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JDC Allocates Funds For Czech-Jewish Refugees; 780 Register In Vienna

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee announced today that it had allocated $100,000 to provide relief for Jewish refugees arriving in Vienna from Czechoslovakia. Samuel L. Haber, JDC executive vice-chairman, revealed that as of this afternoon, 780 refugees had applied to the JDC office in Vienna for assistance. He said the first applicants came from among the thousands of tourists who had been outside Czechoslovakia when Soviet troops crossed the border. The latest group, he said, consisted of men, women and children who had just come to Vienna from Czechoslovakia.

To meet the immediate needs of the refugees, Mr. Haber said, JDC is providing small cash grants, primarily for food, hotel rooms and other necessities. Other aid is being given to the refugees by non-sectarian voluntary agencies and the Austrian authorities. Few of the Jewish refugees, Mr. Haber noted, have made any plans for the future, although small numbers indicated a desire to emigrate to the United States, Israel and other countries. "The general consensus of those on the spot," Mr. Haber said, "is that this is a waiting-period, with indecisiveness playing the main role."

The JDC Vienna office is overcrowded with the refugee influx and additional office space is being sought. To cope with the emergency, experienced JDC staff members have been sent to Vienna from JDC headquarters in Geneva and other offices in Europe. Mr. Haber said that additional funds would be provided if the emergency continues. Funds for JDC's assistance programs overseas come chiefly from the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal.

Tekoah Accuses Egypt Of 'Deliberate Attack' At Suez, Charge Denied By El-Kony

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 4 (JTA)--Israel accused Egypt today before the United Nations Security Council of a "deliberate and planned military attack" on the night of Aug. 26 when an Israeli patrol was ambushed on the east bank of the Suez Canal resulting in the death of two Israeli soldiers and the abduction of a third. Israel formally charged that the attack had been carried out by "an Egyptian military force consisting of approximately 30 men." The Council heard the Tekoah Egyptian statements and adjourned until Thursday.

In a terse, straightforward presentation of the Israeli charges, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah told the Security Council that "the nature of the ambush, the professional manner in which it was conducted, the size of the Egyptian force employed, established on the basis of the army boot footprints found in the area and the number of shelters dug by the attackers, the fact that the weapons used are standard equipment of the UAR Army, the coordination of the attack with Egyptian military positions on the west bank leave no room for any doubt whatsoever that this was a deliberate and planned military attack by the UAR against Israel, and that the responsibility for it lies with the UAR."

He pointed out that "the entire area on the UAR side is a military zone in which there is a heavy concentration of troops. The Egyptian military positions are located along the canal at a close distance from one another in some places the distance between these positions is less than 100 meters. These positions control all movements along the west bank of the canal and on the canal itself on which, under arrangements reached between the parties on July 27, 1967, and renewed on Aug. 27, 1967, all movements of boats and all military activities are prohibited." Mr. Tekoah said that "by all indications, the Egyptian forces crossed the canal which is only 150 meters wide in boats with a clear objective of taking up positions on the east bank, ambushing the patrol known to survey the area and killing or capturing its men."

The Israeli representative noted that this was the first time Egyptian units had crossed the canal and attacked Israeli forces on the east bank. He warned that "this development is fraught with the gravest dangers for the maintenance of the cease-fire." He asked whether Egypt was ready to take measures to prevent such attacks in future and was prepared to return the kidnapped Israeli soldier, noting that the answers to these questions "are vital for the future maintenance of the cease-fire in the area."

Says Israel Discouraged By Past Efforts On Peace Issues

In bringing the action before the Council, Mr. Tekoah said, Israel hoped to arrest further deterioration of the situation, to have the military attack condemned, to impress on Egypt the need to carry out its obligations and to secure the return of the kidnapped soldier. He said that "general difficulties" and "obstacles placed in its way" had prevented the Security Council in the past from fairly and equitably discharging its responsibilities in the Middle East. He observed that the people of Israel were "greatly discouraged by the inability of the Council to rise above its arithmetic of votes and vetoes and contribute to the termination of Arab violations of the cease-fire." He said that the Israel Government hoped that "this time, it will find support in the Council for its efforts to ensure the faithful observance of the cease-fire and avert a serious aggravation of the situation."

In his reply to the Israeli charges, Ambassador Mohamed Awad El-Kony of Egypt denied that Egypt had taken part in the action and suggested that Israel had planted physical evidence to back up his charges. He told the Council that the Israeli charges were not supported by the report to the United Nations by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, head of the UN cease-fire observer force.

