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Air Traffic Experts Weigh Effectiveness Of Flight Boycott On Algeria

LONDON, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Air traffic experts here today were weighing the possible effectiveness of the boycott of flights to and from Algeria called by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations yesterday after its efforts to negotiate Algeria's release of an hijacked El Al Israel Airliner and its 12 Israeli passengers and crew members apparently failed. International cooperation on the part of the pilots seemed assured. The Italian Civilian Pilots Association in Rome requested its members to suspend any air communications to or from Algeria in observance of the boycott call. The federation represents 30,000 airline pilots in 50 countries. Alitalia, Italy's national airline, operates two daily flights to Algeria. French pilots, including those employed by Air Algerie, the Algerian national airline, announced that they will observe the boycott. The French action will become effective at noon Monday, Aug. 19. The decision was taken to "put an end to acts of piracy in international air transportation," a spokesman for the French Pilots Syndicate said. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the boycott would paralyze 95 percent of Algeria's air traffic. Air France, the leading international air carrier serving Algiers, said that neither its management nor the French Government would interfere with the pilots' decision. Air France operates 32 flights a week between French and Algerian cities, all of which will be cancelled.

A spokesman for the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations said today that if Algeria persisted in its refusal to release the \$6 million Israel-owned Boeing jet and the Israelis detained with it, all international airlines would be asked to refuse to carry Algerian citizens.

Experts in London believe that the strike would be fully effective despite the fact that between 50 and 60 percent of Algeria's air traffic is handled by Air Algerie. They pointed out that the type of passenger who contributes most to Algeria's economy — tourists, businessmen and foreign investors — are not likely to travel except by the major international airlines for reasons of safety and comfort. They said however that Air Morocco was likely to aid Algeria and that such air lines as the Arab Middle East Airline, Air India, Pakistan Airways, Soviet Aeroflot, Polish Airways and the Czech Airlines, among others in the Arab world and Eastern Europe, were not expected to adhere to the boycott.

Israel Pleased By Boycott, Continues Diplomatic Efforts

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Official circles here expressed satisfaction today over the decision of French and other airline pilots to observe the boycott. It was learned here meanwhile that Capt. Jan Bartelski, president of the federation, and Jean Berloti, a member, were to fly to Algiers today to meet with Algerian authorities. The boycott was called when two emissaries of the federation, Capt. J. J. O'Grady and Capt. O. L. A. Forsberg, returned to London after their second mission to Algeria and reported no progress toward securing the release of the hijacked El Al plane.

Official spokesmen here said that the boycott and other measures being taken by the airline pilots do not mean that Israel will discontinue its efforts through the United Nations and other international agencies to secure the release of the plane. Israel will also continue to act through other governments, especially the Italian Government. The El Al plane was over Italy when it was hijacked by Palestinian terrorists on July 23. No details were given of the diplomatic steps being taken and there has been a near total blackout of news from official quarters on the matter.

Report Thant Will Not Go To Algiers Unless Hijacked Plane Released

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary-General U Thant will not go to Algeria Sept. 13 to attend the opening session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) unless Algeria has released the hijacked El Al airliner by then, it was learned from diplomatic quarters here. The report followed a meeting between Mr. Thant and Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's chief representative to the UN, in New York yesterday. It was learned that Mr. Thant will continue his efforts to secure the release of the plane and its passengers and crewmen.

UN Secretariat Said Invitation Accepted Before Air Piracy Occurred

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 14 (JTA)--Mr. Thant had accepted an invitation to attend the OAU conference in Algiers — an action that has angered Israelis here — before Arab terrorists hijacked the airliner, it was reported here today. Press officers of the United Nations Secretariat said that the OAU's administrative Secretary-General, Diallo Telli, had invited Mr. Thant on May 4 and Mr. Thant sent his acceptance July 16, a week before Arab terrorists hijacked the plane and flew it to Algiers. Israelis here have been indignant that Mr. Thant had agreed to visit Algeria when the Algerian Government was involved in an "act of piracy."

Mr. Thant had accepted Mr. Telli's invitation "in principle," expressing hope that last minute difficulties of "an overriding nature" would not arise and interfere with the trip. After receiving Mr. Telli's invitation, Mr. Thant then was invited orally by the Algerian Government and accepted orally.

The press here was told this earlier after Israel privately expressed displeasure over the projected visit that Mr. Thant would visit Algeria "provided international developments permit."

