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Airline Pilots, Maintenance Workers Announce Boycott Of Flights To Algeria

LONDON, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The International Federation of Airline Pilots Association announced today a boycott of flights to Algeria, effective at midnight tonight, because of Algeria's continued detention of the hijacked El Al Israel airliner and its 12 Israeli passengers and crew members.

Capt. Charles C. Jackson, federation executive secretary, who announced the boycott, said that the federation's two emissaries, Capt. J. J. O'Grady and Capt. O. L. A. Forsberg, had returned from a second visit to Algeria on behalf of the detained airliner and Israelis when they became convinced that their second visit was as barren as their first. He said they had been refused a meeting with Algerian President Houari Boumedienne and saw no indication that there was any point in remaining in Algeria. He also said that before they left, the two emissaries checked on the condition of the Israeli crew members and were satisfied that the crew was all right.

Simultaneously, the International Transport Federation, representing airliner maintenance workers, announced it had recommended to all affiliates that they withdraw services to all flights to Algeria and had been assured that no maintenance would be provided at all airports which are points of origin or departure for Algeria flights.

The two men returned on Sunday. A final attempt was made by the federation yesterday in a letter yesterday from Capt. Jan M. Bartelski, the federation president, to Boumedienne, proposing that if the crew members were released, there would be an acknowledgement of that action and of the effect it would have in helping to discourage future hijacking attempts. To this was added a renewed warning of the plan to boycott all flight operations into Algeria by federation members if the crew was not released. It was indicated that a response from Algeria — which was not from Boumedienne — was considered misleading and unsatisfactory and the decision was then made to institute the boycott.

Capt. Jackson said that the federation had no choice but to stop flights to Algeria because "the attitude of Algeria is a menace to everyone who uses air transport, indeed to all civilized countries and could spell the end of civil aviation if not checked with determination."

Air France, Alitalia and Swissair Are Affected

Immediately affected will be Air France, which has 10 daily flights to Algeria, Alitalia with two daily flights and Swissair with one daily flight. The balance of Algerian air traffic is carried on by the Algerian national airline. Capt. Jackson declared that the federation had complete assurance from the pilots of the three international airlines that the boycott would be imposed completely. He said the French Pilots Association had offered to meet any financial losses incurred through the boycott but that it might be that the federation itself would have to act to reimburse pilots for pay losses. He added that this was not an important consideration and would not affect the federation's determination "to see the issue through."

He also explained that in communications with Algeria, the federation was concerning itself only with the crew and not with the five Israeli passengers because it was considered wiser to keep the issues separate for the time being. He pointed out that the El Al crew members were members of the federation, and that it was the first duty of the federation to deal with the captive crew members. He added that the federation would deal with the hijacked plane and the entire incident in due course and that the federation hoped that the plane, passengers and crew would all be freed at the same time.

The maintenance boycott was announced by Charles Blyth, secretary of the transport federation, who said the action would cover maintenance, handling of cargo and all other ground operations. He added that the no-maintenance policy would apply to Algerian aircraft as well as to the international airlines. He added that his organization had never before taken such action but that the Algerian situation was sufficiently grave to justify the action.

(The Embassy of Algeria at Paris declined today to give any information on the condition of the El Al Plane and the 12 Israeli passengers and crew members. An Embassy spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency only that "the inquiry is going on."

(At the United Nations, it was learned that Secretary General U Thant had been informed of the boycott but that he had no comment on it. A spokesman said that the Secretary-General, who intervened in the hijacking situation last month at Israel's request, was continuing his "good offices" to effect a solution.)

Israelis Welcome Boycott, Say No Requests Received About MIGs

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The boycott of Algerian air traffic by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations, scheduled to go into effect at midnight tonight, was welcomed here today as an important step that might bring about the release of the hijacked El Al airliner and its 12 Israeli passengers and crew members.

Officials said there had been no request from Syria or any other country about the two Soviet MIG-17 jet fighters and their Syrian pilots who inexplicably landed the two planes in Israel yesterday. The officials said no country or organization had linked the arrival of the MIGs with the El Al hijacking. They added that the fate of the El Al and the 12 detained Israeli nationals now was largely in the hands of the international organizations who have made it their concern. They noted that the airline pilots boycott was based to a large extent on self-interest because air pricy could affect the carriers of any country and because many airline firms employ pilots and crews of different nationalities.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources that a top-level ministerial meeting headed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol rejected any suggestions that Israel should commit itself in advance to a "gesture" in return for release of the plane and the Israelis. The Cabinet members were understood to have taken the position that in view of the pilot boycott stand and the presence of the MIGs and Syrian pilots in Israel, there was no need for Israel to take any such action and that they reiterated Israel's stand for immediate and unconditional release of the plane and Israelis.

