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Cabinet Accepts UN Humanitarian Envoy — If He Examines Status Of Jews In Arab States

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Cabinet today agreed to accept a United Nations emissary to study conditions of Arabs in the occupied territories but only on condition that the emissary be permitted to inform himself on the condition of Jews in the Arab countries. The Cabinet's decision was a reiteration of Israel's previous stand on the so-called humanitarian mission which has been criticized by United Nations Secretary General U Thant. The Security Council, by a 12-0 vote Friday, adopted a resolution asking the Secretary-General to send another emissary to study conditions in Israel-held territories and called on Israel to permit the emissary to inspect the living conditions and treatment of Arabs there. The United States, Canada and Denmark abstained from voting on the resolution.

Official quarters refused to elaborate on today's Cabinet announcement. But one authoritative source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the "oblique wording" was chosen so that Israel could say "no" without actually using the word. The Israel Government has said all along that it had no objection to anyone studying conditions in the occupied territories. But Israel considers the present plight of the Jews in Arab countries to be a direct result of the June, 1967 war and therefore has demanded that an investigation into it be included in a second emissary's terms of reference. They pointed out that the first such emissary, Nils Goran-Gussing, who visited the area last year, was admitted to Egypt, Syria and Lebanon but was unable to say anything about the condition of Jews there in his report because he was not given sufficient information.

Friday's resolution, presented by Pakistan and Senegal, regretted the delay in carrying out a June 14, 1967 resolution which called for a humanitarian survey of the Arab territories occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War. It deplored the failure of Israel to carry out the resolution "because of the conditions still being set by Israel for receiving a special representative." Mr. Thant, in a statement last summer, held that Israel's demand for a survey of Jewish conditions in the Arab countries was outside the scope of the June 14, 1967 resolution.

Eshkol Criticizes Thant Statements In General Assembly Report

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol took sharp issue today with statements made by United Nations Secretary General U Thant in his report to the 23rd session of the General Assembly which was published in New York last Thursday. Mr. Eshkol, acting Foreign Minister while Mr. Eban is abroad, voiced his criticism in a report on international affairs to the Cabinet.

The Thant statements, in the preface to his report on UN activities between June 16, 1967 and June 15, 1968, were criticized earlier in Israeli circles as a slap at Israel's insistence on face-to-face peace talks with the Arabs. Mr. Eshkol said today that Mr. Thant's assertion that the 1949 Israel-Arab armistice talks on Rhodes had begun as indirect talks was false and therefore a cause of concern to Israel. He said it was also wrong for Mr. Thant to have implied that by insisting on direct peace talks, Israel was placing obstacles in the way of UN Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's peace mission. Mr. Eshkol said Mr. Thant was incorrect when he observed that incidents must be expected whenever a regime of occupation exists. Incidents in the occupied areas do not arise from the local population, Mr. Eshkol maintained, but are created by the governments across the borders. He said Mr. Thant should be able to distinguish between acts by other states and resistance movements.

Prime Minister Tells Cabinet France's Views On Middle East Conflict Remain The Same

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told the Cabinet today that France's position on the basic questions of the Middle East conflict have not changed. He reported on Foreign Minister Abba Eban's talks with French Foreign Minister Michel Debre in Paris last week. In contrast, Italy's Foreign Minister, Giuseppe Medici, expressed his country's agreement with many of Israel's basic aims, including the attainment of peace in the Middle East, Mr. Eshkol said.

Foreign Minister Eban met with M. Debre Friday in what was the first meeting on a ministerial level between Israel and France since the June, 1967 war. The meeting was described as "frank and cordial" and was said to have been the occasion for a general review of Franco-Israeli relations during which two matters were brought up. One was France's year-long embargo of 50 Mirage V jets which Israel bought and paid for; the other was France's position at the 23rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. On leaving the French Foreign Office, Mr. Eban said he would like to consider the meeting the start of a "new dialogue" between France and Israel.

Mr. Eshkol, in a Tel Aviv speech, denounced Soviet leaders for "seeing fit once again to spread malicious tales about aggressive intentions of Israel, of all countries." Referring to Tass statement charging Israel with "dangerous provocations" against the Arab countries, he told veterans of the brigade which defended Tel Aviv during the 1948 Liberation War that the Soviets were circulating slanders "just as they did prior to the Six-Day War when they spread vicious lies of alleged Israeli concentrations on the Syrian border."

