to Israel but has delayed action on Israel's application for the Phantoms. Mr. Humphrey's statement today shed no new light on his stand regarding the Phantoms.

The Vice President said that American military aid to Israel is justified "until permanent peace is achieved and the arms race is ended." He stressed that "the real answer lies in agreed disarmament" and supported active U.S. diplomatic efforts to gain a "general settlement." "The cause of peace will not be served by the pursuit of military preponderance by Arab states through arms deliveries from the Soviet Union," Mr. Humphrey said.

He recalled that he had enthusiastically supported the creation of Israel on moral and political grounds, and said that the grounds of a permanent Middle East peace are the acceptance of Israel by its Arab neighbors, the transformation of truce lines into "agreed and secure boundaries," Israeli navigation rights in the Suez Canal and Gulf of Aqaba, an end to the arms race, and international assistance to help solve the Arab refugee problem.

Murphy Urges Humphrey To Clarify His Position On Jets

Senator George Murphy, California Republican, today called on Mr. Humphrey to clarify his statement on the jets. In a speech on the Senate floor, Mr. Murphy announced he is circulating a resolution calling on the Administration to provide supersonic jet aircraft to Israel. The Senator wondered whether the Vice-President was feeling "a bit uncomfortable" about the Administration's "rather poor record on the Middle East."

Sen. Murphy said, "To date the U.S. has only agreed to provide subsonic A-4 Skyhawks to Israel, so if the Vice-President wants to continue current Administration arms policies, his position also may be totally inadequate. However, the Vice-President avoided mentioning what kind of jet fighters he wants to sell Israel. If he is talking about supersonic F-4 Phantoms, he is breaking with current Administration policy and he should say so emphatically."

The Senator was also critical "of people who believe that the Administration's decision to supply additional batteries of Hawk missiles to Israel can possibly offset the more than \$250,000,000 worth of new Soviet arms rushed to the Middle East since last year's Arab-Israeli war."

El Al's Trans-Atlantic Business Booming, U.S. Gives Approval To Leasing Of More Planes

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA)--El Al, Israel's national airline, has more traffic than it can cope with on its trans-Atlantic route and is chartering additional planes to handle the growing load, it was reported here. The company has just been authorized by the United States Civil Aviation Board to charter aircraft from World Airways Inc. sufficient to provide 15 additional round flights. El Al presently operates 24 trans-Atlantic flights per week using seven of its own planes and two chartered jets. The company's load factor — the ratio of passengers carried to number of seats available — is now running at 95 percent, 30 percent over the average load factor of other trans-Atlantic airliners, the company said.

El Al has reported a profit for the ninth consecutive year. It said the profit, \$1.6 million, will permit it to write off previous losses remaining on the balance sheet and will leave some \$570,000 for dividends or a bonus to shareholders.

These figures were disclosed in the company's annual report submitted by Israel Minister of Transport Moshe Carmel, who is chairman of El Al, and its president, Mordechai Ben Ari. The report also announced that El Al will spend \$163 million for four new American-made planes to be in service by 1975. Two are Boeing 707s and two are Boeing's jumbo 747 jets. El Al operates passenger services between Israel, Europe and New York, and from Israel to South Africa. It announced recently that it hoped to expand its route to include additional American and European cities.

Agudath Intervention Leads To Agriculture Department Approval Of Israeli Ethrogim

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA)--Intervention by Agudath Israel has resulted in blocking a probable ban on the importation of ethrogim from Israel. The ethrogim are used in Sukkot observances. United States Department of Agriculture regulations had in effect, banned the import by requiring the fumigation of all citrus fruits from the Middle East in order to protect the American citrus crop from possible infestation by the Mediterranean fruit fly. Because of its sensitive nature, fumigation of the ethrog peel would have rendered it unfit for ritual use.

The use by American Jews of Israeli ethrogim was agreed to by Agriculture Department officials after proposal of an interim plan by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel, calling for an examination of them in Israel by American and Israeli inspectors before shipment. Rabbi Sherer proposed that chemical testing should begin now to develop a fumigant by 1969 that would not harm the ethrog skin.