It was learned today that the two Syrian pilots were on a training flight and landed in Israel because of a navigational error. They reportedly said they thought they had landed at a Syrian coastal town near the Turkish border. It was also learned that when the supersonic jets entered Israeli airspace, "appropriate" defensive measures were taken. These were not detailed.

(It was reported in Paris today from Algeria that the stand of Algerian authorities on release of the hijacked plane had hardened since the MIGs landed in Israel. But some Algerian sources reported that Algeria might exchange the El Al airliner for a return of the MIGs to Syria.)

The landing of the two MIGs at an abandoned airstrip in northern Israel remained a mystery early today. Military officials had imposed a strict blackout on news of the planes and the two Syrian officer pilots were reportedly undergoing interrogation. The planes were removed to an Air Force base, ostensibly to "protect" them from thousands of curious Israelis who jammed roads near the airstrip in efforts to see the MIG-17s.

A statement from Damascus radio that the pilots had lost their way in bad weather and were forced to land in hostile territory because of lessening fuel supplies was discounted by the fact that weather conditions in the area were excellent yesterday. The planes also were understood to have ample fuel in their wingtip reserve tanks. It was believed, unofficially at least, that the Syrian pilots had defected. Some observers said that if the pilots had been forced to land by Israeli interceptor planes, they would have been directed to an Air Force base rather than to an obscure strip near the Lebanese border where no security facilities existed. Failure of Israeli interceptors to attack obviously hostile fighter planes was considered further evidence of the defector thesis and implied that the pilots might have had prior contact with Israeli authorities. Eyewitnesses said that the Syrian pilots were carrying sidearms and that the MIGs' cannons were loaded when the planes landed. However, a farmer who witnessed the landings said the Syrian pilots told him they were nearly out of fuel and that they had asked him whether they had landed in Lebanon.

London Times Says MIG Landings Stir Arab Suspicions of Syria

LONDON, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The landing of two Syrian Air Force jets in Israel yesterday has stirred uneasiness in Arab capitals over the allegedly ambiguous role played by Syria since the June, 1967 Arab-Israel War and even in the last stages of that conflict, the "Diarist" wrote in today's London Times. The columnist said that while Syria has taken the most belligerent and intransigent stand of all of the Arab countries involved in the Six-Day War, it is significant that there have been no raids by Syrians into Israeli territory and the few "battles" which the Syrians have reported proved to have been fictitious. While Syria is constantly preaching guerrilla warfare to "liberate" Palestine, it has forbidden terrorists raids into Israel from its territory and has imprisoned many Palestinian guerrilla leaders, the "Diarist" wrote.

He noted further that Syria refused to attend the Arab summit meeting at Khartoum in August, 1967, ostensibly because it would not sit down with "reactionaries" like Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He quoted the Beirut newspaper Al-Hawadith which linked the arrest and imprisonment of the former Syrian Ambassador to France, Dr. Sami Al-Jundi, to an alleged threat by the latter to disclose details of a secret meeting that allegedly took place between Syrian authorities and Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Paris a month before the Six-Day War. According to the paper, the Syrians agreed to forfeit their territory up to Quneitra if the Israelis promised to push no further. In support of that theory, the Lebanese newspaper cited the "swift fall of the 'impenetrable' Golan Heights and Damascus' announcement of the fall of Quneitra some hours before the event," the "Diarist" wrote.

JNF Preparing 8,000 Acres For Nahal Settlements On Captured Golan Heights

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Settlement projects in the Golan Heights are making rapid progress it was indicated here today. The Jewish National Fund is preparing about 8,000 acres of land in the Syrian border region occupied during the Six-Day War for the nine Nahal (paramilitary-agricultural) settlements already established there and four more to be set up shortly. Yesterday, members of the Knesset (Parliament) foreign affairs and security committee toured the Heights. They saw completed sections of the 10-mil road being built by the JNF to the southern peak of Mount Hermon which has become a favorite spot for skiing and other winter sports during the past year.

East Jerusalem Arabs Regain Title To Long-Abandoned Houses

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Five houses that had stood abandoned for nearly 20 years in what was the no-man's land between Israeli and former Jordanian Jerusalem were restored to their legal owners here today. The landlords are all East Jerusalem Arabs.