Foreign Ministry Denies Eban Will Present Plan For West Bank To General Assembly

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied a report in the London Daily Telegraph yesterday that Foreign Minister Abba Eban would present Israel's plan for the West Bank on Oct. 8. The spokesman, David Rivlin, said that Mr. Eban's address would deal with ideas and views that may promote peace in the area. Observers here took the denial to mean that territorial questions will not be touched on by Mr. Eban.

When Mr. Eban arrived in London for a brief private visit yesterday he said he would outline a plan before the General Assembly based on peace originating in the Middle East, not engineered by outside parties. His reference was obviously to the Soviet four-point peace proposal offered to Washington which Israel has rejected.

The London Times speculated that Mr. Eban would discuss the Arab refugee problem, Israel's approach to the question of direct or indirect peace talks, and the terms of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. According to the Times, Eban's speech would "apparently contain a reasonably clear definition of the price Israel is prepared to pay for a written and signed peace treaty."

The Daily Telegraph's Jerusalem correspondent David Loshak reported that Israel would offer the so-called "Allon Plan" to the General Assembly which, the writer said, Arab and Palestinian sources indicated may be acceptable. According to Mr. Loshak, Israel would offer to return most of the West Bank to Jordan, with the exception of East Jerusalem, and would offer Jordan access to a Mediterranean port, either Haifa or Ashdod. Israel would retain a corridor to the Allenby Bridge, near Jericho, and a salient of Jordanian territory near Latrun which commands the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Mr. Loshak reported, Mr. Loshak said that the "Allon Plan" was formulated as an alternative to a plan advocated by Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan which envisaged the West Bank as an autonomous region containing Israeli bases. An advantage of the "Allon Plan," Mr. Loshak wrote, is that it would give Israel additional security without bringing more than about 6,000 Arabs under permanent Israeli rule.

Another war in the Middle East appears more likely now than it did a few months ago, Gen. Dayan said here in a speech. He declared that the situation along the cease-fire lines had deteriorated. He also declared, without elaboration, that if a permanent peace settlement was not reached, Israel might have to modify its policy in the occupied areas. In London, Mr. Eban said he did not see war as likely.

Beigin Denounces Soviet Peace Program, Urges U.S. Opposition

The four-point Soviet Middle East peace plan was angrily denounced yesterday by Menachem Beigin, leader of the Herut Party and a minister-without-portfolio in the national coalition Government. Mr. Beigin called the proposal a "Communist plot that threatens genocide" and urged U.S. opposition to it. The Soviet plan, now under study by the U.S. State Department, stipulated complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for a declaration of non-belligerence by the Arabs, a four-power guarantee of peace in the region and the establishment of a United Nations force in the evacuated territories.

(Sources close to the British Foreign Office in London said that "this plan would suit the Arabs but will not suit Israel since it does not guarantee her peace or equality in navigation. The Arabs will like it because it offers them evacuation by Israel without humiliation and absolves them of the need to negotiate." There was no official British comment on the plan.)

Javits Derides Soviet Proposal For 4-Power Guarantee Of Peace In Middle East

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob Javits, New York Republican, said today he saw little value in the Soviet Union's proposal for a four-power guarantee of peace in the Middle East. Addressing a testimonial dinner for Louis L. Levine, a deputy commissioner of industrial labor relations of the New York State Department of Labor, Sen. Javits asked: "To what avail is a four-power guarantee when one of these powers, the Soviet Union, continues to rearm its radical Arab clients to a level beyond that which existed before the June war; when another of the powers, France, refuses to deliver jet aircraft to Israel for which payment has been made; when still another of the powers, Great Britain, is engaged in pulling back from her traditional role east of Suez and is unwilling to assume new responsibilities; and when the United States appears reluctant to sell Israel sorely needed jets?"

The dinner was sponsored by the Greater New York Trade Unionists for Labor Israel. Proceeds, expected to reach \$100,000, will go toward establishment of a cultural center in Yad Mordecai, a kibbutz near the Gaza Strip.

The chairman of the American Zionist Council today urged the U.S. to reject the Soviet proposal which he termed "a reiteration of the intransigent Arab position." Rabbi Israel Miller issued his plea in an address at the installation of officers of Bnai Zion, the American Zionist fraternal organization. Raymond M. Patt, of Brooklyn, was installed as Bnai Zion president for a second term.

Mine Injures 2 Border Policemen; Israel Warns Egypt On Suez Commando Activities

TEL AVIV, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Two Israeli border patrolmen were injured today when their half-track hit a mine south of Kfar Ruppin in the Beisan Valley. One was hospitalized. Two other anti-vehicle mines were discovered in the region and dismantled. A military spokesman said the incident

marked the first time in several weeks that saboteurs crossed into Israel territory in this sector to plant mines.

