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Eshkol Congratulates Nixon; New President Regarded As Friend Of Israel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol cabled congratulations yesterday to President-elect Richard M. Nixon and extended warm wishes for successful leadership "not only of the great American nation but of all forces of freedom throughout the world." Mr. Eshkol said that he retained "fond memories of our meetings in Jerusalem and in New York, of your dedication to stability and peace in the Middle East and of your friendship for Israel reborn."

Mr. Nixon's electoral victory Tuesday was generally welcomed in Israeli political circles where the consensus appeared to be that he is a sincere friend of Israel who will fulfill his campaign pledges concerning Israel's security needs and who is acutely aware of the menace of growing Soviet military power and political influence in the region. Particular stress was put on Mr. Nixon's public advocacy of military superiority for Israel over the Arab states to serve as a deterrent against renewed Arab aggression. Some sources predicted that under a Nixon Administration, Israel would receive American arms aid even beyond Phantom jets to offset the flow of Soviet military supplies to the Arabs.

The closest thing to an official comment to appear so far was a statement by Dr. Yaacov Herzog, director-general of the Prime Minister's office, which was published yesterday in the newspaper Haaretz before the final outcome of the American elections was known here. Dr. Herzog said that if Mr. Nixon becomes the next President of the United States he will not be bound by the interpretations given by the State Department to President Johnson's five points of June, 1967. Dr. Herzog said that unlike his rival, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who has not ventured beyond statements made by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nixon has said publicly that Israel must be stronger than all the Arab states combined to deter them from starting another war.

Observers here said that Mr. Nixon was following more or less the line of President Johnson and the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles who were watchful to prevent a further expansion of Soviet influence in the Middle East. They pointed out, however, that during the election campaign and in his private conversations with Prime Minister Eshkol last January, he said nothing that could be construed as a binding commitment to aid Israel if she is attacked. However, according to these sources, Mr. Nixon is expected to be no less adamant than President Johnson on direct Soviet intervention. If the USSR should consider intervening militarily in any future Arab-Israeli confrontation, there is little doubt, they said, that the Russians would be countered by American units in the Mediterranean, including the Sixth Fleet.

Israeli newspapers today confined their editorial comment on the American elections to analyses of the political situation in the U.S. in light of Mr. Nixon's narrow victory and the relatively weak support received by third party candidate George C. Wallace. Al Hamishmar, organ of the left-wing labor Mapam Party noted that both the Republican and Democratic Parties have recognized Israel's urgent security requirements and observed, "there is, of course, a difference between promises before the elections and after them. If Mr. Nixon really believes in conducting a foreign policy from a position of strength, then his intention to keep Israel's power at a level designed to deter war may be taken seriously."

(The London Times said in an editorial today that Mr. Nixon "may live to regret his unguarded commitment to Zionism when dealing with the Middle East." The Guardian noted that Mr. Nixon was the first candidate to advocate the sale of Phantom jets to Israel and support a policy that would give Israel a military margin of superiority over her neighbors. "It is Nixon's theory that an adequately armed Israel is the best guarantee against a possible U.S.-Russian confrontation in the Middle East," the paper said.

State Department Denies Report That U.S. Agrees In Principle To Sell Israel 58 Jets

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA)--State Department officials today denied a report that the United States has, within the last few days, agreed in principle to sell 58 F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel. They said negotiations for the supersonic aircraft were continuing but have yet to reach a stage in which Secretary of State Dean Rusk could report a final decision or make recommendations to the White House in accordance with President Johnson's instructions of Oct. 9. State Department sources said however that it was probable that a transaction will be consummated before Jan. 20, 1969 when the Nixon Administration takes office.

(New York Times correspondent Benjamin Welles reported from Washington today that a United States decision to sell the jets to Israel, made within the last few days, "takes the arms negotiations between the two countries a decisive step beyond President Johnson's announcement of Oct. 9" instructing the Secretary of State to initiate negotiations with Israel and "report back to me."

"Now it is reported Israel has not only received approval for the purchase but also has been granted approval for buying 10 more planes than the 48 she initially requested," Mr. Welles wrote. He noted that there was some confusion over the numbers since it was widely reported that Israel had asked for 50 of the Phantoms. Mr. Welles attributed his information to "responsible American sources" but said U.S. and Israeli sources were reluctant to comment in detail on the latest stage in the Phantom deal.

According to reliable information, Mr. Welles said, the negotiations are expected to shift shortly from the State Department to the office of Henry J. Kuss, Jr., the deputy assistant Secretary of Defense in charge of international logistical negotiations.)

