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Two Syrian MIG-17 Jets Land In Israel, Young Pilots Interrogated By Authorities

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Two Syrian Air Force MIG-17 interceptor jets landed unexpectedly at an airfield in northern Israel yesterday morning and their pilots, two officers, were hustled away for interrogation. An Army communique later in the day said an investigation was under way but did not indicate whether the Syrians were possible defectors or whether they had been forced down or had landed by error. The pilots were Lt. Walid Adham, 25, and Second Lt. Radsan Bifali, 22.

The Russian-built planes landed intact on a field normally used by crop-dusting aircraft then quickly became a center of attraction as thousands of curious Israelis converged on the airfield creating traffic jams on roads in northern Israel. The public has seen a MIG-21 which was landed by an Iraqi defector in 1966 and is now on display at the Army exhibition here. But today's arrivals were the first MIG-17s to be seen in Israel.

A Syrian military spokesman in Damascus suggested today that the pilots had lost their way in bad weather and were forced to make emergency landings after running out of fuel, it was reported here.

Israel Mapping New Strategy To Secure Release Of El Al Plane, Israelis

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA)--High level conferences were expected here today to map new strategy to secure the release of the hijacked El Al airliner that has been held in Algeria since July 23. Informed sources said that all political avenues had been exhausted and all that Israel could do for the time being was "sit back and wait." They noted however that the International Federation of Pilots Associations and other non-governmental bodies continued to maintain contacts with Algeria. The pilots' group had volunteered to try to negotiate the release of the plane and its 12 Israeli passengers and crewmen.

Meanwhile, Gideon Rafael, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, and his deputy, Gen. Aviezer Chelouche, returned from Rome today where efforts to free the plane had been centered for the last week. The Boeing 707 jet was over Italian territory when it was hijacked by Palestinian terrorists. Mr. Rafael was scheduled to report today to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who is acting Foreign Minister while Abba Eban is in Africa.

(In Boston, the Christian Science Monitor reported today that Iraq has officially asked Algeria to impound the hijacked airliner in exchange for an Iraqi MIG-21 flown to Israel by a defecting Iraqi pilot two years ago. John K. Cooley reported, "the Iraqi move, it is believed, is an effort to provide Algeria with legal justification to hold the plane in face of mounting international pressure." "There have been persistent reports that Algeria has been trying to work out a secret deal with Israel for return of the Boeing through Italian and French intermediaries. Arab spokesmen say they want Israel to release some Palestinian prisoners in return. Israeli spokesmen have unofficially rejected this," Mr. Cooley said. He noted that spokesmen for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which hijacked the aircraft, claim it as "the property of the Palestinian people." According to Mr. Cooley, "the Iraqi Government will file suit with Algerian courts against the 'Israeli occupation authorities' and has requested impounding of the Boeing.")

(It was reported at the United Nations today that Secretary-General U Thant will visit Algiers to attend a conference of the Organization of African Unity during the second week in September "provided international developments" warrant it. A high Secretariat source interpreted this to be a clear reference to Mr. Thant's desire to have the plane and detained Israelis released.)

Israel Denies Jordan's Security Council Charge That It Deliberately Attacked Civilians

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 12 (JTA)--A war of words between Jordan and Israel developed in the Security Council today as the 15-nation body held the fifth meeting of its current session stemming from Israel's Aug. 4 reprisal air attack on El Fatah bases near the Jordanian town of Salt. Mohammad H. el-Farra, the representative of Jordan, accused Israel of using napalm and fragmentation bombs in the attack and also claimed that the Israeli planes hit Red Crescent (Jordanian Red Cross) ambulances that were aiding the wounded, killing and wounding their occupants.

Israel's representative Ambassador Yosef Tekoah hotly denied that the Israeli planes hit civilian targets. He cited eye-witness accounts of a group of British volunteer students working in the Jordan Valley who, according to the London Telegraph, watched the Israeli attack on the El Fatah headquarters and guerrilla training camp. He said that the planes were specifically ordered to avoid hitting civilian targets and that all the casualties in the raid were El Fatah members or military personnel.

Mr. Tekoah said that his Government had decided to release confidential information which demonstrated that the Jordanian Government and armed forces not only permitted terrorist acts against Israel from their territory but fully collaborated with them. He said that Jordanian military posts provided the marauders with information on Israeli troop deployment and provided covering

fire for them when they encountered Israeli forces. He said Jordanian soldiers mounted roadblocks in collaboration with El Fatah and recognized El Fatah passes as entry permits for guerrillas coming from Syria.