Israel warned Egypt today that its increased commando activities on the east bank of the Suez Canal would be met by an "appropriate reaction." An Arabic broadcast over the state radio said that Egyptian ambushes and mining of roads on the east bank were "suicidal." It was reported here meanwhile that the Egyptians were making hectic preparations to "absorb" an Israeli retaliatory thrust across the Suez Canal. Egyptian governors in areas close to the canal were said to have been instructed to hasten the evacuation of civilians and to build more shelters.

Jordanian units opened fire today on Israeli forces near Ashdod Yaacov and Umm Keiss but inflicted no casualties, a military spokesman said. Yesterday a brief fire exchange occurred near Kfar Ruppin and on Friday three anti-vehicle mines were discovered in the southern Golan Heights, close to the Jordanian border, and were dismantled. Bedouins in the service of either Egypt or Jordan were held responsible for a rash of mine plantings in the Negev and near the Gaza Strip. In Gaza, a tractor driver was hurt yesterday when hand grenades and automatic fire were aimed at his vehicle. The mines, made in Czechoslovakia, caused the deaths of three Israeli soldiers and injury to two near Shivta last Thursday. The Bedouins move freely in southern Israel and are able to penetrate deeply into Israeli territory.

Cabinet Committee Agrees To Have Dayan Arrange For Yom Kippur Services In Hebron

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A ministerial committee of the Cabinet decided today to let Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan work out arrangements with Moslem religious leaders in Hebron so that Jewish settlers there can hold Yom Kippur services at the Patriarchs' tombs. A conflict had developed between the Moslems and the Orthodox Jews because the tomb site is located in the compound of the Ibrahimi mosque. The committee, whose session was held at the request of Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, also decided to let the Israel Army chaplaincy corps retain responsibility for Jewish religious needs in the area for the time being. The Cabinet recently removed administrative control of the West Bank territories from the military government and vested it in a ministerial committee headed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

Sheikh Hilmi el Muhtasib, president of the Moslem Council in East Jerusalem, who is regarded as the supreme Moslem religious authority on the West Bank, led a protest against the permission granted the Hebron Jews to hold their Rosh Hashanah services at the tomb. He claimed that the Jewish worshippers exceeded the time allotted to non-Moslem visitors to the mosque and sounded the shofar within the mosque compound, all in violation, he said, of an agreement between the Moslem community and the military governor.

Argentine Minister Says Evidence Insufficient To Prove 'Criminal Action' In Fire

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Argentine Minister of Interior, Dr. Guillermo Borda, said today that there was not sufficient evidence so far to say categorically that "criminal action" was involved in the fire that destroyed Israel's \$2 million commercial exhibit at the fairgrounds here last week. Dr. Borda said nevertheless that police are conducting a vigorous investigation to determine the cause of the fire and would prosecute anyone found responsible. Asked if the fire could have been accidental, he said "this possibility is not excluded at all." The fire virtually demolished an Israeli pavilion containing agricultural and industrial machinery and a wide range of other Israel-made products that was to have opened Oct. 8. Initial reports blamed the fire on two incendiary bombs and said Arab terrorists might have been responsible.

Ball Raps Nixon's Call For Israeli Military Superiority, Urges Arms Controls

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA)--George W. Ball, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations who resigned last week to become principal foreign policy advisor to Humbert H. Humphrey, today attacked Richard M. Nixon for advocating military superiority for Israel. Appearing today on the Columbia Broadcasting System's television program "Face the Nation," Mr. Ball was asked about his views on a balance of power in the Middle East and the fact that both Presidential candidates have advocated arms for Israel. He replied "Mr. Nixon said...that we should always assure military superiority for the Israelis...He is a man who thinks that military might is the answer to everything and that the only way that we can have a prosperous and happy world is for the U.S. simply to have arms and threaten to use them."

Commenting on a possible peaceful settlement without arms, Mr. Ball suggested "an agreed solution between the parties which they hopefully would reach on their own" but that he would not exclude the American-Soviet arms control negotiations.

He advocated "some serious efforts between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to bring about a control of the arms that are going into the area, in which other nations, too, would join -- France, for example, which has been an arms supplier in the past to the area."

Mr. Ball said he thought the concept of a super-power arms control involving Israel was "vitaly important and, I think, diplomacy should be directed at it, as it has been."