State Department officials here said that specialists from Israel were taking part in the "continuing discussions" but added that there was yet to be a "breakthrough" that could be termed decisive. They also said it would be pointless to comment on whether 58 Phantoms would be sold, as the Times report said, instead of 48 or 50 originally mentioned, because the U.S. Government has yet to reach a basic policy decision on the sale of any Phantoms to Israel, although the question is under active discussion and negotiation.

Japan became the second nation in less than a month to announce its intention to purchase Phantom jets, it was reported here this week. Earlier, West Germany said it would purchase 88 jets to serve as the mainstay of its Air Force.

Kaneshichi Masuada, director-general of the Japanese Defense Agency, said at a news conference in Tokyo that Premier Eisaku Sato approved the selection of the Phantom. A spokesman for the agency said there had been no final decision taken on the number of Phantoms to be purchased or when the purchase would be made. Sources said that Japan probably would buy more than 60 Phantoms. The cost was estimated at \$3.5 million each, excluding special modifications or provision for spare parts and maintenance equipment. The same purchase price has been cited in reports of Israel's negotiations here.

Dayan Proposes Creation Of Single Economic Unit From Gaza To Jerusalem

BEERSHEBA, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan proposed yesterday the creation of a single economic unit stretching from Gaza to Jerusalem and including Beersheba and the West Bank town of Hebron in which all inhabitants would share public services, utilities and water resources. Gen. Dayan spoke at a meeting of the Beersheba Labor Council. He said Israelis should not fear domination by Arabs in the area because they outnumber them. Rather, he said, Israel should treat the local population as citizens of Israel, although it cannot force Israeli citizenship upon them.

Gen. Dayan said he did not want to see an Egyptian Army back in Gaza or a Jordanian Army in Hebron. "We are now in a transition period between war and peace and we must take advantage of the opportunity to win over the Arabs in the occupied territories," he said. He proposed establishment of a large center of Jewish population in the former Etzion settlements between Jerusalem and Hebron "as a link in a chain between Jerusalem and Beersheba."

Sasson Will Propose Cancellation Of Seizures Of East Jerusalem Arab-Owned Shops

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Police Minister Eliahu Sasson promised yesterday that he would recommend at the next Cabinet meeting that the confiscation of 15 Arab-owned shops and restaurants in East Jerusalem be cancelled. He made the promise in return for pledges by Moslems and Christian religious leaders and businessmen of East Jerusalem that they would do their best to cooperate in preserving order and to prevent demonstrations. The Arab business premises were confiscated by police last Sunday as the result of an Arab protest strike on the 51st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Police said the premises were needed to billet extra men assigned to patrol the streets as tensions in East Jerusalem increased. The confiscations precipitated a new business strike but no further incidents were reported.

5 Americans Elected To Jewish Agency Executive In Keeping With WZO Decision

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Five prominent American Jews were elected to the Jewish Agency today in compliance with a decision by the 27th World Zionist Congress to expand the executive by five members who are not affiliated with any Zionist party. The new members are Prof. Simon Greenberg, vice-chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Prof. Benjamin Halpern, of Brandeis University; Dewey Stone, chairman of the board of the Weizmann Institute of Science; Rabbi Leon Feuer, a leader of American Reform Judaism; and Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, assistant to the president of Yeshiva University.

Foreign Investment Projects Discussed At Follow-Up Of Economic Conference

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Foreign investment projects in Israel were the main topic of discussion at a meeting of Israeli and foreign businessmen and financiers that opened here yesterday. The meeting is a follow-up to the World Economic Conference held here last June at the initiative of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Many of the undertakings under review today originated at that gathering. Fifteen participants from abroad representing the United States, Britain, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Far East and Latin America are the regional chairmen selected at the June meeting.

Zeev Sharef, Israel's Finance Minister and Minister of Commerce and Industry, addressing the opening session, said investment projects were receiving Government-approved status at the rate of \$43 million a month and the pace was expected to increase to \$58 million a month by the end of next year. Mr. Sharef said an investment of \$116 million would be required next year to help finance the absorption of new immigrants. He said Israel's budget could not provide financing on such a scale and that the Government was considering an incentive program that would ensure a net yield of seven percent on investments in rental housing.

Victor Carter, regional chairman for the United States, said a hundred investment projects were "in the pipeline" in addition to 59 projects announced since last June's conference. He predicted that Israel's exports to the U.S. will increase from \$91 million to \$125 million this year, partly due to the efforts of the conference.