The sum of the situation, Mr. Tekoah declared, is that the guerrilla organizations are maintained and supported by the Arab governments in an expression of unabated belligerence. He said that the cease-fire agreements of June, 1967 imposed an obligation on all parties to cease all military activities in the area. The Government which offers the use of its territory as a base for warfare is violating the cease-fire, he said, adding that international law and opinion leave no doubt that the cease-fire must be maintained on the basis of complete reciprocity.

Ambassador el-Farra, in reply, said there was no agreement between Jordan and Israel called a "cease-fire" and that Jordan was observing the Security Council's resolution for a cease-fire. He insisted that the only international agreement binding on Israel and the Arab states was the armistice agreement following the 1948 war and the Mixed Armistice Commission established thereby. He charged Israel with ignoring and refuting that agreement. Mr. el-Farra went on to accuse Israel of violating or ignoring every resolution of the Security Council. He said that his Government did not maintain commando bases in Jordan nor any recruitment centers. He denied Mr. Tekoah's charge that Iraqi troops stationed in Jordan were aiding the guerrillas. He insisted they were there only to bolster Jordan's defenses and provided no arms or equipment to the commandos.

Mr. el-Farra demanded "adequate action" by the Security Council against Israel "without further delay" and said "we want all of the big powers to play their constructive part and to take a firm stand against the contemptuous attitude of Israel."

(Two explosions yesterday did slight damage to the railroad line near Gaza. The damage was repaired during the night and trains were running on schedule today, a military spokesman reported.)

Israelis See New Egyptian 'Peace Offensive' As Attempt To Confuse World Opinion

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA)--A new "peace offensive" by Egypt was discounted in official quarters here today as nothing more than another attempt to confuse world opinion over Cairo's true stand on the Middle East conflict. Diplomatic sources said that no Egyptian proposals of any kind have been received here.

Their comments concerned a dispatch in the New York Times yesterday from its Cairo correspondent, Eric Pace, attributing to "well informed Arab diplomats" a report that Egypt was prepared to grant "substantial concessions" to Israel. Mr. Pace said that the diplomats, "who are advisers of President Gamal Abdel Nasser," indicated that the concessions "had been communicated privately to Israel."

They purportedly included internationalization of the Gaza Strip, waiving past demands for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees, and demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula. In connection with the latter, Mr. Pace reported, Cairo was willing to waive its right to order the removal of United Nations peace-keeping forces if they were deployed again in the Sinai. In addition, according to Mr. Pace, "the diplomats reported that Cairo would agree to allow Israeli vessels to continue to pass through the Straits of Tiran" and "would permit Israeli cargoes to pass through the Suez Canal if Israeli troops evacuated a strip of desert just beyond its east bank."

Mr. Pace reported that "some observers outside Egypt have contended that Cairo was leaking details of its position to appear conciliatory while still refusing direct negotiations with Israel." Israeli officials here said that Egypt's true attitude had been clearly defined in recent speeches by President Nasser which ruled out negotiations or recognition of Israel. They pointed out that in his latest speech, the Egyptian leader stated that "the rights of the Palestine people" would still remain an issue, even if Israel withdrew behind the armistice lines of May, 1967. They said that if the newest Egyptian maneuver was anything more than propaganda it could be easily ascertained through the United Nations peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, who will resume his mission in the Middle East later this month.

Israeli General Says Soldiers In Sinai An Excellent Deterrent To Egyptian Militarism

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--An Israeli reserve general said here yesterday that the presence of Israeli soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula constitutes an excellent deterrent to Egyptian military action. Gen. Meyer Zorea spoke at a meeting of the National Council for a Greater Israel, the movement which advocates Israel's permanent retention of all occupied Arab territories. Other speakers urged the rapid establishment of new settlements in the occupied areas to make sure they remain in Israeli hands.

Blind Jordanians Admitted By Israel To Be Aided By East Jerusalem Institutions

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The Ministry of Interior announced today that it had authorized the admission of 20 blind young men and women from Jordan on humanitarian grounds so that they can be assisted by philanthropic institutions in East Jerusalem. The Ministry noted that the youngsters had no family in Jerusalem and therefore did not qualify under the family reunion program. They will be admitted to the Jerusalem School for the Blind and the Mary Lovett Home for Blind Girls.

A one million pound (\$350,000) loan fund has been set up by the Jerusalem municipality and the Ministry of Housing to assist East Jerusalem Arabs to build new housing, it was announced today. Loans of up to 10,000 pounds (\$3,500) will be granted to Arab contractors and landlords.

