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East German Paper, Polish Official Blame 'Zionists' For 'Threat' To Czech Socialism

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Two Warsaw Pact countries are attempting to justify their participation in the Soviet invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia to their own people on the grounds that "Zionist forces" were responsible for what they called the "threat to Socialism" in Czechoslovakia. According to a New York Times dispatch from Bonn today, the Neues Deutschland, the main organ of East Germany's ruling Communist Party, charged that "Zionist forces have taken over the leadership" of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia. In Warsaw, according to the Times, the Polish Government's anti-Jewish campaign, which had abated in recent weeks, was revived by Maj. Gen. Jan Czapla who charged in an article in the Polish Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu that "Zionists" were responsible for the "real threat of transition from Socialism to capitalism" which justified the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Gen. Czapla, who is deputy chief of the Polish Army's political board, drew a parallel between the "anti-Socialist" forces at work in Poland last spring and those in Czechoslovakia and said the "common element" was the "extremely vigorous combination of revisionism and Zionism."

It was student unrest and demands for greater freedom in Poland last spring that touched off an "anti-Zionist," "anti-Israel" campaign, inspired by the Polish Government and Communist Party. The campaign was recognized by observers as an attempt to exploit latent anti-Semitism by making Poland's surviving Jews the scapegoats for the grievances touched off by student riots. The Government vigorously denied this. Nevertheless, scores of Jews who had been devoted Communists and held high posts in the Government, the party and in the communications media, as well as other fields, were summarily dismissed and many Jews were arrested. Wladislaw Gomulka, Polish Communist Party leader, finally succeeded in muzzling the campaign which, while ostensibly directed against alleged "Zionists," was conceded to have degenerated into a general anti-Semitic witch-hunt.

The invocation of the "Zionist" menace by the East German Communist Party was attributed by observers to evidence that the regime of party chief Walter Ulbricht is experiencing considerable difficulty explaining why East German troops joined the other Soviet-bloc forces in marching into Czechoslovakia. East German commentaries, according to the Times, disclosed mounting concern over the breadth and power of Czechoslovakian resistance to the occupation and have referred to "anti-Socialist rowdies." The implication of the Neues Deutschland charges was that those elements are working with or are one with the "Zionist forces" that allegedly took over in Czechoslovakia before the occupation.

Mr. Ulbricht is known to be the most rabidly anti-Israel personality among all of the Eastern European Communist leaders. It was reportedly at his insistence that Czechoslovakia was forced to accept a reference to "Israeli aggression" in the joint communique issued at the Bratislava conference of Warsaw Pact nations earlier this month. That reference was subsequently assailed by Czech liberals as evidence that even the reform regime of Communist Party First Secretary Alexander Dubcek was making Czech foreign policy subservient to that of Soviet Russia. It is generally believed that it was Mr. Ulbricht's report to the Kremlin that Mr. Dubcek could not hold the liberal forces in check in his country was one of the factors that led the Soviets to decide to invade Czechoslovakia last week.

(Concern for the safety of Czechoslovakia's 16,000 Jews was voiced today by the American Jewish Congress. In a statement issued here, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, of Cleveland, AJCongress president, called upon the United Nations and the free governments of the world "to make it clear that they will not countenance the victimization of Czech Jews or any other racial or religious groups in order to justify the present outrages against the Czechoslovakian people.")

(Rabbi Lelyveld said, "Czechoslovakian Jews have demonstrated their loyalty to their government time and again and their attachment to the people of Czechoslovakia cannot rationally be called into question. Nonetheless, there is danger that unless present Soviet pressures are reduced, Jews in Czechoslovakia will be made to pay the price for the demand of all the Czech people for a more liberal society and greater personal freedom.")

(Citing the statements in Neues Deutschland and in Trybuna Ludu, Rabbi Lelyveld declared that "these statements obviously were inspired by and follow hard upon attacks a little more than a week ago in the Soviet Army newspaper, Red Star, which warned the peoples of Communist countries against 'fifth columns' of Zionist sympathizers and denounced the World Zionist Organization as harboring 'ideological saboteurs.'" Rabbi Lelyveld said, "these calumnies can no longer be dismissed as reflecting merely the personal prejudice of one or another local Communist leader. They appear unmistakably to be part of a concerted drive within countries subject to Soviet domination to use the time-dishonored device of blaming local Jewish populations for every internal shortcoming, failing, disappointment or limitation.")