The Egyptian envoy launched into a tirade against Israel accusing it of defiance of the United Nations and of continuing "large-scale military operations" in Arab territories. He asserted again that Israel had failed to declare its acceptance of the Security Council's resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, calling on all parties to cooperate to establish peace in the Middle East.

Mr. El-Kony characterized Israel's attitude toward the UN as one of defiance and charged that Israel continued to carry out "large-scale military operations" in Arab territories. In a brief reply, Mr. Tekoah denounced the Egyptian statement as "disappointing, irresponsible and negative."

Angry Mobs Assault Arabs When Tel Aviv Bus Depot Bombing Kills 1, Injures 51

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Mobs of enraged Israelis today set upon and beat up Arabs in the streets here and in neighboring Jaffa following a series of bomb explosions in and around the crowded central bus terminal which killed one man and injured 51 other persons, two of them seriously today. Three of the bomb explosions occurred at mid-day, during the lunch hour rush, and a fourth went off an hour later. Thousands of persons in and near the terminal milled about in near panic. First aid units were rushed in to treat many persons cut by flying glass. Police cordoned off the area and tried to protect Arabs, many of whom sought shelter in police stations. A car bearing Gaza Strip license plates was destroyed.

The bombings were attributed to Arab terrorists. Fifty Arabs, some of them residents of the occupied territories, were arrested for questioning. The bombs were concealed in trash bins and in a water fountain at various places inside the bus terminal and near a movie house and in a side street adjacent to the terminal. According to initial reports, the explosives were planted by "small, innocent looking boys." The method of planting them inconspicuously in trash cans was the same as the one used in Jerusalem two weeks ago when a series of time bombs blasted the downtown section injuring a dozen persons. That incident, attributed to Arab terrorists, also set off a wave of rioting and assaults on Arabs by infuriated mobs who stormed East Jerusalem.

Following today's bombings, mobs made for Jaffa, once an Arab town but now part of the Tel Aviv municipality though still with its Arab quarters. Police stations opened their doors to Arabs seeking refuge and Jewish mobs milled outside calling for revenge. The fury of the mobs was such that Minister of Information Israel Galili admonished citizens who, he declared, must under no circumstances take the law into their own hands.

The man killed in the bus terminal was still unidentified. Eight of the injured remained hospitalized. The other injured persons were treated in hospitals, pharmacies or by first aid teams on the streets and then released. Ten Arabs near the scene of the explosion were injured by angry crowds and an Israeli soldier trying to protect the Arabs was also injured. About 60 Arabs were escorted from the area under police protection. Eyewitnesses said one of the bombs went off near a bus queue and suddenly scores of people were seen with blood streaming from their faces. Private cars in the vicinity picked up injured and rushed them to hospitals. Soldiers on leave helped police cordon off the terminal where bus service was suspended for several hours.

16 Arab Prisoners To Be Returned In 'Gesture' Interviewed By Red Cross

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA)--The 16 Arab prisoners to be released in Israel's promised "humanitarian gesture" for the safe return of the hijacked El Al jet and 12 Israelis were all arrested before the June 1967 Six-Day War and were serving sentences of from three to 10 years, it was disclosed here today. Representatives of the International Red Cross interviewed the prisoners today, in accordance with international law, to find out if they want to return to their country of origin or go elsewhere.

It was learned that most of the prisoners come from areas now occupied by Israel and may return to their homes if they wish. Minister of Information Israel Galili said yesterday that a special committee appointed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol chose the 16 prisoners to be released from a list of "Arab fighters." The list was proposed during negotiations for the return of the $7.5 million El Al plane in which the Italian Government served as an intermediary between Israel and Algeria, whose authorities held the aircraft along with the Israeli passengers and crewmen since July 23.

"Arab fighters" referred to members of El Fatah and other guerrilla organizations that have engaged in infiltration and sabotage against Israel. Since the Six-Day War about 1,400 marauders have been sentenced or are awaiting trial. The decision to release only pre-war infiltrators was apparently intended to discourage further hijackings.

Israeli technicians inspecting the hijacked El Al jet that was released by Algeria on Saturday have found two bullet holes in the plane's interior. It was originally believed that one bullet was fired into the plane's ceiling by a hijacker while chief pilot Capt. Oded Abarbanel was held at gunpoint and co-pilot Maoz Porez was struck with a gun butt. The second bullet hole was found in the door separating the pilots' compartment from the passenger section of the aircraft. The inspectors said that both holes could not have been made by the same bullet. The Boeing 707 transport was reported to be in generally fair condition and is expected to re-enter service on Sept. 14.

