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Jordanians Use Czech-Made Rocket Launchers For First Time In Beisan Attack

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Eight Israeli civilians, including two schoolgirls, were injured last night in a brief but damaging bombardment of Beisan Township by terrorists using for the first time the Czech-made 130mm rocket-launcher, commonly known as "Katyusha." Firing of the rockets was from the Jordanian side of the border. This morning Israeli gunners fired four shells into the Jordanian village of Irbid "to remind the terrorists there they are still vulnerable," a military spokesman said.

The terrorists sent eight rockets into Beisan while people were still on the streets. Two sisters, Rachel and Lea Abou, aged 10 and 12, were slightly injured as were six other civilians. Five were treated in the hospital and sent home. Two girls and a man remained in the hospital today but were not on the danger list.

A tractor driver was injured yesterday when his vehicle hit a mine near the newly established Negev settlement of Tzofar in the Araba district. An Army command car going to the scene also struck a mine but without casualties, a military spokesman said. An Army spokesman today denied an Egyptian claim that they had shot down an Israeli plane.

The bombardment of Beisan ended what appears to have been a tacit understanding between Jordanian authorities and El Fatah that the terrorists were not to attack Israeli settlements. The understanding was reached after Israeli artillery blasted Irbid last June 4 in retaliation for the sustained shelling of Israeli border settlements by terrorists. Thereafter, terrorist gunfire was directed against Israeli Army units and border patrols, the military spokesman said. He added that this morning's shelling of Irbid was a "reminder." Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan visited Beisan Township this morning where he was cheered by the residents. He paid a call on the two injured girls. Army sources said that four shells were fired into Irbid from the Golan Heights. Jordanian authorities claimed that five shells struck and said that four civilians were injured and two houses damaged.

Israeli military sources disclosed meanwhile that there were 100 incidents along the Israel-Jordan cease-fire line during the month ending today. They said that 92 of the incidents were perpetrated from the Jordanian side of the line with the consent of Jordanian authorities. The sources said this was due to measures taken by Israel which make it difficult, if not impossible, for marauders to cross the Jordan River. According to a military spokesman, the terrorists obtained their "Katushya" rocket launcher from Syria. The weapons are used by the Syrian and Egyptian armies.

103 Jordan Border Attacks In Past Month Reported By Tekoah To Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 17 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's chief representative to the United Nations presented the Security Council today with details of 103 border shooting incidents started by Jordan during the four week period beginning last Aug. 18. In a letter to George Ignatieff, of Canada, the September President of the Security Council, Mr. Tekoah said that five Israeli soldiers and policemen and three civilians had been killed in the attacks which also wounded 26 soldiers and 12 civilians.

Mr. Tekoah reported attacks from Jordanian territory last night on Israeli forces near Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley in which one soldier was killed and three wounded. In addition his letter cited last night's rocket attack from Jordanian soil on the town of Beisan where eight civilians were wounded. He said the town was hit by 130mm rockets of Czechoslovak manufacture which are known to be standard equipment of the Arab armies. The "responsibility of the Government of Jordan for the continued and repeated acts of warfare directed against the civilian population and military forces of Israel and the further deterioration of a grave situation is thus clearly established," Mr. Tekoah wrote. He called the Jordanian actions a "flagrant breach" of the cease-fire and a violation of the Security Council's resolution of Aug. 16. Mr. Tekoah requested that his letter be circulated as a Security Council document. The 103 incidents mentioned included 43 assaults by shelling, 41 instances of small arms fire, eight bazooka shellings, six cases of minings, two cases of sabotage and one rocket attack.

Dayan, Bar-Lev Agree No Immediate New War Likely; Egyptians Warned

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--An optimistic, if sober assessment of Israel's military strength and the prospects of a new outbreak of war with Egypt in the immediate future, was given by Israel's top military men yesterday -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of the armed forces. Gen. Dayan spoke at a Labor Party meeting. Gen. Bar-Lev made his remarks in a radio interview. Both discussed the possibility of direct Soviet intervention on the Arab side should a new war break out and both agreed that in the last analysis this depended on the firm stand of the United States. Both generals also stressed the need to maintain Israel's military strength at a peak to deter aggression. Gen. Bar-Lev spoke of Israel's need for "advanced design aircraft" to maintain its "deterrent image."