Brandt Assails NPD For Supporting Invasion, Occupation Of Czechoslovakia

BONN, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The position of West Germany's extreme right-wing National Democratic Party in support of the Soviet invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia was assailed today by Foreign Minister Willy Brandt in a televised interview on the Czech crisis. He said that the seeming

incongruity of a party often described as neo-Nazi backing up an act by Soviet Russia, East Germany and other Warsaw Pact allies could be explained by the NPD's view that Germany and Russia will eventually rule over Europe. Mr. Brandt told his German audience that "we regret the misuse of the name of Germany for another invasion of Czechoslovakia after what has happened before."

Beigin Urges Small Nations To Form Common Front Against Communist Subversion

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, leader of the Herut Party, called on small nations all over the world today to form a common front "against pressure, threats and the subversive activities of totalitarian Communism." Mr. Beigin, who is a minister without portfolio in the national coalition Government, spoke at a party meeting here. He denounced the Soviet invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia as a "moral and political defeat" for Russia and its allies and said the Czechoslovakian episode pointed up the problem of all small nations. The Herut Party decided to hold a mass protest rally against the Soviet occupation.

(In Melbourne, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry said in a statement issued today, that the tanks and guns used in the Middle East in an attempt to crush Israel were of the same origin as those that spearheaded the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Soviet Russia and its Warsaw Pact allies. The Council's statement constituted Australian Jewry's collective protest against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia. "We watch with horror," it said, "as the totalitarian forces directed from Moscow embark now on the ruthless enslavement of Czechoslovakia. We condemn those who use guns and tanks to oppress a people and we observe with sadness that tanks of the same origin had been used in the Middle East in an attempt to crush Israel.")

Israeli nationals who were caught in Czechoslovakia by the Soviet-led invasion last week experienced no difficulties leaving that country and were treated extremely well by Czech, Austrian and Swiss border authorities, it was learned in Jerusalem today. The reports came from several Israelis who have just returned home and from Israeli sources abroad. It was estimated that some 20 to 30 Israeli nationals were in Czechoslovakia at the time of the invasion. Only three or four turned up at the Swedish Embassy in Prague for help and information, it was disclosed. The Swedish Embassy has represented Israeli interests in Czechoslovakia since the latter severed diplomatic relations with Israel following the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Some of the Israelis, who had to abandon cars and belongings or spend all of their money for gasoline to cross the border, were aided with funds. Returning Israelis said the Czech police were helpful in showing them roads out of the country through border control posts where no Soviet troops were near. No Israeli nationals were detained as far as could be ascertained here today.

Release Of Hijacked El Al Airliner, 12 Israelis, By Algeria Believed Near

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Algeria is expected shortly to release the hijacked Israeli airliner and its 12 passengers and crew members detained since July 23, it was indicated in official quarters here today. But there was no news of any specific developments and no one was prepared to say when the plane and its party would be freed. Estimates were that it could happen any time between the next 24 hours and the end of the week. The plane was pirated by Arab terrorists while flying from Rome to Tel Aviv. (Reportedly well informed circles in Paris said today that the plane and its passengers and crew would be released within the next few hours and that the airliner would be flown to Rome or Geneva. Rumors of the plane's imminent release gained currency yesterday when a team of three Air France mechanics returned to Paris from Algiers where they prepared the \$6 million Boeing 707 for flight.)

The evening daily newspaper Yediot Ahronot reported today that Israel had agreed to make a "humanitarian gesture" after the plane is released. The report was neither confirmed nor denied in official quarters. The paper recalled that the same sources had vigorously denied that any deal was in the making with Algeria when negotiations in Italy for the plane's release broke down three weeks ago. Unofficial observers expect that soon after the plane is released, Israel will free a number of Arab terrorists. They said that the latter would be selected from among those held under administrative detention rather than those tried for a specific offense.

Thant Sends Undersecretary-General Rolz-Bennett To Algeria With Message

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 26 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary-General U Thant has sent one of his top aides to Algiers, possibly to seek release of the hijacked El Al airliner held there since July 23, it was reported here today.

The emissary is Undersecretary-General Jose Rolz-Bennett of Guatemala, who left for Algiers last Friday with a written message from Mr. Thant to President Houari Boumedienne. Mr. Rolz-Bennett is still in Algiers, sources here said.

UN sources would neither deny nor confirm the report of Mr. Rolz-Bennett's visit. It has been rumored here that the \$6 million plane, hijacked by Arab terrorists, is to be released soon, and the 12 Israeli passengers and crewmen shortly thereafter.

Israeli Officer Killed In Exchanges, Border Quiet After Exchange Of Fire

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA)--An Israeli Army lieutenant was killed and four other soldiers and four civilians were injured in three days of sharp artillery, tank, and small arms duels between Israeli and Jordanian forces in the Beisan and Jordan Valley sectors of the cease-fire demarcation

line, a military spokesman disclosed today. He said the latest casualty, a wounded soldier, occurred last night when Jordanians shelled the Al Hamma area. This morning all was quiet along the border. Repairs were made to damaged buildings and installations in the settlements hit, and Israeli farmers returned to their fields after a night in bomb shelters.