Mrs. Meir Urges U.S. Histadrut Visitors To Spur Aliyah From West

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Mrs. Golda Meir told departing members of an American Histadrut study mission here today that they must work for closer ties between Jews abroad and Israel and especially for the immigration to Israel of Jews from the Western countries. Addressing a farewell banquet in honor of the Histadrut group, she declared that "it would be a tragedy for the Jewish nation if, in this generation of redemption and independence, the assimilation of diaspora Jewry were to increase." Mrs. Meir, who was once Israel's Foreign Minister, was awarded a special scroll by the Histadrut campaign leaders in recognition of her work for the State of Israel and Histadrut. Aharon Becker, secretary general of Histadrut, told the gathering that the achievements of Histadrut were not for Israelis alone but "for the Jewish nation as such throughout the world."

New West German Ambassador Arrives In Israel, Tells Reporters 'Shalom'

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Ambassador Karl G. Herman Knoke, West Germany's new envoy to Israel, arrived here yesterday and is scheduled to present his credentials to President Shazar on Aug. 21. Ambassador Knoke told reporters that sympathy for Israel had grown stronger in West Germany since the Six-Day War and added that it was his country's aim to see peace prevail in the Middle East. "For the time being I have mastered just one word of Hebrew and that is 'Shalom,'" he said.

Sardinian Farmers Spending Week In Israel Touring Cooperative Settlements

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Twelve Sardinian farmers arrived here today for a week's visit to Israel as guests of the Ministry of Agriculture. The visit was arranged with the cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture. They will tour cooperative settlements to observe Israeli methods of cultivating citrus fruits and vegetables.

West German Official Flies To Beirut To Negotiate Help For Refugees

BONN, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The head of the Middle East department of the West German Foreign Office flew to Beirut and Amman today to negotiate German help for Palestinian refugees, it was reported here today.

It was also learned that East Germany is enlarging its diplomatic representation in Egypt. Cairo has just given permission for the opening of an East German consulate general in Alexandria. East Germany has a consulate general in Cairo, a commercial mission there and an unofficial embassy headed by Ambassador Ernst Sholz.

Two former Gestapo officers were sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor today by a Nuremberg court that found them guilty of participation in the executions of Polish Jews in Gorlice in 1942 and '43. They are Paul Baron and Ernst Erich Piecha.

Foreign Ministry Says Frenchman Retracts Statement On France's Policy Toward Israel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry said today that an advocate of Franco-Israeli rapprochement has retracted a statement he made in Paris last week that the French Government might soon change its policy toward Israel. The statement was attributed to Salomon Friederich, head of the League for Israel-French Friendship, a group sponsored by the Herut Party here. A spokesman said the Foreign Ministry learned of the retraction through inquiries made of Mr. Friederich by the Israel Embassy in Paris.

Yugoslavian Federation Publishes Almanac Containing Works By Agnon, Nelly Sachs

BELGRADE, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia has just published a 400-page illustrated "Jewish Almanac--1965-'67" which contains articles, essays, fiction and poetry by 39 Jewish authors the world over and a chronology of events in the Yugoslav Jewish community. The volume was edited by Dr. Sdenko Loewenthal assisted by Prof. Ladoslav Glesinger and others. It contains a short story by Israel's Nobel Laureate S. Y. Agnon and a poem by Nelly Sachs, also winner of the Nobel Prize, both translated into Serbian for the first time.

LBH Hopes For American-Aided Desalination Plant In Israel Before He Leaves Office

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--President Johnson has expressed the wish that plans for the establishment of a water desalination plant in Israel -- a joint American-Israeli effort -- enter the practical stages before he leaves office next January. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol was informed today. The message was delivered to the Israeli leader by George Woods, President Johnson's personal representative, who is presiding at a conference of American and Israeli experts on the exploitation of water resources. Mr. Woods, a former president of the World Bank, was received by Mr. Eshkol along with other members of the American mission -- Milton Chase, Dr. Dean Peterson and Prof. Paul Macavoy. The United States Ambassador, Walworth Barbour, was also present.

The meeting on the desalination project is the resumption of talks that started 18 months ago but were interrupted by the Arab-Israeli war in June, 1967. Today's session lasted 90 minutes. The American experts will spend the next two days visiting possible sites for what is envisaged as a nuclear powered desalination plant and will then settle down to intensive discussions with the Israelis on technical matters and the problems of financing. Israel had been reluctant to go ahead with the scheme because of the uneconomical cost of desalinated water if funds are not made available at favorable terms.

Jerusalem today is the site of the first international conference on water development and usage to be held outside of the United States or Europe. Some 300 delegates from 35 countries are attending.