Syrian Forces Fire On Israelis Extricating Comrades From Vehicle That Hit Mine

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Syrian forces facing the southern Golan Heights opened fire last night on Israeli troops trying to extricate three Israeli soldiers who were killed when their vehicle struck a mine. Israeli units returned the fire. An investigation disclosed that the mine was an old one, planted in the area during the June, 1967 Six-Day War, a military spokesman reported today. No casualties were reported in the exchange with the Syrians. An Israeli Army patrol was attacked by bazooka shells in the northern Beisan Valley early today. The fire came from the Jordanian side of the border and was returned by the patrol and other Israeli units in an exchange that lasted an hour. A 10-minute exchange of fire was started by Jordanians near Umm Tutz Pass south of the Beisan Valley this morning. There were no casualties in either clash.

A military spokesman disclosed today that two Egyptian fishing boats were intercepted in Israeli territorial waters near Sinai on Aug. 29 and were escorted to a nearby port. The 16 fishermen aboard the boats have been detained pending an investigation of the incident.

Fifty convicted Arab terrorists in Nablus jail have staged a hunger strike in protest against conditions in the prison, which is typical of Jordanian penal institutions. The strikers are demanding equal treatment with their fellow prisoners incarcerated in Israeli jails where conditions, they learned, are far better. The Israeli Commissioner for prisons had ordered several jails in former Jordanian territory shut down because they were "not fit for livestock" but pointed out that not all prisoners can be accommodated to their liking. The commissioner's office said that efforts were being made to improve prison conditions in the occupied territories and that all prisoners were treated in accordance with international law.

West Bank Arabs visiting Jordan are frequently kidnapped by terrorists and forced to undergo commando training after which they are sent back to Israeli territory with "assignments" to carry out. This information has been relayed to Israeli authorities by residents of Nablus who visited Jordan. They said the kidnapped West Bankers were taken to El Fatah training centers where they were instructed in sabotage and the use of firearms and explosives. El Fatah resorts to kidnapping because it has failed to recruit Arabs in the Israel-occupied territories, the informants said.

Questionable Business Practices Bring Crackdown By Ministry Of Commerce

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Israel's Ministry of Commerce is cracking down on questionable practices by businesses catering to tourists which have brought many complaints from foreign visitors. The purpose is to bring Israel's tourist industry, which is enjoying an unprecedented boom this year, into line with accepted international standards.

The ministry disclosed that it has instituted proceedings against more than 400 restaurants, hotels and shops since the beginning of this year. They are based on customer complaints of poor quality, high prices, wrong weights and mislabeling. The Ministry of Tourism meanwhile, announced that it was investigating alleged kickbacks to Government-licensed tourist guides who bring their tour parties to certain favored shops only. The practice is common throughout the Middle East and in many other parts of the world. But the ministry disapproves because tourists are not necessarily taken to establishments where they get the best value for their money.

Jordan, Arabia And Iraq Assail Israel At UN Parley On Social Welfare

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 4 (JTA)--Representatives of three Arab states assailed Israel in speeches before the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, currently in session here under the auspices of Secretary-General U Thant. They placed on Israel blame for the failure of their domestic welfare programs. Israel, in turn, urged that political discussions be kept out of the seven-day parley.

Ambassador Mohammed H. el-Farra, of Jordan, complained that Jordan could not maintain a social welfare program when one million of its inhabitants had been "evicted" from their homes and Israel held the West Bank territory. Sheikh Abd Arrahman Aba Al-Khail, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, blamed the absence of social welfare programs in the Arab countries on the "ever present threat of Israeli aggression" which compelled the Arab states to give priority to defense needs. The Iraqi Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Anwar al-Hadithi, blamed Israel for the unsolved Palestine refugee program and called for its solution on the basis of the right of self-determination and the right of the individual to his home and country.

Minister of Social Welfare Josef Burg, representing Israel in the conference in which cabinet members and other officials of 88 countries are participating, expressed regret that political issues and assumptions had been introduced into the discussions. He termed them "irrelevant" to the purposes of the conference.

Britain Says Hebrew Service Cut To Pay For Other Cultural Links With Israel

LONDON, Sept. 4 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry official told a deputation of British Jews today that the British Broadcasting Corp. had suspended its half hour Hebrew short-wave program in order to make the funds available for other forms of cultural links between Britain and Israel. Maurice Foley, Parliamentary Undersecretary at the Foreign Office, said he regretted it was not possible to reconsider the suspension or even to postpone it. Mr. Foley was visited today by a delegation representing the Board of Deputies of British Jews who expressed the concern felt by Jewish communities here and abroad over the decision to shut down the BBC's Hebrew service.

