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Israel Sees Johnson B'nai B'rith Speech As Reaffirming Support Of Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry sources indicated here today a belief that President Johnson had reaffirmed, in his Tuesday night address to the B'nai B'rith convention in Washington, United States support of Israel's security. The sources maintained that the President had simply reiterated American policy as outlined by him in his five-point declaration of June 19, 1967 and subsequently repeated in various official statements.

Referring to the President's remarks on the Middle East arms balance -- "we have exercised restraint, while recognizing the legitimate defense needs of friendly governments... We have no intention of allowing the balance of forces in the area ever to become an incentive for war" -- the sources said it was clear that Mr. Johnson was reserving the right to make his own decisions in his own time, adding that Israel's views on the urgency of getting U.S. Phantom jets were well known in Washington.

(Secretary of State Dean Rusk reportedly told a closed meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday that Israel's military establishment was, in effect, unready to absorb the Phantoms, it was learned yesterday from authoritative Washington sources. Mr. Rusk also said he saw no crisis requiring immediate action on the Phantoms and that a production problem existed because the supersonic jets were used in large numbers in Viet Nam. In response to questions, he was understood to have indicated that Israel might eventually obtain the Phantoms but gave the impression this would not happen in the near future.)

Two Syrian newspapers assailed today the Johnson speech for taking the "Zionist line." The papers were particularly incensed by what they interpreted as Mr. Johnson's stand that Jerusalem remain in Israeli hands and that there should be no Israeli withdrawal to the pre-June, 1967 armistice lines.

Reports Egypt Planning Major Blow In Suez Area Discounted In Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Israeli circles discounted today widespread rumors that Egypt was planning a major military confrontation with Israel along the Suez Canal. They said that Egypt was not prepared for a confrontation and that despite the intensity of Sunday's artillery barrage and other provocation incidents before and since, Cairo authorities had instructed the army to exercise restraint. According to the Israelis, the Egyptians appear to want only brief, local incidents along the canal for prestige and morale-building purposes. Israel, they said, has decided not to be provoked into an escalation unless the Egyptian incidents continue along the lines of the Jordanian border incidents, in which case action would be taken.

(Terence Prittie, writing in The Guardian in London today, largely agreed with the Israeli assessment of Egypt's intentions. He said that while Egypt's military build-up along the Suez Canal had caused concern in diplomatic quarters, it is believed that its primary purpose was not to prepare for full scale military action but to increase the pressure on Israel to permit the re-opening of the canal on terms acceptable to Egypt and to Soviet Russia. According to Mr. Prittie, Soviet support for the Egyptian build-up has a subsidiary purpose of bolstering President Nasser's declining prestige. The correspondent said Russia was believed to have secured agreements from Egypt and Yemen for the Soviet Navy to use bases in those countries).

(Cairo newspapers predicted today a "massive blow-up" along the Suez Canal. The semi-official Al Ahram said Egypt would attempt to "even the score" and regain prestige. The official Syrian newspaper Al Hawara proposed today that oil producing Arab countries strike at United States interests in retaliation for pro-Israel statements by presidential candidates Hubert H. Humphrey and Richard M. Nixon).

(The Daily Express in London reported estimates by military observers in Tel Aviv that Egypt has up to 130,000 men dug in along a 60 mile front equipped with new Soviet artillery and tanks. Their positions straddle all roads connecting Cairo with the Suez Canal, the report said.)

Security Council Seeking 'Consensus' On Israeli Suez Ambush Complaint

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Members of the United Nations Security Council met informally today to seek agreement on a formula which would permit the Council to close the books on Israel's complaint that Egyptian forces had violated the cease-fire agreement on Aug. 26 by ambushing an Israeli patrol in the Suez Canal area, killing two Israeli soldiers and abducting a third. Israel has asked for a condemnation of Egypt for the attack and Security Council action to secure the liberation of the abducted soldier.

Informed sources said there was little possibility of agreement on a resolution that would condemn Egypt for the attack and said that even if the necessary majority of nine could be obtained for such a resolution, it would not escape a Soviet veto. What will probably emerge, they said, is a "consensus" statement calling on both parties for strict observance of the cease-fire and closer cooperation with the Jarring mission. The statement, it was believed, might criticize Egypt for the episode, but in mild terms. The debate adjourned yesterday, without fixing a date for resumption, after hearing a demand from United States representative George W. Ball that both Israel and Egypt issue strict orders against violations to avert "a greater conflagration."

Javits Tells ZOA United States Should Sell Phantoms Now To Israel

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, voicing "a feeling of frustration" over the delay of the Administration in providing Phantom jets to Israel, told the 71st annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America here today that the United States should sell the supersonic warplanes to Israel immediately. He said that the Administration "must no longer hesitate to discharge the expressed will of both political parties and of both Houses of Congress -- and the will of the American people."

