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Republican Leadership In Congress Urges Sale Of Phantom Fighter-Bombers To Israel

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA)--The Republican leadership of Congress, following a policy meeting, today said a dangerous imbalance existed in the Middle East that could be corrected only by the United States supplying F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel. The stand of the Republican leadership on this issue was announced at a press conference by Senate minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois, and House minority Leader Gerald Ford of Michigan.

The stand was taken with the concurrence of all the leading Republicans in the Senate and House, as well as Republican national chairman Ray C. Bliss.

The new Republican position, according to Sen. Dirksen, was that "the improved military capability of Arab nations with French and Soviet planes and weapons has created a power imbalance in the Middle East which is dangerous to peace."

"It can be corrected only if this nation will make available suitable and necessary weapons and F-4 Phantom jet planes to Israel," the statement said.

Responding to a question, Sen. Dirksen said that Israel had no place to obtain supersonic military jets but the United States. He said it was obvious that Russia and France were not going to supply Israel with them, and pointed out that France has refused to deliver Mirage jets that Israel had contracted. But, he said, such jets were now going to Iraq.

The Republican policy statement said, "In the Middle East, indecision alienates our friends and heartens our enemies, and Russian diplomatic and military — especially naval power — has moved into the vacuum the Administration has permitted there."

The policy statement criticized the Administration for failing to implement a nuclear desalinization program that, the Republicans said, might contribute toward stability in that area.

Reid Survey Finds Most Westchester Respondents Favor Further Jets For Israel

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA)--Israel's views on some of the major aspects of the Middle East problem were shared by a substantial majority of residents of New York's Westchester County, one of the most affluent regions of the United States and one that is predominantly non-Jewish.

This was indicated in the responses to a questionnaire which Representative Ogden Reid, New York Republican and a former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, sent to his constituents in the 26th Congressional District. The questionnaire covered several aspects of U.S. foreign affairs. Three of the questions concerned the Middle East.

The Congressman asked, "Do you favor supplying Israel with additional jet aircraft to restore its deterrent strength in face of the growing arms imbalance between Israel and certain Arab states?" An affirmative reply was given by 62.5 percent of the respondents; 28.6 percent said "no."

The balance was 88.9 in favor to 6.5 percent against "encouragement by the United States of direct talks between Israel and certain Arab states as called for by Article 33 of the United Nations Charter." On the question of "a summit meeting between the Soviet Union and the United States to seek a halt to further major escalation of the arms race in the Middle East," 81.5 percent of Rep. Reid's constituents replied "yes" to 13.7 percent "no."

Dr. Goldmann Calls For 'Central Jewish Address' For Jews In Diaspora

GENEVA, July 18 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann called today for the establishment of "a central address of the entire Jewish people outside of Israel." He said such an entity was vital not only to Jewish unity and the successful struggle for Jewish rights but also to present Israel with a single channel to all of diaspora Jewry.

Philip Klutznick of Chicago, national Jewish leader, warned that "we ought to be warned that any American neo-isolationist tendencies would inevitably affect the outlook and attitudes of American Jews in regard to international Jewish problems — and even in regard to Israel." Mr. Klutznick had been chairman of an ad hoc committee named to look into the structural problems of COJO.

The term "central address" in the context of the veteran world Jewish leader's remarks before the Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) here meant a world Jewish body that would embrace all of the major Jewish national and international organizations around the world. The idea was one that Dr. Goldmann has been advocating for many years. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, established in the United States in the 1950s, is regarded by many as a "central address" of American Jewry.

Dr. Goldmann stressed that he did not propose that his umbrella organization "could or should participate in Israeli policy-making." The State, he said, decides its own policy in accordance with the wishes of its own citizens. "But there is room for free consultations and exchanges of views between Israel and the diaspora on problems concerning the Jewish people as a whole," he said, "and it is important that we should present Israel with an all-embracing diaspora Jewish address."

Among the Jewish leaders assembled here it was indicated that the Conference of Jewish Organizations has the makings of just such a "central address." The Conference agreed to a request for affiliation by the World Council of Jewish Education which held its own sessions here earlier. It also authorized Dr. Goldmann, as chairman, to name a committee that will come up with proposals for the extension of the Conference membership and its area of activities. The latter will embrace educational and cultural matters as well as political issues confronting Jewry.

It was decided also that a fifth conference of Jewish communities of Latin America will be held between Oct. 26 and 30, 1968, at which Dr. Goldmann agreed to deliver the keynote address.