Goldmann Urges Jewish World To Aid International Agencies Helping Biafrans

GENEVA, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, today urged Jewish communities, organizations and individuals all over the world to "rally to help the international agencies" providing relief to the stricken civilian population of Biafra, the break-away eastern province of Nigeria.

In a statement issued here today, Dr. Goldmann deplored "the unspeakable horrors which have disfigured the conflict over Biafra," and urged the protagonists "to transfer the conflict from the battlefield to the conference table and seek a peaceful solution to their difficulties." Dr. Goldmann said the WJCongress "supported wholeheartedly the African statesmen who, in the service of both humanity and African unity, have striven...for a cease-fire so that succor can be brought to the defenseless victims of the war."

(Food and medical supplies collected by the Israeli chapters of the Lions, Rotary Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce will be flown to Biafra Thursday by Abie Nathan, a Tel Aviv restaurateur and Israel's self-styled peace-pilot. Mr. Nathan, who drew international attention when he flew a light plane to Egypt two years ago in private effort to "negotiate" with President Nasser, will be accompanied on his flight to Biafra by a group of priests.)

Official Says Moscow Would Not Bar Invitations To Synagogues To Join World Unit

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA)--An official of the Soviet Council for Religious Affairs told a delegation of American Conservative rabbis in Moscow last month that the Soviet Government would have no objections to invitations to Russian synagogues to affiliate with the World Council of Synagogues, the head of the rabbinical group reported here today.

The World Council is the international organization of Conservative congregations. Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, who headed the delegation, said the matter was one of several raised at a 90-minute meeting on July 26 with Michail Kadikoff.

The delegation pointed out to the Soviet official that the Russian Orthodox Church had ties with the international agencies of that church but that Soviet Jewish congregations did not. The American rabbis then asked whether invitations could be extended to Russian synagogues.

Rabbi Kelman said that the Soviet official replied: "All you have to do is to invite them. Come to us and ask for visas and we will arrange it." Rabbi Kelman said that Mr. Kadikoff, who spoke fluent English, was well-informed on the issues raised at the meeting, which was arranged by Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow, who made his first visit to the United States in June.

Rabbi Kelman was accompanied at the meeting by Rabbi Harold Gordon, executive vice-president of the New York Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Saul Teplitz of New York, a member of the Rabbinical Assembly executive committee, and Rabbi Sol Spiro of Montreal.

Rabbi Kelman said his delegation also asked whether there could be exchanges of books and rabbis between American and Soviet Jews and that the Soviet official's unvarying reply was "if they want it, it can be arranged." The four rabbis were part of a 15-member group which attended a conference of the World Council of Synagogues in London and then proceeded to the Soviet Union for a 10-day visit.

Rabbi Kelman said that a meeting of the executive committee of the World Council would be held this week here and that he expected that the matter of invitations would be considered and acted on at that meeting.

Johnson Vetoes Bill Barring Import Of Extra Long Staple Cotton From Egypt, Sudan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (JTA)--President Johnson has vetoed a bill passed by both houses of Congress that would have barred all imports of extra long staple cotton from any nations that fail to maintain diplomatic relations with the United States. Egypt and the Sudan are the only producers of long staple cotton that fit the description, both having broken diplomatic relations with the U.S. in the aftermath of the Six-Day Arab-Israeli war.

The measure was passed handily by the House of Representatives and the Senate on a wave of anti-Arab sentiment arising from the Middle East war. It was also the object of intense lobbying on behalf of cotton growers in the south. Had it passed, the quotas would have been re-allotted to domestic producers of specialty cotton who are concentrated in western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

President Johnson said, in announcing his action, that the bill was "clearly contrary to the national interest" because it "ties the hands of the President in the conduct of foreign affairs" and deprived him "of needed flexibility by forcing an automatic suspension of trade when diplomatic relations are severed." Administration spokesmen had described the measure last year as a "pin-prick" jab at Egypt that could hamper diplomatic efforts for Middle East peace and might strengthen Soviet influence there. Imports from Egypt and the Sudan run \$12 million to \$15 million a year. Egyptian spokesmen had said that the loss of the American market for their cotton would not harm their economy because it comprised only 3.4 percent of Egypt's export total and could easily be absorbed by other markets.

More French Jews, Many Of Them North Africans, Go To Israel To Study

PARIS, Aug. 13 (JTA)--One hundred and sixty-two Jewish students left for Israel today to study there under scholarships granted by the Minahal Hastudentim in Israel. Most of them are originally from North Africa. Altogether, 500 students have gone to Israel from France this year.