He noted that the Administration was selling the Phantoms to Iran but that not even "promises of delivery" had been given to Israel and asked "Why this double standard in the Middle East?" Stressing that the time gap between order of jets and delivery could be as much as two years, the Senator added that "the Arab militarists say that by 1970 they will be sufficiently rearmed by the Soviets to commence a final round against Israel." Citing the Soviet naval buildup in the Mediterranean, he also called for a NATO standing naval force there.

Rep. John W. McCormack, House Speaker, told the ZOA that Israel should not return "an inch of soil" to the Arabs until "they are ready to make an honorable peace." He said it was historically unique that the "vanquished" in the Middle East "have sought to lay down the terms of peace to the conquerors" and that "apparently, Israel's unforgivable crime was its refusal to lie down and die and its extraordinary capacity for self-defense." He denounced "cowardly" Arab terrorism, including the hijacking of the El Al plane. He declared, in reference to criticisms of Israel's reprisal actions, that "It is apparently proper for Arab terrorists to make inroads into Israeli territory but utterly improper for Israelis to enter Arab territory in hot pursuit of a vicious foe."

Gerald Ford, House Republican leader, said in a message to the convention that the Republican leadership of Congress continued to be "concerned by the failure" of the Administration to provide Phantom jets to Israel and to "answer massive Communist arms buildup in the Middle East and Mediterranean."

The convention heard a charge from ZOA president Jacques Torczyner that "thousands of Jewish school teachers" in New York City faced ultimate expulsion from their jobs because of the anticipated role of Black Power advocates in the scheduled decentralization of the city's school system. He said Jewish groups must mobilize "in defense of Jewish rights" and "stop appeasing militant Negroes" in an attack on "a new brand of anti-Semitism -- black anti-Semitism." Declaring that Negro extremists were "anti-Semitic and anti-Israel," he charged that "extremist Black Power is the order of the day" and predicted that the civil struggle would take "a more violent turn and endanger the position of the Jew in America." He criticized Jewish groups for alleged failure to protest destruction of Jewish property in racial rioting and alleged failure to aid victimized Jewish merchants. He also assailed President James Hester of New York University for naming John Hatchett as director of its new Afro-American Center, accusing the Negro teacher of anti-Semitism. Mr. Torczyner also criticized former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and "top Jewish contributors" to the university for "dangerous appeasement of anti-Semitic forces" and condemned Black Power leaders for alliances with Arab student groups.

Allon Sees Johnson Speech As Backing Israel Demand For 'Real Peace'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon said, in response to a question at the National Press Club here today that he saw no need for United States military intervention in the Middle East if the U.S. helped Israel build up a military capability sufficient to deter aggression. He said he thought, however, that the U.S. has an obligation to "neutralize" Soviet penetration into the area. Gen. Allon also said that he saw no danger of direct Soviet intervention in the Middle East in the foreseeable future. He said that Soviet naval limitations, lack of air cover and difficult lines of communications to the Mediterranean re-enforced Israel's determination "not to be the victim of blackmail" despite the presence of Russian naval forces in Arab ports.

Gen. Allon said that the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia provided a lesson "that small nations should be enabled to defend themselves and should be made viable in matters of self defense." He said that self-reliant small nations are likely to cause second thoughts among potentially aggressive governments, even if they are the governments of great powers. He said that the temptations of military intervention would be outweighed by a reluctance to engage in prolonged small scale wars against small nations with strong defense capabilities. Gen. Allon told his audience that he was gratified to have been present when President Johnson addressed the B'nai B'rith triennial convention here Tuesday night and "reaffirmed U.S. policy (in the Middle East) as striving toward a 'real peace' in the area, a 'peace of justice and reconciliation' -- not a cease fire, a temporary truce or a renewal of a fragile armistice."

Asked to comment on the President's statement that peace talks between Israel and the Arabs need not be direct at the outset, Gen. Allon said his "guess" was that the President referred to the mission of United Nations envoy Gunnar Jarring who might "pave the way" by clarifying various points. He said the President had made "important remarks" on control of the arms race in the Middle East and maintenance of a military balance but added that he would leave the interpretation to the press. Gen. Allon avoided a direct comment on the differences in attitude between President Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey on the supply of F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel.

Six Jewish Teen-Agers Remanded In Overturning Of Arab-Owned Auto

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Six Jewish teen-agers have been remanded in custody on suspicion of having overturned an Arab-owned car soon after a dynamite blast here caused injuries to passers-by. The dynamite apparently had been placed by saboteurs but police indicated they had no clues in the incident.