Gen. Dayan warned Egypt that it would be a "fatal mistake" on its part to "leap across" the Suez Canal. He said he did not think the Egyptians would try but warned that Israel must remain alert and security conscious. "It is time we ceased living on the albums and memories of the great victory we had," he told the Labor Party members. "We must be prepared for what lies ahead. We must be ready for a possible war and take into account its moral and economic burdens. We cannot put aside preparations for war even if hostilities do not break out immediately." On the possibility of Soviet intervention he said America's stand would be decisive. "If they stand fast, the Russians will not intervene and risk a confrontation with the United States," he said. He also stressed that Israelis must learn to live with the Palestinian Arabs. It is not a one-way street, he said, adding that changes have resulted from almost two years of living together.

Gen. Bar-Lev said that Israel's re-armament since the June, 1967 war was "satisfactory" except in one sector — advanced design aircraft. "It is very important for us to receive such planes primarily because of their deterrent image," he said. Gen. Bar-Lev said that Israel had significantly more military power at its disposal now than before the Six-Day War and spoke of the deployment of forces, particularly in the Sinai. "I do not speak of the immediate front line. I am speaking of the general deployment that can repulse any aggressor," he said. According to Gen. Dayan, the Egyptian artillery bombardment along the Suez Canal on Sept. 8 showed no perceptible improvement in Egyptian fighting qualities. He said that the Egyptians fired more than 10,000 shells but the damage was negligible. He thought, however, that the Egyptians would continue their commando and sabotage activities in the Sinai and along the Suez Canal. "I think the Israel Army has the right to answer such activity with the appropriate reply," he added.

Gen. Bar-Lev said direct Soviet intervention in the Middle East depended on the Soviet assessment of whether such action would bring about a confrontation with the United States. In any case, he said, the physical possibilities of any large scale military intervention in the Middle East were very limited. Israeli military circles said that the Egyptians were deeply entrenched along the Suez Canal and had considerable artillery. Their deployment is defensive but could be quickly turned to the offensive. Nevertheless, Egypt will not wage war against Israel now, these circles believe, because of the water obstacle which would make such an operation extremely difficult, but they may try later. It was conceded that the Egyptians have paratroops, amphibious vehicles and pontoon bridges.

Police Arrest Two Arab Teenagers In U.S. Consulate Bomb Planting

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Police arrested two teen-aged Arabs today who were alleged to be members of the terrorist gang that planted a bomb in the United States Consulate in East Jerusalem earlier this month. Police said that the youngsters, one of them a high school student, would be brought before a magistrate within 48 hours. A police spokesman said that virtually all the terrorists involved in the recent Jerusalem and Tel Aviv bombings had been arrested except for the two ring-leaders, brothers from Hebron, who were still at large. Their identities are known, but they were believed to have crossed into Jordan, the spokesman said.

Police were expected to ask for a 15 day extension of a remand order issued by a Jerusalem magistrate 10 days ago for 19 terrorist suspects. The police want them held in custody until their trial. Four other suspects, boys of 13 and 14, have been released on bail. But they are said to have had no active part in the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv bombings.

Nablus Mayor Shown Merchant's Home Where Fatah Arms Caches Were Found

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Mayor Hamdi Kanaan of Nablus was escorted by the military governor today to the house of a prominent local merchant where two El Fatah arms caches were discovered yesterday. The mayor was invited to view the evidence in case the building is demolished by the Israeli Army.

Mayor Kanaan was told by Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan three days ago that the Army would continue to destroy houses belonging to, or used by, terrorists. But he was promised that he would be told in advance of such action. The mayor was unsuccessful in his call for a general strike last week to protest the Israeli demolition policy. Later he resigned but was persuaded by Gen. Dayan to retract his resignation.

Security Council May Meet Today To Close Out Israel Suez Complaint

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 17 (JTA)--The United Nations Security Council may meet Wednesday on Israel's complaint that Egyptian forces violated the cease-fire agreement on Aug. 26 by killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping a third in an ambush, an Israeli source said here today. The Council may vote on a mild resolution asking both sides to observe the cease-fire, the source said. Council members have been consulting on the issue since last week.

In another Middle East development, a UN spokesman said today that special UN Middle East peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring will arrive here Sept. 23 to continue his mediation efforts.

Ball Reported Taking New Initiative In Search For Mideast Solution

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 (JTA)--United States Ambassador George W. Ball was reportedly taking the initiative in a new attempt to advance a solution to the Middle East deadlock, the Washington Post reported today. The Post's United Nations correspondent Robert H. Estabrook said Mr. Ball reportedly will seek to advance a Middle East solution while Arab and Israeli foreign ministers are present during the UN General Assembly starting Sept. 24.