'Post' Says Spain Has Helped To Free Several Hundred Jews Held By Egyptians

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Since the Six-Day War, secret negotiations conducted by Spain have resulted in freeing several hundred Jewish families from Egypt, the Washington Post said Wednesday. "Possibly 500 families -- Egyptian citizens as well as aliens -- have been helped out of Egypt and have been dispersed" to Western countries. "Many stateless Jews," the Post said, "have been given Spanish passports." It said the International Red Cross and United States Jewish organizations have aided the effort.

"Some estimates are that 1,000 Egyptian Jews, most of them permitted to take only their personal belongings, have been helped to resettle abroad," the newspaper reported. The Post noted, however, that "an estimated 250 Jews remain in confinement, principally in the Al-Thawra prison near Cairo. Other Jews freed previously have alleged that they were forced by prison officers to submit to sexual perversion and other indignities and were beaten and tortured." Last December the exodus was reduced to a trickle, and since July, the Post said, the Jewish exodus has apparently stopped. The Post reported that "a few Jews also have been able to get out of Iraq, but usually only upon forfeiture of their goods and payment of ransom. Syria has refused to grant exit permits."

France reportedly has been active also on their behalf. Credited with the largest role in arranging the release of many of the Jews is the Spanish Ambassador in Cairo, Angel Sagaz. Mr. Sagaz, the Post noted, "played an important role in getting Jews out of Nazi Germany during World War II." The Post quoted one Jew rescued from an Egyptian prison as saying that Ambassador Sagaz "went back as far as the inquisition in order to construe for the Sephardic Jews a Spanish origin and give them a passport." According to the newspaper, "Egyptian authorities arrested an estimated 500 Egyptian Jews, chiefly in Cairo and Alexandria," when the Six-Day War broke out. "Most of them are heads of families and some have remained in prison continually since then." According to the figures available to the Post, "before the 1967 war, there were approximately 2,500 Jews in Egypt. About 1,500 were in Cairo and 1,000 in Alexandria. Until the earlier 1956 war, the Jewish community in Egypt numbered 75,000-80,000. About 3,500 Jews are thought to remain in Syria, where there were 40,000 in the 1940s. No accurate figures are available for Iraq. But about 120,000 Jews fled from Iraq to Israel in 1948."

At the United Nations, Israel has insisted that an investigation of the situation of Jews in Arab countries be linked with any inquiry into conditions of Arab inhabitants in Israeli-occupied territories, as asked by Arab Governments. U Thant has accused Israel of frustrating the latter investigation.

Sharef Confers With Commerce Secretary, Other High Washington Officials

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Israel's new Minister of Finance Zeev Sharef held high level economic talks with top American officials here today. Mr. Sharef, who also holds the Cabinet portfolio for commerce and industry, is on his first visit to the United States since succeeding Pinhas Sapir as Finance Minister. He conferred today with Secretary of Commerce C. R. Smith, Under-Secretary of the Treasury Joseph Barr, Acting Director William Sauer of the Export-Import Bank, and Howard Samuels, administrator of the Small Business Administration. He was accompanied by Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Gen. Itzhak Rabin, and Shimon Alexandroni, economic minister of the Israel Embassy here. Mr. Sharef will meet on Friday with Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank. Tomorrow he is expected to address the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce on the development and future of American-Israeli trade.

Goldwater's Friends Set Up Research Fund In His Name At Hebrew Union Archives

CINCINNATI, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Jewish friends of former Senator Barry Goldwater, of Arizona, the 1964 Republican Presidential candidate, have established a Barry Goldwater Research Fund at the American Jewish Archives of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, it was announced today. The fund will be used to buy or copy documents, diaries, letters and other materials that tell of the roles played by Jewish men and women in building the American West. Among the latter were forebears of Senator Goldwater.

Arab Propagandist Calls Sen. Javits 'More Israeli Than Eshkol'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (JTA)--Dr. M. T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the Action Committee of American-Arab Relations, today accused Senator Jacob Javits, New York Republican, of becoming "more Israeli than (Premier Levi) Eshkol." In a telegram sent by the Arab propaganda organization to Mr. Javits, Dr. Mehdi called Mr. Javits the "senator from Israel" and urged him to "be concerned with American moral and material interests in the Middle East rather than Israeli military power in the area or your own political fortunes in America." Sen. Javits is a candidate for reelection. The telegram was in response to reports that Sen. Javits is planning to press the Johnson Administration for delivery of Phantom jets to Israel.

Philadelphia Council Urges Selective Purchasing Of California Table Grapes

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 4 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia has joined with Catholic and Protestant bodies in calling on consumers to be selective in their purchase of table grapes in order to support the strike of Mexican-American farm workers against California growers. The growers, according to the JCRC, have rejected all overtures for a settlement or even negotiations.