Goldberg Appeals For End To 'Fratricidal' Arab-Israeli Conflict

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, stressed tonight in an address here the common heritage and religious roots of the Arab and Jewish peoples and called for an end to the "fratricidal conflict" in the Middle East. He told the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal that the 8,000 Israelis killed in battle since Israel's independence in 1948 exceeded the number of Americans killed in World War II in proportion to total populations, and that the Israeli toll in the 1967 Six-Day War proportionately exceeded the American toll in Viet Nam.

He spoke at the closing banquet of a two-day United Nations seminar held by the leadership Cabinet. Earlier in the day, the UJA members conferred at the UN with several dignitaries, including George Ball, the United States Ambassador to the UN, and Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne, Israel's deputy permanent representative to the UN. Mr. Goldberg reiterated an earlier proposal that the United States should make it clear to the Soviet Union that "we will not stand by and permit a Soviet 'Czechoslovakia' in the Middle East" and urged continued patient United States efforts to convince the Arab states that they should seek to avoid "the dubiously protective embrace of the Soviet bear."

Three Israeli Soldiers Injured In Golan And Negev Incidents

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers were injured yesterday, one of them seriously, in widely separated incidents stemming from terrorist activities. A military spokesman reported that one soldier was rushed to the hospital by helicopter after touching off a booby trap near Nahal Golan, a new settlement in the Golan heights. The other two soldiers were hurt when their command car hit a mine near Mt. Sagi in the Negev northwest of Eilat. A second command car speeding to the scene also struck a mine but without injury to its passengers. An armed halftrack guarding farmers in the fields of Ashdot Yaacov in the Beisan valley was attacked by gun fire from the Jordanian side of the demarcation line. No casualties were reported.

Israel Union Members Clash With Non-Union Arab Workers At Work Site

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Police broke up fist-fights here today between picketing members of the Jerusalem building workers union and Arab laborers from East Jerusalem who showed up for work at a construction site without having been assigned by the Labor Exchange. Police sent the Arabs away. The contractor later signed an undertaking to employ workers only through the Labor Exchange in the future in accordance with Israeli law. Workers so employed must receive full union wages and fringe benefits.

But many employers in Israel have apparently been hiring West Bank Arabs directly, by-passing the labor exchanges in order to pay lower wages. The controller of manpower at the Labor Ministry said yesterday that Israeli authorities had overlooked this practice in the past because of severe shortages in Israel in skilled and semi-skilled workers. He estimated that there were several thousand West Bank Arabs currently working in Israel, many of whom got their jobs by private arrangement.

Labor Minister Joseph Almog announced yesterday that the Labor Exchange would establish six branches in the Gaza strip and the West Bank to direct Arabs to jobs in Israel. He said that residents of Gaza and the West Bank would be permitted to work anywhere in Israel provided that confirmed employment was available to them and provided that they obtain prior security clearances from the Military Governor. The influx of Arab workers into Israel was partly responsible for the re-establishment of security check points on highways linking the occupied territories with Israel proper. The manpower controller said that the demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers, particularly in the construction industry has exceeded the supply by 5,000 in the past few weeks.

Nablus Mayor's Call For Protest Strike Ignored By Residents

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- A general strike called by the Mayor and town council of Nablus fizzled today and appeared to have back-fired against the Mayor. The strike was called to protest the Israeli policy of demolishing houses known to be owned or used by terrorists. Yesterday Army sappers blew up a house belonging to Ibrahim Toukan, son of a prominent townsman, Hamzi Toukan. The younger Toukan and three henchmen confessed to three attempts to blow up the house of the Israeli Military Governor in Nablus. But the reaction of Nablus residents today was against the Mayor whom they accused of calling a strike only when the house of some important person was destroyed. A local merchant said Hamzi Toukan had relatives in Jordan with important connections. Only ten percent of Nablus shops were closed today and they re-opened after an hour. Municipal offices re-opened after a few hours.

Hadassah, Union Of Orthodox Jewish Congregations Join World Jewish Congress

GENEVA, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, welcomed today the affiliation of two American-Jewish organizations with the WJC -- Hadassah, the women's Zionist Organization of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. Dr. Goldmann said the move was a step forward toward the achievement of Jewish unity and that it would enable the WJC to play a larger role in American Jewish life with regard to the problems of world Jewry. Dr. Goldmann also welcomed the election of Mrs. Rose L. Halprin as chairman of the American section of the WJC.

West German State Imposes Ban On Meetings Of NPD

BONN, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- The Prime Minister of Rhine-Westphalia, Heinz Kuehn, announced today that he had forbidden any meetings of the right-wing National Democratic Party that are out of line with the "democratic character of the Federal Republic." Meetings of the NPD, which is reputedly neo-Nazi, frequently wind up with brawls. Mr. Kuehn said nothing about proposals to outlaw the NPD.