No Rebel Student Movements Or Hippies In Israel, Says Hebrew U. Head

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 17 (JTA)--The rector of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem claimed here Tuesday that Israel has "no rebel student movements" because students enter the university after three years of military service which "matures them." According to Dr. Nathan Rotenstreich, Israel also has no hippies because "the land is no good for hippies." Dr. Rotenstreich, who was a speaker at the closing session of the conference of the Federation of Argentine Jewish Communities, delivered his remarks at a press conference. Among other things, he told reporters that Jerusalem will not be an internationalized city because "Israel will never share its rule with any other state."

The problem of assimilation among Jewish youth in Argentina was discussed at the conference. One speaker said it was preferable to send young people to Israel for periods of time rather than bringing over Israel shlichim (youth emissaries) who are unable to communicate with Jewish youth here. The speaker, Jacobo Kovadloff, president of the Sociedad Hebraica, largest Jewish social and sports club in the country, also decried the tendency to split Jews into religious and non-religious segments. Alberto Senderey, chairman of the Argentine Jewish Youth Confederation, estimated that only 10 percent of the 100,000 Argentinian Jews between the ages of 16 and 20 were successfully recruited by Jewish youth movements.

A clash developed between the Federation and representatives of the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry. Dr. Tobias Kamenzain, of the federation, questioned the need for special political representation of the Jewish community as embodied in the DAIA. He said that the federation represented the majority of Jewish families and could manage the political matters itself. He cited as examples the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Canadian Jewish Congress. Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DAIA, said his organization was fulfilling a well defined task. He likened it to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in the United States where no community-wide body exists. He suggested that the Federation of Argentine Jewish Communities concentrate on community organization and leave political matters to the DAIA.

Conference Focuses On Argentine Jews' Religious Problems

The religious problems of Argentine Jews, at least among those who observe the Orthodox traditions, occupied the attention of the delegates, who heard talks by Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, and from Chief Rabbi David Kahane of Argentina. According to Dr. Kahane, the main problem stems from the lack of religious leaders. There are only 15 rabbis in Argentina and two rabbinical seminaries, he said. He deplored the performing of weddings in the provinces by "unauthorized" persons who, he said, ignored the injunctions of Halachah, Jewish law. He said that this resulted in many complicated situations when the marriages could not be annulled. He also spoke of "unauthorized" conversions that would not be recognized by the Orthodox establishment in Israel if the couple was to move there. He said that in most mixed marriages the female partner was a non-Jew who converted to Judaism. He urged provincial leaders to avoid carrying out unauthorized conversions but said children of these marriages must be given "reasonable status".

Hirsch Triwaks, general secretary of the federation, reported on the assistance rendered to maintain Jewish schools. He said their enrollment is 21,000, including 5,000 pupils in the provinces.

West German Justice Minister Will Oppose Bill To Abolition Statute Of Limitations

BONN, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Dr. Gustav Heinemann, West Germany's Minister of Justice, has prepared a bill that would abolish the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes which is due to go into effect at the end of 1969. At a press conference yesterday in connection with the United Nations Human Rights Year, Dr. Heinemann said it would be impossible to complete investigations in all outstanding cases before the deadline. The statute covers Nazis charged with murder and genocide. A statute of limitations already in effect bars prosecution for lesser crimes. Dr. Heinemann said that if his bill is passed by the Bundestag, the lower house, and the statute abolished, criminal trials would continue well into the 1970s.

Eight prosecutors from the Ludwigsburg Central Office for Nazi war crimes prosecution went to Moscow Monday to inspect documents relating to Nazi war criminals. The development was considered significant here since the Soviets have given German state prosecutors little cooperation in the past; it was believed to be the result of a meeting two months ago between Soviet Ambassador Senyov Tzarapkin and West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger who reportedly complained of the lack of Soviet assistance in war crimes prosecutions.

Folkstimm, Poland's Only Yiddish Daily Newspaper, To Become A Weekly Publication

WARSAW, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Poland's only Yiddish newspaper, Folkstimm, which appeared four times a week for 22 years, will become a weekly beginning Saturday, Sept. 25, the Jewish Cultural Association, publishers of the paper, announced yesterday. No reason for the change was given. The paper will contain 12 pages and the price has been increased. The publishers also announced that the Folkstimm's weekly Polish supplement, "Nasz Glos" (Our Voice), will become a monthly as of Sept. 21.

The Jewish Cultural Association came under attack during the Warsaw regime's anti-Zionist campaign last spring. Folkstimm was forced to publish official denunciations of Zionists and Israel supplied by PAP, the Polish press agency.