Israel's policies in the Middle East conflict were outlined to the Conference last night by Dr. Jacob Herzog, director-general of the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. He said that in Israel's view, direct negotiations with the Arabs were not merely a political formula but touched on the very roots of the Israel-Arab problem.

"Without that confrontation, the Arab masses cannot be re-educated from the hostility toward Israel with which they have been saturated for the past 20 years," he said. "And without direct negotiations, Israel cannot be convinced that there is a real readiness for peace on the part of the Arabs." He described the West Bank territory as a "vast laboratory" of contacts between Arabs and Israelis, the impact of which is being felt throughout the Arab world.

At the conference's closing session, Dr. Goldmann was re-elected chairman. Vice presidents chosen were Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency; Dr. William Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith; Dr. Isaac Goldenberger, president of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry; and Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Yehuda Hellman was re-elected general secretary.

Report El Fatah Trying To Establish Underground Cells In Israel-Held Territories

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--El Fatah, the Arab guerrilla organization, was trying to establish underground cells in Israel-held territories because the method of bringing raiders across the river from bases in Jordan had proved too costly, a military spokesman reported today. An El Fatah courier, one of five arrested in Ramallah several days ago, was found to have money in his possession and instructions to set up El Fatah cells in the region.

Israeli patrols all along the cease-fire demarcation line have managed to halt most El Fatah sabotage and terrorist forays before they get started. Only yesterday 13 saboteurs were killed in a clash near Jericho a few hours after they crossed the Jordan River. El Fatah instructors at training camps in Syria were reported last week to be giving recruits special river fording exercises but apparently without much success. One recruit told his Israeli captors that he contracted arthritis from being immersed in cold water.

As El Fatah losses continued to mount, so have the accounts of their "victories" over Israelis. El Fatah announced a few days ago that they had killed 600 Israelis and wounded 300 in a single month. They also claimed to have destroyed or damaged every bridge in Israel. Israeli security officials dismissed these claims as "oriental daydreams."

Israeli Authorities Lift 13-Month Curfew On Most Parts Of Occupied West Bank

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Israel today lifted its 13-month curfew on most parts of the West Bank. The 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. restriction that was imposed after the June, 1967 Six Day War will remain in effect only in Jericho and on a strip along the bank of the Jordan River for security reasons, a Government spokesman said.

The measure was made possible by the satisfactory security situation in the West Bank, Government sources said, and will give the population more freedom of movement and a freer state of mind that goes with it. The move was welcomed in particular by hotel and pension keepers in the Ramallah region who hope it will encourage tourism. The curfew was lifted a month ago in Bethlehem, another West Bank tourist center.

First Wave Of Immigration From France Begins, Most Newcomers Are North Africans

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Immigration from France to Israel -- mostly by North African Jews -- began today with the arrival at Lydda Airport of 160 newcomers. Another group will fly here on July 31 and additional numbers are coming by sea. The immigration was organized in France by a delegation of Israelis of North African origin sent there by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. The movement is on a relatively large scale. As many as 1,000 Jews are expected to emigrate from the Paris area alone. Today's arrivals were met by Jewish Agency representatives and were immediately taken to the areas where they will settle.

Dr. Pauls, West German Ambassador, Expresses Regret About Leaving Israel Post

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Dr. Rolf Pauls, West Germany's departing Ambassador to Israel, declared yesterday that while it had been difficult for him to come to Israel in the first place, he now found it difficult to leave. Dr. Pauls spoke at a farewell reception in his honor at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, an institution with which he had close contacts during his tenure here.

Meyer Weisgal, president of the Weizmann Institute, spoke of Dr. Pauls' contributions to a better understanding between Israeli and West German scientists. The reception was attended by the American and British ambassadors. Dr. Pauls' replacement will be Karl Herman Knoke, former Bonn Ambassador to The Netherlands.

Mutual Aid Agreement Signed Between Histadrut And Latin America Labor Federation

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--A mutual aid pact was signed here today between Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, and Orit, a labor federation embracing 28 million workers in 50 labor organizations throughout Latin America. The agreement called for a mutual program to train trade union organizers, an exchange of teachers and experts, joint activities in cooperative movements, exchanges of information and regular meetings.