Premier Of Laos Pays Tribute To Israel For Technical Assistance Given His Country

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Prince Souvanna Phouma, Premier of Laos, paid tribute to the technical assistance rendered his country by Israel and declared that relations between the two nations have always been "excellent." The East Asian statesman made his remarks at Lydda Airport where he stopped over briefly enroute home from Europe. He was greeted by high officials of the Israel Foreign Ministry. The Prince referred specifically to an experimental farm set up by Israeli experts near the Laotian capital of Vientiane. He said Israel had helped his country's agricultural development in many ways.

Cyprus Government, Jewish National Fund Sign Afforestation Agreement

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA)--An agreement providing for an exchange of technical know-how on afforestation problems was signed here yesterday by Sharon Weitz, director of the afforestation department of the Jewish National Fund, and his counterpart of the Cypriot Government. The exchange will go into effect at the end of summer when the planting season begins. Mr. Weitz recently spent some time on Cyprus studying its afforestation needs and it was agreed that each country would provide the other with seeds and saplings as well as forestry technicians. The climate in Cyprus is similar to that of Israel.

American Desalination Experts Arrive In Israel To Resume Discussions

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--A group of American water desalination experts headed by a special representative of President Johnson will resume talks with Israeli experts on Israel's water problems which started 18 months ago, before the Six-Day War. Most of the group arrived at Lydda Airport yesterday.

Efforts Under Way To Persuade Foreign Ministry To Reinstate BBC Hebrew Broadcast

LONDON, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Efforts are being made here to get the Foreign Ministry to reconsider its recommendation of the suspension of the British Broadcasting Corporation's 30-minute Hebrew broadcast, part of the BBC's daily overseas shortwave service. The announcement that the Hebrew broadcast will be suspended brought a flood of letters from protesting listeners in many countries, including several in the Communist bloc.

Today, Conservative MP John Biggs-Davidson called on Richard H. S. Crossman, Lord President of the Council, to ask the Foreign Secretary to reconsider the decision. Mr. Biggs-Davidson said, in a letter to Mr. Crossman, that many people believed that the suspension of the broadcast was inspired by bias.

French Committee Seeking To Promote Direct Talks, French-Israeli Friendship

PARIS, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The Committee for French-Israeli Solidarity announced today that it will organize a series of public meetings in French cities and towns to advocate direct peace talks between Israel and the Arab states and to influence the French Government to resume its former friendly relations with Israel. Friedrich Salomon, chairman of the committee, said the first meeting would take place on Sept. 25 in Paris and would be addressed by Raymond Triboulet, a Gaullist deputy and former minister and by Jacques Mercier, a Gaullist. He said the Government will be urged to lift its embargo on the 50 Mirage jet planes which Israel bought in France in view of the threats against Israel's existence made recently by President Nasser of Egypt and President Boumedienne of Algeria.

French Weekly Assails Government For Continued Embargo On Arms For Israel

PARIS, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The leftist weekly Nouvelle Observateur assailed the French Government today for its continued embargo on arms shipments to Israel. The paper said in an editorial that it was "inexcusable hypocrisy on the part of the Gaullists as well as certain Communist nations to claim that they favor the existence of Israel without granting it the means to exist." The editorial warned that "as long as the great powers do not protect the survival of Israel, its citizens will have good reason to join the expansionist partisans of the greater Israel movement."

I. B. Singer Wins Italian Literary Prize For Novel, 'The Family Moskat'

ROME, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The Bookstall Prize, one of Italy's most coveted literary awards, has been won by the American Yiddish author, Isaac Bashevis Singer for his novel, "The Family Moskat," published here in Italian translation by the Longanesi Co. The prize has been awarded annually since 1961 by the Association of Italian Booksellers and the municipality of Pontremoli, the book center of Italy. "The Family Moskat" is an epic novel tracing the fate of a Jewish family of Warsaw from the period just before World War I to the day the first Nazi bombs fell on the Polish capital.

An American scientist and an Israeli sculptor also won prizes in their respective fields here this week. Prof. Albert Sabin, discoverer of the oral polio vaccine, was awarded the Gold Medal for Medicine at a medical convention, for his contributions to the eradication of polio in Italy. The presentation was made by the Minister of Health. Daniel Nahum took second prize at the international ceramics exhibition at Faenza for a panel depicting the story of Samson and Delilah.