Eshkol Defends West Bank Military Governor's Order Expelling Three Jews From Hebron

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Prime Minister Eshkol today defended the West Bank military governor's expulsion order against three Orthodox Jews who refused to tear down a kosher food stand they had built in the West Bank town of Hebron in violation of local ordinances. Mr. Eshkol told the Knesset (Parliament) that the order had been issued by the military governor after it was approved by him and by Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan. Execution of the order was deferred by the Cabinet last week until the return of Gen. Dayan who was absent from the regular Cabinet meeting owing to the death of his father. The Knesset adjourned today for summer recess which will end on Oct. 21.

Mr. Eshkol's reference to the Hebron matter was made in reply to agenda motions presented by the Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment), National Religious Party, Free Center and the Haolam Hazeh factions whose members claimed that the punishment was too harsh. The Prime Minister said that the order was motivated not only by the violation but because the three accused had flouted the military governor's authority. He said that the Hebron settlers, numbering about 80, had entered the town by "trickery" after promising that they only wanted to visit there over the last Passover holiday. Afterwards they refused to leave and were permitted to remain on condition that they obeyed the military governor's orders, Mr. Eshkol said. Those orders stipulated that they remain within the military government compound. But the kiosk was built in an area restricted to them. They also failed to secure the required permit. Under a Cabinet ruling, the establishment of any trade or business in Hebron is considered a political act and requires official permission. The kiosk was demolished by Israeli soldiers. The Knesset referred the matter to its foreign affairs and security committee at Mr. Eshkol's request.

In other action, the Knesset yesterday gave its final reading to the Cabinet Law which, among other things, imposes strict censorship on deliberations of the Cabinet on matters concerning defense, security or anything else the Cabinet may define as secret. Under the law, journalists and publishers may be prosecuted if they print news in violation of the decree. The formula finally incorporated into the law represented a compromise between the Cabinet's first draft which would have made all Cabinet deliberations secret unless publication was specifically authorized and a demand by the journalists and publishers associations that the law cover only military subjects.

The Cabinet Law will become part of what is known as Israel's "little constitution." Israel has no written constitution. The country is governed under a series of basic laws passed one-by-one over the years. These laws govern the election of the Knesset, the President and other legislative and executive bodies. The new Cabinet Law will not change the basic formula under which the Prime Minister is chosen by the President after consultation with the various parties. The Cabinet assumes office after receiving a vote of confidence by the Knesset.

One Of Syrian Pilots Landing In Israel Is Brother Of Former Intelligence Chief

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--One of the two Syrian pilots who landed their MIG-17 jet interceptors in Israel Monday has been identified as a member of a prominent Syrian family that has considerable influence in that country's affairs. According to reliable sources here, 25-year-old Lt. Walid Adham is a younger brother of the former chief of Syrian intelligence services who held office during the period of Egyptian-Syrian unification as the United Arab Republic. The latter also served as a member of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission where he was said to have displayed more violently anti-Israel sentiments than the average Syrian officer.

An Israeli Army spokesman confirmed yesterday that the two pilots landed in Israel as a result of a navigational error. He said that interrogation of the men disclosed that they believed that the airstrip on which they landed was in Lebanese territory. The strip is about four miles south of the Lebanese border. Although there was no further official comment, it was said here that the pilots are regarded as prisoners of war. So far no requests have been received from any country for the return of the MIGs, authorities said.

Economic Conference Generates \$50 Million In Investments In Joint Projects

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--The world economic conference of Jewish financiers and industrialists, convened here by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol last April, has resulted so far in joint economic projects representing investments of about \$50 million, it was announced here today. It was also announced that Deputy Finance Minister Zvi Dinstein has been put in charge of follow-up operations arising from the conference.

Forty-six projects are now in preparation or in the first stages of implementation, an increase of 14 since the economic conference closed. Among these are a half-million dollar investment by Alden Rugs, of Atlanta, Ga. in an Israeli firm that will manufacture plush carpets; a \$900,000 investment by Baxter International, of Chicago, for the manufacture of blood preserving systems for export; and a \$700,000 investment in the expansion of a local furniture company which will be underwritten by the Empire State Chair Co. of New York, Bentwood of Canada and Zuckerman of Vienna.

Victor M. Carter, chairman of the American regional committee of the Prime Minister's Council for Israel's Economic Development, was due to return to the U.S. today after a two-week visit to discuss American-Israeli investment projects.