Lord Sieff of Great Britain spoke of 33 new British-Israel projects and Francois Pereire, representing Western Europe, referred to the creation of an investment company in Austria that was planning to build a plant in Israel. He said French investments were underway in such branches as garments, fish processing, photography, footwear, leather goods, timber products and furniture. Saul Eisenberg, from Tokyo, reported that Japan has ordered a complete industrial plant in Israel valued at \$30 million.

Jordanians Fire On Israeli Positions — Took 24-Hour Break, Possibly For U.S. Elections

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA)--A 30-minute exchange of fire took place near the Damiyah Bridge where Jordanian units began shelling Israeli positions last night after a 24-hour hiatus. Israelis returned the fire and reported no casualties. A military spokesman attributed the relatively long period of quiet to Jordanian interest in the American election returns. They resumed firing as soon as the election results were known, he said.

Israel Says Jarring Mission 'Not Dead,' Believes Egypt Wants It To Continue

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry circles said here today that the peace-seeking mission of the United Nations special emissary to the Middle East, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, is "not dead" despite certain claims to the contrary from Cairo. They expressed belief that Egypt is not really interested in having Ambassador Jarring end his efforts now and that the Arab states may be standing pat to see how the Nixon Administration will approach the Arab-Israel conflict. In that case, the Jarring mission is not likely to be brought to a conclusion before next January, they said.

According to these circles, Foreign Minister Abba Eban will not have reached the limit of his mandate from the Cabinet unless Egypt and Jordan refuse flatly to reply to Israel's questions relating to their definition of a "just and lasting peace." These and other questions were put to Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad in a series of memoranda by Mr. Eban transmitted through Dr. Jarring. Mr. Riad has returned to Cairo for consultations which may mean he is awaiting further instructions, the Foreign Ministry sources said.

An aide memoire passed to Mr. Riad yesterday through Dr. Jarring indicated that Israel offered to discuss with Egypt a secure and recognized boundary between the two countries if Cairo will declare specifically its willingness to establish a permanent peace with Israel.

Israel, Arabs In Sharp Exchanges During UN Committee's Debate On Apartheid

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 7 (JTA)--Acrimonious exchanges between Israel and several Arab delegations continued in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee yesterday as Arab representatives used the debate on apartheid to draw analogies between South Africa's policies and alleged aggressive intentions of Israel.

Taha al-Daoud, the Iraqi representative, charged that Israel was following the example of South Africa and threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of independent states. He referred, out of context, to a statement Tuesday by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol that the Jordan River was the security frontier of Israel.

Moshe Erell, speaking for Israel, said Mr. al-Daoud was asserting his Government's desire to see Israel liquidated while ostensibly speaking on apartheid. He said this was not surprising for the representative of a country which had collaborated with the Nazis in World War II and had Nazis on its soil. He also quoted press reports of Iraq's "war against the Kurds." Sayed el-Masry, of Egypt, asked the chairman to call on Israel not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. Mr. al-Daoud insisted that Arabs and Kurds lived in harmony in Iraq. Souheil Chammas, of Lebanon, declared that Israel was unable to refute the parallel drawn between the actions of South Africa and the actions of "the Zionists in occupied Palestine."

Israel denounced apartheid in the committee. But a link between Israel and South Africa was alleged by the Syrian representative, Dia Allah el-Fattal, who urged the committee to study the effects of the prolonged shut-down of the Suez Canal on the economy and strategic importance of South Africa. He said that Israeli "occupiers" closed the Canal, diverting international trade routes around Africa, strengthening the economy of South Africa and enhancing its strategic importance in the eyes of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members. The Syrian also alleged that Israel supplied aircraft to South Africa, and referred to reports of alleged visits to that country by important Israel Government officials and businessmen, including aircraft experts. Mr. Erell called the allegations fabrications and said Israel had no intention of collaborating with South Africa in the manufacture or purchase of planes for the "suppression of black people." He declared that Syria could not teach Israel anything about human equality or rights because it had a long way to go before it provided its people with rights and equality which the Israel Government provided to its own citizens and the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Mr. Erell declared that there was neither segregation nor denial of human and political rights in the Jewish State and invited the world to compare Israel and Syria and make its own judgment.

Heinemann Says Social Democrats Will Seek Postponement Of Statute Of Limitations

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA)--West Germany's Minister of Justice, Dr. Gustav Heinemann, said on his arrival here that his Social Democratic Party would take the initiative shortly to postpone the effective date of the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions or to abolish the statute altogether. Dr. Heinemann, who is visiting Israel as a guest of the Government, has long favored abolition. The statute is supposed to take effect on Dec. 31, 1969 after which new cases against war criminals involved in crimes of murder cannot be initiated.