There was no corresponding return observed on the Jordanian side of the line which was devoid of soldiers and civilians. It was estimated in military circles that 25 Jordanian artillery pieces were destroyed by Israeli return fire including long range "long Tom" cannons and 120-millimeter mortars. Jordanians claimed that the Israeli fire destroyed an irrigation canal. A border patrol this morning discovered and dismantled three mines near Kibbutz Manarah on the Israel-Lebanese border. The officer killed by Jordanian fire was identified today as Lt. Eli Rosen of Kibbutz Reshafim. He was hit east of Tel Katzir. Two of the civilian casualties were struck by shrapnel when they emerged from a bomb shelter at Al Hamma for "fresh air."

The border clashes of recent days followed a familiar pattern, military spokesmen said. The fighting is believed to have been initiated by saboteurs who fired mortars and automatic weapons at Israeli patrols and settlements. When the Israeli units returned the fire, Jordanian regulars provided the guerrillas with covering artillery fire. Israeli units then brought up artillery and tank cannon, which scored direct hits on Jordanian positions. A military spokesman said on Kol Israel radio today that the Manshiyeh police station in Jordan was completely demolished by Israeli fire. The building had been used both as a forward position for saboteurs and as a gun emplacement for Jordanian artillery. Jordanian shells damaged the electric power system at Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov but it was soon functioning normally after emergency repairs. Several of the settlement's buildings hit by shells were given new roofs today and shell holes in their walls were plastered over.

Israel, Jordan UN Letters Charge Cease-Fire Violations

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 26 (JTA)--The Israeli and Jordanian representatives to the United Nations each sent a letter to Security Council President Joao Augusto de Araujo Castro of Brazil today in which each charged the other country with a series of attacks on its territory in violation of the cease-fire agreement. The letter from Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief of the Israeli delegation to the UN, referred to "a large scale premeditated military attack" by Jordanian forces yesterday against Israeli villages in the Beisan and Jordan Valleys. The letter went on to list chronologically Jordanian assaults on Israeli positions and civilian settlements from Aug. 18 through Aug. 23. "The Jordanian attacks carried out by regular as well as irregular forces operating from Jordanian territory with the support of Jordanian authorities constitute premeditated and planned violations of the cease-fire," Mr. Tekoah's letter said. The Israeli envoy asked that it be circulated as a Security Council document.

The Jordanian representative, Ambassador Muhammad H. el-Farra, charged in his letter that Israeli forces had shelled 10 Jordanian villages in the northern Jordan Valley yesterday and claimed that three civilians were seriously injured and that a school, a mosque, a number of houses and an irrigation canal were destroyed. The Jordanian also referred to warning leaflets dropped by Israeli aircraft over Jordanian cities last Friday as evidence that the alleged Israeli attacks were premeditated. The Jordanian envoy did not call for a meeting of the Security Council but asserted that a "new situation" has developed and that "the Security Council is therefore expected to meet and take more effective measures to check Israeli aggression and to remedy a situation fraught with dangers." He also requested that his letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

Israel Government Reports Fourfold Increase In Population In Last 20 Years

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The Jewish population of Israel has increased almost four times since the State was established 20 years ago but the Arab population has also increased and now stands at 14 percent of the Jewish population compared to 11 percent in 1948, the Central Bureau of Statistics disclosed today. The Arab figures include East Jerusalem.

The figures, taken from the statistical annual for 1967 to be published shortly, showed that the Jewish population of Israel increased at an average annual rate of 6.9 percent since 1948. The Jewish population then stood at 649,600. At the end of last year it was 2,383,600. Immigration accounted for 1,100,000 and natural increase for 635,000. Mass immigration was responsible for an annual population increase of 24 percent during the peak years of immigration, 1948 to 1951. In the last two years, however, immigration accounted for only two percent of the annual increase.

'Guardian' Sees Israel Ground Strength Greater, Air Less Than Arabs'

LONDON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--An estimate of the relative military strength of Egypt and Israel published by the Guardian today gave Israel a slight numerical edge in ground forces but placed Israel's numerical air strength at little better than half of Egypt's and less than a third of the combined numerical strength of the Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian Air Forces.

According to the Guardian's assessment, Israel has eight armored brigades and 22 infantry brigades plus 800 tanks against six Egyptian armored brigades, 15 infantry brigades and 600 tanks. Egypt, however, possesses 400 aircraft against 223 Israeli aircraft. The Iraqi, Syrian and Jordanian Air Forces were estimated to possess 173, 158 and 21 aircraft respectively. Egypt in addition was said to have 100 surface-to-surface missiles. None were listed for Israel.