Israelis, Jordanians Exchange Fire In Several Beisan Valley Incidents

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Israeli and Jordanian forces exchanged bazooka and small arms fire intermittently for about four hours this morning along the cease-fire demarcation line in the Beisan Valley region, a military spokesman reported today.

Two bazooka shells were fired shortly after midnight at a field shed near Ein Yahav, south of the Dead Sea, and a tractor was slightly damaged by a mine just outside of the settlement this morning. Last week Ein Yahav was attacked with bazooka shells which damaged a clinic. The marauders were pursued by Israeli forces into Jordan where five were killed and two captured. Three bazooka shells with a time-firing device were found near the settlement today and were dismantled.

The fighting in the Beisan region was touched off by the Jordanians early this morning when they fired machineguns at Israeli positions in the Neve Urr region. Bazookas were fired at a border police armored car, two civilian workers came under fire in the Yarden area, and bazooka shells were aimed at Israeli forces in the vicinity, the military spokesman said. Israelis returned the fire in all instances and the border was later reported quiet. No Israeli casualties were reported.

Two Israeli border policemen were injured yesterday when their armored car was hit by Jordanian bazooka and machinegun fire in the Beisan Valley. The clash took place east of Maoz Chaim, about 300 yards from the Jordanian border. The damaged armored car and another armored car nearby returned the fire. One of the injured policemen refused hospitalization and returned to patrol duty.

Bishop Who Sold Yadin Dead Sea Scrolls Visits Holy Places For First Time

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--The man who sold the Dead Sea Scrolls to Prof. Yigal Yadin more than 20 years ago visited Christian Holy Places in East Jerusalem and the West Bank today for the first time in two decades. He is Athanasius Jesus Samuel, now the Syrian Orthodox Bishop of the United States and Canada, who was visiting Israel as a guest of his church here. Because of his transaction with the Israeli archaeologist and general, Bishop Samuel was banned from Jordan and the other Arab states and was unable to visit the Holy Places while they were under Jordanian rule. He also paid a visit today to the Israel Museum.

'Jewish Observer' Reports President Nasser Seriously Ill, Urgently Needs Surgery

LONDON, Aug. 14 (JTA)--President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt, now undergoing medical treatment in the Soviet Union, may be more seriously ill than hitherto known, the Jewish Observer said here in an article that will be published Friday.

The paper, which attributed its information to "reliable sources," said that Mr. Nasser's main medical complaint is an enlargement of the prostate gland rather than his chronic diabetes and that he urgently requires surgery. That is the reason he sought treatment in the USSR instead of in Egypt, the Observer said. However, apart from being an operative risk owing to his diabetes, no surgeon is anxious to operate on Mr. Nasser for fear of personal repercussions should he fail to make a good recovery or die of post-operative complications, the paper said. The Observer added that it is not uncommon for prostate surgery to reveal cancer.

Largest Israeli Exhibit Sent Overseas Will Appear In Buenos Aires Fair

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 14 (JTA)--The largest Israeli exhibit ever to go overseas was due here aboard the motorship Mandarincore. The display, valued at \$1 million weighs 2,000 tons and will cover 8,000 square meters of floorspace at the world trade fair that opens in Buenos Aires on Oct. 5.

Adin Talbar, deputy director of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, who saw the ship off in Israel, said the exhibit was the most comprehensive that Israel ever sent abroad. It contains samples of virtually everything made here, from heavy machinery to jewelry and high fashions. It will be set up at the Argentinian fair near an Israel tourist pavilion containing a restaurant, an Israeli supermarket and displays of coins and stamps, Mr. Talbar said.

Dedicate New Central Library At Tel Aviv U. Named For Elias Sourasky

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)--The new central library building at Tel Aviv University was dedicated in the name of the Mexican philanthropist, Elias Sourasky, who was on hand for the ceremonies. Present also was Pinhas Sapir, Minister Without Portfolio and secretary-general of the Israel Labor Party, Dr. George S. Wise, president of the university, and several hundred faculty members and guests. The four-story library will eventually contain a half million books and facilities for 1,000 students.

Dr. Israel Katz Named Director Of Israel's National Insurance Institute

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Dr. Israel Katz, a settler from the United States, has been appointed director of the National Insurance Institute, effective at the beginning of next year, it was announced here. Dr. Katz was head of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at the Hebrew University and is presently on sabbatical leave in London. He will succeed the present director, Giora Lotan, who is retiring.