Former SS Man Gets Six Years' Imprisonment For Ordering Deaths Of 140

BONN, Nov. 7 (JTA)--A Dusseldorf jury today sentenced a former SS man, Horst Huhn, to six years' imprisonment at hard labor and five years' loss of civil rights for ordering the deaths of 140 Jews, mostly women and children, in the Kiev district of the Ukraine in 1941. Huhn commanded an "Einsatzkommando" group.

Three former non-commissioned officers of the Nazi "Elite Guard" went on trial in Bochum yesterday on charges of responsibility for the deaths of 40,000 Polish Jews in Tarnow during World War II. The chief defendant is Karl Opperman, 61, accused of having killed 155 Jews personally and of having aided in the murder of 23,000 other ghetto inhabitants. His co-defendants are Gerhard Gaa, 63, an office clerk, and Georg Peter Libor, 55, a photographer.

Survivor Of 1943 Uprising In Sobibor Located In Russia, Warsaw 'Folkstimme' Reports

LONDON, Nov. 7 (JTA)--The Warsaw Yiddish newspaper Folkstimme reported today that a survivor of the 1943 uprising in the Nazi extermination camp of Sobibor, in occupied Poland, has been located in Pinsk, Soviet Byelorussian Republic. The man, identified as Nahum Plotnitzki, is one of a handful of participants in the death camp revolt who survived.

Field Marshal Marian Spichalski, President of the Polish Republic, has returned from an official visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Government, it was reported from Warsaw today. According to a joint communique, his trip to Iraq was a "courtesy visit." Marshal Spichalski, whose official title is Chairman of the State Council, was known to be friendly toward Israel prior to the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

British Board Of Deputies Concerned By Humane Society's Anti-Shechita Campaign

LONDON, Nov. 7 (JTA)--The Board of Deputies of British Jews announced yesterday that it "is giving urgent and serious consideration" to a campaign launched by a humane society against shechita — the Jewish ritual slaughtering of cattle and poultry. A statement by Michael Fidler, Board of Deputies president, said the campaign sought "to deprive the Jewish community of its right to continue recognized humane and painless methods of animal slaughter."

The campaign against shechita is being conducted by the "Council of Justice to Animals and Humane Slaughtering Association." The group has been described as one of many "animal lovers" organizations which "are constantly campaigning against stag hunting, vivisection and shechita."

First Volume Of Weizmann Letters And Papers Published In Britain

LONDON, Nov. 7 (JTA)--The first volume of "The Letters and Papers of Chaim Weizmann," a multi-volume project covering the career of Zionism's foremost diplomat of the 1920s and 1930s and the first President of Israel, was published in an English edition here today by the Oxford University Press. The volume covers the period from 1885 to 1902 and begins with a letter from Dr. Weizmann to Shlomo Tsvi Sokolovsky in Hebrew and ends with one in Russian to Vera Katzman who later became Mrs. Weizmann. A parallel Hebrew version of all the volumes is planned. The general editor of the project is Meyer Weisgal, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth. The managing editor is Julien Meltzer. The first volume was edited by Leonard Stein, an author and former legal adviser to the Jewish Agency.

New Israeli Ambassador To Rome Sees 2 Nations As Ancient Mediterranean Neighbors

ROME, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Israel's new Ambassador to Italy, Amiel Najar, said here yesterday that he regarded Italy and Israel not only as neighbors but as two nations linked by a thousand years of Mediterranean civilization. Mr. Najar, who took his new post after eight years as Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, addressed local Jewish leaders.

Rabbi Max Kirshblum Feted By Jewish Agency, Going To Israel To Take Up New Post

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA)--Rabbi Max Kirshblum, since 1956 a member of the Executive of the American Section of the Jewish Agency as head of its Aliyah and Torah Education and Culture departments, was guest of honor at a reception yesterday given by the Jewish Agency on the occasion of his becoming an "oleh" (immigrant). Rabbi and Mrs. Kirshblum leave for Israel on Sunday where he will take up new duties as associate head of the reorganized Jewish Agency's department of Aliyah and Absorption.

National Jewish Music Council Will Mark 25th Anniversary At New York Session

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA)--The National Jewish Music Council, sponsored by the Jewish Welfare Board, will mark its 25th anniversary at a biennial meeting here on Nov. 17. Citations will be presented to six members who have rendered outstanding service to the Council over the past 25 years.