Max M. Fisher Succeeds Dewey Stone As Chairman Of The United Israel Appeal

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Max M. Fisher of Detroit, business and philanthropic leader, was elected yesterday chairman of the United Israel Appeal, major American agency responsible for the resettlement and absorption of immigrants in Israel. He has long been recognized as one of the country's most prominent leaders of humanitarian and welfare causes, Jewish and non-sectarian. Mr. Fisher succeeds Dewey D. Stone of Brockton, Mass., prominent American Jewish leader and chairman of UIA for nearly two decades, who was elected honorary chairman.

Other officers of the United Israel Appeal elected at its annual meeting were: Melvin Dubinsky, St. Louis, Mo., and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, New York City, vice-chairmen; Merrill Hassenfeld, Providence, R.I. and Jack D. Weiler, New York City, treasurers. Re-elected were: Ralph Wechsler, Essex Fells, N.J., secretary, and Gottlieb Hammer, New York City, executive vice-chairman. Newly elected to the board of trustees were: Leon Dulzin, Jerusalem; Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, New York City; Morris L. Levinson, New York City; Rabbi Israel Miller, New York City; and Louis D. Stern, Newark, N.J.

The board of trustees also made allocations for the year for the expenditure in Israel by the Jewish Agency for Israel of the funds received from the campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. The United Israel Appeal, together with the Jewish Agency, has played a major role in the immigration, settlement and absorption of 1,350,000 Jewish refugees who have been aided to reach Palestine and Israel since the first UJA campaign in 1939. Aside from its immigration and absorption programs, the United Israel Appeal also finances programs in Israel in the fields of health services, social welfare and education.

For three years, 1965 through 1967, Mr. Fisher was simultaneously general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, the country's largest wholly voluntary fund-raising effort, and leader of the country's major community chest, the non-sectarian Detroit United Foundation, serving 200 institutions in that city. He is currently president of the United Jewish Appeal. In addition to serving with the UIA and the UJA, Mr. Fisher is also vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, chairman of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee, and a member of the board of the Joint Distribution Committee. The UIA and the Joint Distribution Committee are the two constituent agencies of the UJA, and since 1939 have derived their main funds from UJA's annual nationwide campaign.

Lucius Battle Quits, Going To Egypt On A Visit, May Confer With Nasser

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Lucius D. Battle, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South African Affairs, announced his resignation yesterday. His last important official mission before it takes effect on Oct. 1 will be a visit to Egypt where he is expected to meet with President Nasser. President Johnson has designated Parker T. Hart, Ambassador to Turkey, to succeed Mr. Battle.

The State Department announced today that Mr. Battle will leave tonight for Cairo, where he served as United States Ambassador from 1965 to 1967. He will be the first high State Department official to visit the Egyptian capital since Mr. Nasser broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. following the June, 1967 Six-Day War. This development was advanced by official sources today as one reason why the Administration was holding back approval of Israel's bid to purchase Phantom jet supersonic fighter bombers.

Mr. Battle is going to Cairo on the invitation of the Egyptian Government to attend the opening of the Abu Simbel Temple, relocated to save the ancient shrine from the waters of the Aswan High Dam. Secretary of State Dean Rusk who was invited originally, despite the lack of diplomatic ties, asked the former envoy to go in his place and the Egyptian Government accepted the substitution. Officials here expressed hope that President Nasser will see Mr. Battle because of the heightened tension in the Middle East in recent weeks. They believe talks between the two might forestall another military escalation that could lead to war. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey termed the invitation an "honor" accorded the U.S. Government in the absence of diplomatic relations. He cautioned against expectations that the visit would lead to the immediate formal resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt.

Sen. Clark Sees Anti-Semitism Playing Role In Opposition To Fortas Nomination

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Sen. Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania Democrat, warned today that anti-Semitism "is definitely playing a part in the opposition" to the nomination of Justice Abe Fortas to be Chief Justice of the United States. The Senator likened the Fortas nomination struggle to that which followed the nomination of Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the first Jew named to the U.S. Supreme Court. He said the Fortas case was a "test of America's commitment to the ideals of fellowship and brotherhood" and assailed those who have remained silent on the Fortas issue.

But Sen. Clark disclosed that his mail has been running 11 to one against the Fortas confirmation. He made his remarks as the Senate Judiciary Committee today approved the Fortas nomination by a 10 to six vote and sent it to the full Senate. There a filibuster was threatened by the anti-Fortas senators led by Sen. Robert P. Griffin, Michigan Republican.

A two-thirds majority would be required to choke off filibuster. Opponents of Justice Fortas claim they have enough votes to forestall a debate-limiting cloture rule and perhaps even a simple majority to defeat the Fortas nomination outright.