Maj. Gen. Josef Geva, former military attache at the Israel Embassy in Washington, who was slated to take the post, has been appointed director-general of the new Absorption Ministry headed by Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon.

Jordanian Envoy Visits State Dep't, See Consultations On Security Council Action

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Jordanian Ambassador to the United States, Abdul Hamid Sharaf, met with two State Department officials, Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Eugene V. Rostow, and Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Joseph J. Sisco. Washington observers believed the meeting had been requested by Mr. Sharaf to discuss complaints against Israel currently being registered by Jordan before the United Nations Security Council.

Observers speculated that the meeting with State Department officials was asked by Ambassador Sharaf to discuss United States acceptance of a tough Security Council resolution calling for condemnation of Israel for its Aug. 4 air attack in Jordan. United States support of a Security Council resolution has so far rested on the question of whether or not it would be "reasonably balanced" — one calling for an end to both Arab terrorist assaults and Israeli reprisals, sources said.

A Wednesday session of the Security Council, scheduled to deal with Israeli and Jordanian complaints stemming from the raid on terrorist bases, was cancelled. Consultations among the 15 members were continuing. It was understood that Pakistan had been circulating a resolution which, among other things, would condemn Israel's attack near the town of Salt. The Council was scheduled to reconvene for its sixth session on the issue Thursday afternoon.

Court Returns Children To Divorced Father So They May Have Jewish Upbringing

NEWARK, N.J., Aug. 14 (JTA)--A divorced Jewish father has won custody of his two children through an Essex County (Newark) Superior Court ruling which upheld his contention that he could better raise them as Jews in New Jersey than could his divorced wife who moved with them to a small Idaho town where they were the only Jews, it was disclosed here today.

The ruling was made in May by Judge William Consodine, who withheld the names of the parents. It was brought out during the hearing here that both parents had sought to raise the two children Jewishly. After the divorce the mother was awarded the custody of the children, as is the usual procedure. But when she married a Protestant and went to live with him in the Idaho town, the father sued for custody in the Essex County court.

Judge Consodine noted, in his ruling, that there were only two synagogues in Idaho, the nearest one 300 miles from the town, and that only 500 of Idaho's 692,000 residents were Jews. The father, he stressed, lives in northern New Jersey where "temples, Hebrew schools and extra-religious facilities abound." The jurist held that the Idaho environment could undermine the faith of the two Jewish children.

Judge Consodine, a Catholic, noted also that while religion is not by itself a decisive factor in custody situations, it is important, particularly when it is related to the legally expressed wishes of the parents. On that basis, he ordered the children returned to their father with whom, he ruled, they would have a better chance of continuing to be Jews.

Rehavam Amir Takes Up Post As Israel's Consul-General In New York

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Rehavam Amir has taken up his new post as Consul-General of Israel in New York City, succeeding Michael Arnon, who served here since 1965 and has returned to Jerusalem. A foreign service veteran, Mr. Amir served as Consul-General in London from 1953-1958, was Minister to Poland from 1958-1963, and then returned to Jerusalem as advisor on Arab affairs to the Prime Minister. Since 1965 he had been director of the Jewish Agency's department of education and culture in the diaspora. Mr. Amir was the guest today at the first meeting of the new Executive of the American Section of the Jewish Agency. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman, welcomed him as a "member of the family."

Democrats Urged To Adopt Planks On Support For Israel, Non-Public Schools

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Sen. Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania Democrat, said yesterday that the Democratic Party platform should include a plank expressing "resolute support of Israel's independence." Until "an effective arms control and disarmament pact for the Middle East" is negotiated, the Senator said, a Democratic platform must "particularly" call for "the sale to Israel of modern weapons needed to deter Arab aggression." He spoke before a regional platform hearing for delegates in Philadelphia.

The Democratic Party platform committee was urged yesterday to adopt a firm plank calling for equal treatment of children attending non-public schools. Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America, at a hearing of the platform committee, urged the party to incorporate into the platform recognition of non-public schools as equal partners in American education and a demand that non-public school representatives participate in all planning processes of Federal and state education aid.

Israeli Furniture Shows Sign Of Becoming Important Export Item

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Furniture with the "made in Israel" stamp shows signs of becoming an important export item and efforts are being made to expand its market abroad, it was reported here yesterday. The industry exported \$300,000 worth of furniture during the first half of 1968, a sharp rise over the equivalent period of last year. It now has orders valued at \$2 million, mainly from the United States and from several African countries as well.