Arthur J. Goldberg Succeeds Morris B. Abram As American Jewish Committee President

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Former United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, who served as Secretary of Labor in the Kennedy Administration and was appointed by President Johnson to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was elected president of the American Jewish Committee today. Ambassador Goldberg's election was announced after a special meeting of the AJCommittee's board of governors here. He is the 14th president of the human relations agency and succeeds Morris B. Abram, president since 1964, who is about to take office as president of Brandeis University. Mr. Abram was elected an honorary president of the AJCommittee.

Reform Leader Assails NYU President Hester On Hatchett Appointment

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--A Jewish leader today accused the president of New York University of a "tortured and outrageous effort to de-odorize the noxious anti-Semitism" of an article by John Hatchett, newly appointed director of NYU's Afro-American Student Center. But Albert Vorspan, director of the Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the representative body of American Reform Judaism, warned at the same time that "beneath the viciousness and racism of Mr. Hatchett's article there is a real problem for public education that must be faced."

Mr. Vorspan's statement took sharp issue with the views expressed by Dr. James M. Hester, president of NYU, in an interview published in the New York Times yesterday. Dr. Hester accepted the former Harlem school teacher's disclaimer that his article, which charged that Jews who dominate the New York City public school system were responsible for the lack of progress by Negro pupils was anti-Semitic in intent. Dr. Hester told the Times that he understood how somebody could level such charges and not be an anti-Semite "in the classical sense." He was also critical of Mr. Hatchett's accusers who he said were exacerbating racial tensions.

Mr. Vorspan called the NYU head's statement "a clumsy effort to justify the original appointment" of Mr. Hatchett and accused Dr. Hester of becoming "an apologist for Mr. Hatchett's views while blaming critics of the article for creating tension." However, Mr. Vorspan added, "simplistic reactions on either side do not serve the interests of anyone. Both the black student who threaten to riot if Mr. Hatchett is removed and the Jewish alumnus who says simply, 'he's an anti-Semite... let's get him fired,' are sweeping live problems under the carpet, where they will smolder until they burst into a conflagration." Mr. Vorspan stated further that "while it is malicious and unfair to accuse the Jewish teachers of New York, as a group, of being anti-black, there may well be some anti-black teachers, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We call upon such teachers to examine their consciences and determine whether they are conveying such attitudes in the classroom...While charges of conscious cultural genocide and educational emasculation are unconscionable, it may be true that white teachers sometimes reflect values which have become repugnant to many black people."

Des Moines Federation Contributes \$1,000 For Biafran Relief

DES MOINES, Aug. 26 (JTA)--The board of governors of the Jewish Welfare Federation has voted to contribute \$1,000 for emergency aid to the people of Biafra, according to Morton Bookey, president, and Donald L. Gartner, executive director. The gift was made in response to formation of the American Jewish Agency Effort for Biafran Relief, a committee organized by 22 major Jewish organizations, in cooperation with the Catholic Relief Service, Church World Service and the United States Committee for UNICEF. The Federation contribution will come from reserve funds, the officials said.

History Of B'nai B'rith To Be Placed In John Kennedy Memorial Library

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA)--Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has announced that a history of B'nai B'rith by Edward E. Grusd will be placed in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library. Sen. Kennedy advised Mr. Grusd, that a copy of his book, "B'nai B'rith: Story of a Covenant," which the author had inscribed to the Kennedy family, will be added to the memorial exhibits, B'nai B'rith said. The book's preface was written by the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Farley, Gen. Clay Named Honorary Heads Of Jewish War Dead Shrine

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., Aug. 26 (JTA)--James A. Farley and Gen. Lucius Clay have been named honorary chairmen of the National Shrine to the Jewish War Dead in Washington, according to an announcement at the 73rd annual convention here of the Jewish War Veterans, by Julius Klein, president of the shrine, which was chartered by Congress in 1958. It is a repository of souvenirs on participation by American Jews in American wars from the Revolution to the present time.

First Group Of U.S. Jews Leaves For Israel To Settle In Orthodox Township

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA)--A group of 85 individuals and 65 families, founders of the Kiryat Itri-Itri township, an American settlement in Jerusalem, left by plane yesterday for Israel as the vanguard of the expected 250 families who will settle there.

Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, associate head of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency, said the township was being constructed by the Israel Torah Research Institute of New York City, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency in Israel, in Romema at the entrance to Jerusalem. Rabbi Mordecai Elefant, institute dean, said the total cost of the township, which he said was in the final stages of construction, would be more than 30 million Israeli pounds (\$7.5 million).