The pact was signed for Israel by Aharon Becker, director-general of Histadrut, and by Arturo Jaurgui, general secretary of Orit. Mr. Becker paid tribute to the friendship that the Latin American labor movement had shown toward Israel. He noted that at the recent conference of the International Labor Organization, Latin American delegates helped defeat a Soviet-Arab attempt to pass anti-Israel resolution.

Jewish National Fund Will Establish 400-Acre Botanical Garden Near Lydda

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA)--A 400-acre botanical garden will be established by the Jewish National Fund. It will contain all the plants mentioned in the Bible and the flora growing in Israel today. The garden will be located in the Modiim area near Lydda. It will be established under the supervision of Noga Harevuani, a Biblical scholar and horticulturist. The area will be designated a nature preserve and national park.

The Jewish National Fund has agreed to take care of a tree on the grounds of a Russian monastery in Hebron which, according to Christian tradition, is "Abraham's oak" mentioned in chapter 18 of Genesis.

The JNF was approached by the Father Superior of the monastery and sent a forestry expert to examine the tree which was not thriving. It was found to be many centuries old. The monastery belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church which has its headquarters in New York. The church does not recognize the Soviet regime.

Jews Born In Vilna Will Gather In Israel To Mark Anniversary Of Ghetto's Destruction

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Jews who were born in Vilna, Lithuania, once a flourishing center of Jewish life and learning in Eastern Europe, will gather here later this month for a meeting that will mark the 25th anniversary of the destruction of the Vilna ghetto by the Nazis. The meeting will take place from July 29 to Aug. 4 and will be attended by some 200 delegates from abroad, according to Dr. Marc Dvorzecki, chairman of the National Committee of Vilna Jews. They will come from North and South America and from as far away as India. Dr. Dvorzecki said. But none are expected to represent the estimated 10,000 Jews presently living in Vilna which belongs to Russia today as it did prior to World War I. Soviet Jews are not generally permitted to leave their country.

Israel Expected To Receive Loan From West Germany Totalling \$35 Million

BONN, July 18 (JTA)--West Germany will loan Israel 140 million marks (\$35 million) on the same terms as last year's loan of 160 million marks (\$40 million) it was announced here yesterday. The agreement was expected to be signed here by the Germans and Israel's Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan, ending two months of negotiations that were described as "most difficult" by the participants.

The German negotiators had argued that the economic situation did not permit a loan on the same scale as last year. They suggested 120 million marks (\$30 million) but finally agreed to \$35,000,000.

Israel's Departing Ambassador To Rome, Pope Paul VI, In Exchange Of Gifts

ROME, July 18 (JTA)--Ambassador Ehud Avriel, Israel's departing Ambassador to Italy, had a half-hour farewell audience with Pope Paul VI and presented the Pontiff with a gift of three antique oil lamps used in the rites of monotheistic faiths. The lamps date from First, Fourth and Eighth centuries of the Common Era. Mr. Avriel received in return a book describing the Pope's visit to the Holy Land and a letter to President Zalman Shazar. Mrs. Avriel and the Ambassador's daughters, Ruth and Attalia, received gold medals.

AJCommittee Officials Says U.S., European Jews Could Profit From Shared Experience

PARIS, July 18 (JTA)--Jewish communities in Europe and those of the United States share many problems in common and could profit from each other's experience, according to Bertram H. Gold, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Gold had completed a tour of six European countries with a delegation of top AJCommittee leaders and was here to review the organization's European programs.

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the common problems lie in the areas of inter-religious understanding, Jewish identity and the fight against anti-Semitism. He thought that it was of fundamental importance to Jewish communities everywhere to understand and apply the lessons to be drawn for Jewish life from the impact of the Six-Day War.

Arabs Says Their March With Israelis Is A Matter Of 'Sports, Not Politics'

AMSTERDAM, July 18 (JTA)--Two East Jerusalem Arabs who are participating along with an Israeli Army detail and a group of Israeli civilians in a four-day march across the Netherlands today rebuked questioners who suggested that their presence had political implications. The march is an annual sporting event in which the Dutch Army and others take part. The Israeli contingent includes women soldiers.

The Arabs, Mohammed Abu Dora, 25, and Kalil Aboulizhwa, 30, were both civil servants in East Jerusalem before the June, 1967 war and are still so employed. Mr. Dora denied that their participation represented "collaboration" with the Israelis. "This is sports, not politics," he told questioners.