Internationally Known Specialist In Internal Medicine Named Professor In Leiden

THE HAGUE, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Dr. Jacob Groen, an internationally prominent specialist in internal medicine, has been appointed extraordinary professor at the State University in Leiden, it was announced here today. Dr. Groen, a Dutch-born Jew, was chief of the internal academic clinic of Amsterdam until 1957 and was subsequently a professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Soviet Government Asked To Publicly Rehabilitate Artists Killed During 1950s

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Renewed appeals were made to the Soviet Government today to permit the re-establishment of Jewish cultural and educational institutions in the USSR and to publicly rehabilitate the Soviet Jewish writers, artists and actors who were executed or imprisoned during the Stalinist purges of the early 1950s. The appeals were contained in separate statements issued here by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Congress for Jewish Culture. The occasion was the 16th anniversary of the executions of 24 Yiddish writers, actors and intellectuals, among them some of the outstanding Soviet-Jewish literary figures of their time, all of them devoted Communists.

(In London today, Dr. S. Levenberg, an authority on Soviet-Jewish affairs, said that "no formal rehabilitation of these martyrs or any official acknowledgement of their tragedy" has been forthcoming from Soviet authorities although "Stalin's brutal misdeeds in all other fields have been officially renounced." Among the writers executed 16 years ago were David Bergelson, David Hoffstein, Itzik Fefer, Leib Kvitko, Peretz Markish, Shmuel Persoff and many others, Dr. Levenberg said. While unofficial tributes have since been paid to their merits as writers, they have been otherwise classified as "victims of the personality cult," according to Dr. Levenberg. "We are still waiting for an official or at least semi-official description which would lay open the tragedy in all its aspects," he said.)

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, said in his statement that "though these executions have been rationalized away as manifestations of extreme Stalinism, it is important to note that none of Stalin's four successors has done anything to halt the systematic destruction of the instruments and institutions of Jewish culture and religious survival."

The statement of the Congress for Jewish Culture noted that "16 years after the destruction of the entire (Jewish) literature and the murder of its most talented representatives, there is still no attempt to rehabilitate the murdered Jewish writers and artists nor has the Soviet Government expressed any regret or condemned the crime."

AJCongress Assails NYU's Decision To Keep Hatchett In Student Center Post

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress expressed "dismay" today at New York University's decision not to rescind its appointment of the controversial former Harlem school teacher, John F. Hatchett, as director of its new Martin Luther King Jr. Afro-American Student Center. Mr. Hatchett's appointment was widely protested by Jewish and non-Jewish groups in connection with allegedly "anti-Semitic racist views" he expressed in an article in a Negro teachers magazine.

Will Maslow, executive director of the AJCongress, said in a statement today that such views on the part of Mr. Hatchett were confirmed in the course of an interview with him published in the Village Voice, a neighborhood newspaper. It demonstrated, Mr. Maslow contended, that Mr. Hatchett's charge that Jews control the New York City public school system and were "mentally poisoning" Negro students "was not an isolated expression of his philosophy but rather represented a deeply-rooted and consistently prejudiced view of society." Mr. Hatchett maintained, in the Village Voice interview, that it was appropriate in criticizing any department of the city to mention the ethnic composition of many of its staff. "Can a person so addicted to a racist view of society be properly entrusted with the task of guiding black students at NYU into harmonious relationships with fellow students of different races and religions and the community in which they will live?" Mr. Maslow asked.

Report Jewish Leaders Meet With Philadelphia Black Coalition To Aid Race Relations

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Jewish civic leaders in Philadelphia have joined informally with members of the city's Black Coalition to promote better race relations, the "ADA World" noted Monday.

According to the ADA report, the two groups have discussed complaints of economic exploitation in ghetto neighborhoods, techniques to encourage more blacks to enter business, and the education of both black and Jewish communities to each other's needs and aspirations.

A statement issued recently by the Black Coalition and the Jewish leaders explained that their meetings "are a joint effort to create new lines of communication and develop affirmative action programs in order to deal with the current racial crisis."

The "ADA World" added that Mrs. Emily C. Sunstein, Jr., chairman of Southeastern Pennsylvania ADA, is one of the local Jewish civic leaders involved. "The World" is published in Washington by the Americans for Democratic Action.

Selassie Promises Abram African Committee Will Seek To End Suffering In Nigeria

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia today promised American civil rights and religious leaders that the Organization of African Unity consultative committee on Nigeria, which he chairs, "will continue to do its utmost in finding ways and means of alleviating the present suffering in Nigeria." The Emperor's message was contained in a cable addressed to Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee and ad hoc chairman of the American Committee for Biafran Relief. The committee, comprised of major American Jewish and non-Jewish civic, religious and relief organizations, had urged the Emperor to use his good offices to work out an agreement for speeding food and medical supplies to the civilian population of Biafra, the ravaged breakaway eastern province of Nigeria. Biafran and Nigerian delegates are currently meeting in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.