B'nai B'rith Asks Strict Gun Controls; Re-Elects Wexler President

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Dr. William Wexler, of Savannah, Ga., was re-elected to a second three year term as president of B'nai B'rith, the international Jewish fraternal and service organization, at the close of its triennial convention here yesterday. Elected treasurer was Eugene L. Sugarman, deputy controller of New York City, who won a close contest with Myron E. Herzog, a Chicago insurance executive.

The B'nai B'rith convention ended with the adoption of a long series of resolutions ranging from the condemnation of anti-Semitism in Poland to a call for the enactment of firearms registration laws on Federal and state levels.

The delegates called on the United States and other democratic nations to meet Israel's security needs by immediately resuming the shipment of arms to Israel as the best guarantee to maintain peace in the Middle East. They called on all Governments to make known to Poland their opposition to the violation of the human rights of Polish Jews and on the U.S. specifically to deprive Poland of its most favored nation status in view of the Warsaw regime's continuing anti-Semitic campaign. Another resolution hailed "the courageous stand of the Czech people" against the Soviet occupation of their country and urged men of good will everywhere to use their moral influence to deter suppression of Czechoslovakia's small Jewish community. Rumania's treatment of its Jewish citizens was lauded in a resolution that expressed appreciation to the Bucharest government. The convention also adopted a resolution proposing the establishment of an international court to deal with crimes against humanity, including anti-Semitism.

Rep. Podell Demands Resignation Of NYU President, Hatchett Ouster

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- The resignation of Dr. James N. Hester, president of New York University, and the immediate dismissal of John F. Hatchett named by Dr. Hester as director of the university's new Martin Luther King Jr. Afro-American Center was urged by Rep. Bertram L. Podell, N.Y. Democrat, in the House today.

Rept. Podell charged in a speech that Dr. Hester compromised his role by the Hatchett appointment and by his subsequent defense of Mr. Hatchett against charges that he was an anti-Semite. The appointment has been the subject of sharp protests by Jewish and other groups because of an article Mr. Hatchett wrote in a Negro teachers' periodical in 1967 in which he alleged that Jewish teachers control the New York City public school system and that they and their Negro imitators were "mentally poisoning" Negro pupils. The former Harlem school teacher said his article was not anti-Semitic in intent but defended his right to identify the ethnic background of the teachers he criticized. Dr. Hester subsequently upheld Mr. Hatchett's disclaimer of anti-Semitic intent. But he said he did not condone the contents of the Hatchett article of which he said he had not been aware when he appointed Hatchett to the university post.

Relations Between Gov. Agnew And Maryland Jewish Community Clarified In Statement

BALTIMORE, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- The Baltimore Jewish Council said today that a report published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the relations between the Jewish community in Maryland and Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, the Republican vice presidential candidate, was incorrect. A JTA report had stated that Gov. Agnew's popularity with the Jewish and other minority groups had dwindled as a result of his stand on civil rights and welfare programs.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, which represents the major community relations organizations of the Greater Baltimore Jewish community, said that, while maintaining neutrality in all political matters, it "feels impelled to speak out in the interest of fair play in order to set the record straight." The Council told JTA that it "is completely unaware of any evidence indicating a change in the attitude of Jews toward Gov. Agnew." Its statement said the Council "is aware of the records of the candidates for the offices of president and vice president of the United States in both major parties and it states unequivocally that none of them is unsympathetic to Jewish causes."

U.S. Postoffice Sets Time Off Policy For High Holy Days

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- The U.S. Postoffice Bureau of Personnel notified postmasters throughout the United States today in connection with the forthcoming observance of Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur that "insofar as practicable," leave should be granted to employees scheduled for duty who wish to attend services on these religious holidays. The notice pointed out that it was the Postoffice Department's policy to cooperate in permitting Federal employees to observe their religious holidays.

U. of Minnesota Fall Term Opens On Holy Days; Jewish Students Excused

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Sept. 12 (JTA) -- Jewish students at the University of Minnesota were reminded today to notify their instructors and department offices in advance that they will not attend classes on Rosh Hashona, Sept. 23 and 24, which are the opening days of the fall term at the University.

The Minnesota Rabbinical Association thanked the University authorities and the campus Hillel Foundation for making arrangements to excuse Jewish students from classes on the holiday. But, they said, it was now up to the 1800 Jewish students to take advantage of the arrangements by giving the necessary notification.

A. Walter Socolow Elected President Of Jewish Education Committee

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA) -- A. Walter Socolow, a New York attorney, will be installed Monday as the new president of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, which provides services to more than 150,000 children in the 721 Jewish schools of all groupings in the five city boroughs and in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties. Mr. Socolow is a member of the governing council of the American Association for Jewish Education.