Plan Jewish Relief Committee To Provide Food, Other Aid, To Needy Biafrans

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, July 18 (JTA)--Plans to establish a Jewish Relief Committee to mobilize food and other urgent aid for Biafra, the breakaway eastern province of Nigeria where starvation is rampant, was announced here by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of inter-religious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, with headquarters in New York.

Rabbi Tanenbaum told an audience at a Marquette University summer institute that steps are being taken to help organize a group of Jewish rabbinic and lay leaders in an ad hoc body to mobilize food and medical supplies as well as financial resources "to aid on a humanitarian basis the helpless victims of starvation and civil war between the Federal Government of Nigeria and Biafra."

Rabbi Tanenbaum stressed that the effort was being made without any judgements on the political issues between Nigeria and Biafra. But, he said, "more than enough is already known about the agonizing hunger, human tragedies and large-scale deaths amounting to genocide to allow us to remain silent and inactive one more hour." Rabbi Tanenbaum said that he had begun conversations with a number of Jewish men who are food producers and manufacturers of medicine. He said they were anxious to make contributions through an organized Jewish agency.

Israel Sends Five Tons Of Food And Medical Supplies To Biafrans

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Israel today sent five tons of food and medical supplies to Biafra, the besieged eastern province of Nigeria where thousands of civilians are reported to be suffering from starvation and disease. The aid cargo was flown by an El Al plane to Geneva where it was turned over to the International Red Cross.

X-ray equipment, antibiotics, bandages and stretchers were gifts from Israel but most of the food represented a donation by the Argentine Embassy here. The Argentinians turned over two and a half tons of flour to the Mogen David Adom, Israel's national red cross. The flour was used to bake a variety of bread that is popular in Argentina. The flour was originally intended for the Argentine pavilion at last month's international trade fair here but it arrived late.

Federal Food Stamp Plan Urged In New York For Needy Orthodox Jews

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA)--A national Jewish organization asked New York City Mayor John Lindsay this week to seek city adoption of the Federal food stamp plan both for the city's general poor population and particularly for its Jewish poor, it was learned today. The request was made to the mayor by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), an organization formed to assist Orthodox Jews in areas of public policy.

Harvey Schwartz, chairman of COLPA's newly-formed committee on social welfare, declared in the letter that many needy Orthodox Jewish families were ineligible for the present surplus food distribution program administered by the city. Under existing law, a city may have either program but not both.

Such families, he said in the letter "would be able to benefit under the liberalized eligibility standards of the food stamp plan." He pointed out also that the types of food distributed in the city's surplus food program were limited and often of a type forbidden to observant Jews. In contrast, he noted, the variety of foods available under the food stamp plan was virtually unlimited. Users of Federal food stamps may apply them to purchase of standard packaged foods in any grocery. In most of them a wide variety of rabbinically-certified kosher products is available, and "thus, full participation in the program's benefits, denied to Orthodox Jews by the present surplus food program, would be available to them under the food stamp plan," Mr. Schwartz said. He noted also that the food surplus plan provides for food distribution only once a month and only at a local food surplus depot, whereas the food stamp program, "because of absence of these restrictive limitations, would be a far simpler and less demeaning method of providing food aid to needy families."

Congressman Pepper Urges Mutual Defense Pact Between United States And Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 18 (JTA)--Congressman Claude Pepper, Florida Democrat and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today advocated a mutual defense pact between the United States and Israel so that Israel would have the same relationship to the U.S. as Turkey and Greece and other members of NATO do. A "formal, mutual defense treaty such as we have with NATO members would leave no possible doubt in the minds of the Arabs or the Russians about our determined defense of Israel in case she is attacked and her independence threatened," he said.

Rabbi Eisendrath Urges Synagogues, Churches To Campaign For Strong Gun Legislation

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA)--A leader of Reform Judaism called upon churches and synagogues throughout the United States today to campaign vigorously for strong gun-control legislation. Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, urged an intensive and continuing educational campaign which will "put spine into a Congress which seems incapable of matching the critical need of the day with desperately needed action."

Rabbi Eisendrath advocated legislation that would require the registration of guns, licensing of owners and the banning of inter-state purchase of arms. "Rarely has the will of the people for sanity been more manifest," the rabbi said, "and rarely has that will been so cravenly and obtusely ignored."

Benjamin P. Schoenfein Named President Of First Israel Bank And Trust Co.

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA)--Benjamin P. Schoenfein today was elected president of First Israel Bank and Trust Company of New York. First Israel Bank will open here on Monday. The new bank is chartered and regulated under the laws of the State of New York and is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.