N.Y. Federation Launches 51st Annual Campaign For Record \$29.5 Million

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Scores of volunteers began work today in the 51st annual campaign of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies for a record goal of \$29.5 million, the largest ever sought by a voluntary group in any American city. The 130 affiliated social service and medical institutions of the Federation serve nearly 1.5 million persons of all faiths annually in the Greater New York area.

The campaign was launched with a dinner at which 300 Jewish leaders contributed \$4,120,000 toward the goal. Samuel J. Silverman, Federation president, and Robert A. Bernard, campaign chairman, said that the Federation's board had pledged a vastly expanded program for both Jewish community needs and those of other New York residents, particularly the poor, because "the urban crisis is our crisis." The goal this year is \$8.5 million more than was raised last year and the campaign will end on Jan. 31. Federation allocations represent about 10 percent of the budgets of the affiliated agencies totalling about \$200 million dollars annually.

AJCongress A Plaintiff In Suit Challenging Federal Aid To 4 Catholic Colleges

HARTFORD, Conn., Sept. 29 (JTA)--A taxpayers' suit challenging the allocation of Federal funds to four Catholic-affiliated colleges in Connecticut may develop into a direct attack on the constitutionality of portions of the 1963 Higher Education Facilities Act which have been interpreted as permitting public aid to religious institutions, an American Jewish Congress aide said here today.

Leo Pfeffer, special counsel of the AJCongress, said the constitutionality of the legislation would be challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court if the Federal Court in New Haven finds that officials of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare did not act improperly in channeling grants to the Catholic colleges. The officials are defendants in a suit filed in the Federal Court last week on behalf of 15 Connecticut residents. It charges that grants made to the four institutions violated both the intent of the 1963 law and the Constitutional guarantees of religious liberty and church-state separation contained in the First Amendment. The schools involved are Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University, Annhurst College and Albertus Magnus College.

Mr. Pfeffer, who will serve as chief counsel to the complainants, said that more than \$1.6 billion in Federal funds have been granted for college construction in the past four years and an estimated 10 percent of this has gone to religiously oriented institutions. The suit is being sponsored by the AJCongress and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union.

Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry Plans New York Store-Front Activities Centers

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry plans to open store-front activities centers on behalf of Russian Jews soon throughout New York City, 1,600 persons were told here at a rally. Jacob Birnbaum, the organization's national coordinator, made the announcement at a "freedom rally" for Russian Jews held at the Statue of Liberty. The meeting was held today, which is the 29th anniversary of the Nazi massacre of Russian Jews at the Babi Yar ravine outside Kiev.

The event at the statue will be an annual event as Yom Kippur nears, Mr. Birnbaum said. A newly formed Babi Yar memorial council, he said, will ask a world-famous sculptor to prepare a memorial for the Babi Yar site to be offered to Soviet authorities, who have refused to mark the place of the mass murders. The council will seek to establish every Sept. 29 as a *yahrzeit* for the slaughtered Jews. Speakers at today's rally linked the efforts of Russian Jews and intelligentsia, Polish Jews and the Czechoslovak people to gain freedom from Russian oppression.

B'nai B'rith Foundation Sponsors Relief Plane Carrying 30 Tons Of Material To Biafra

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A relief plane carrying 30 tons of food, medicine and clothing for the stricken population of Biafra was scheduled to leave Kennedy Airport today on a humanitarian mission sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Foundation. Eugene L. Sugarman, treasurer of the service organization, said the cartons and cases of merchandise worth \$250,000 were collected by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The charter flight will take the supplies to the Portuguese island of Sao Tome which has become the center of relief supplies for Biafra. The \$40,000 charter fee will be paid by the B'nai B'rith Foundation, Mr. Sugarman said. Abie Nathan, Israeli freedom pilot, will accompany the shipment and oversee its transfer to Catholic and Protestant-run air shuttles to Biafra to use in hospitals of Catholic and Protestant medical missions.

Mrs. Judith Cohen Stang Dead At 51, Headed UJA Women's Division Since 1951

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Mrs. Judith Cohen Stang, director of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal since 1951, died Sept. 27 at the age of 51. She had been active in the UJA since its inception. Earlier she had been an employee of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York and the Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology.

More Than 2,000 Workers For UJA, Keren Hayesod Expected To Visit Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency has announced that more than 2,000 active workers for the United Jewish Appeal in the United States and the Keren Hayesod — fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization — in other countries will visit Israel on a variety of study missions during the next four months. A UJA young leadership mission was due here Monday.