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Israel Accuses Jordan Of Aggravating Middle East Situation By Use Of Rockets

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 3 (JTA)--Israel accused Jordan today of a "most serious aggravation of the Middle East situation" by the introduction of rockets in attacks on Israeli settlements and other locations. It informed the Security Council that the Jordan Government "must bear full responsibility" for the attacks. In a letter sent by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah to the December Security Council president, Endalkachew Makonnen of Ethiopia, Israel reported continued Jordanian attacks Monday night and this morning, accusing Jordan of opening a "concerted artillery barrage" against villages in the Jordan and Beisan Valleys. The letter said that Israel returned the fire in self-defense and as the Jordanian attack continued and grew in intensity it became necessary to employ aircraft to silence Jordanian guns. Mr. Tekoah charged that "Iraqi forces stationed in Jordan violated the cease-fire by launching an assault on Israeli villages from 122-millimeter guns." No Security Council meeting was asked, but Israel requested that its letter be circulated as a Council document.

Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad H. el-Farra also complained to the Council today that Israelis had opened fire from "Syrian heights" early this morning shelling several Jordanian villages. He said the shelling spread to cover the whole northern part of the Jordan Valley. His letter said the city of Irbid was heavily shelled and the village of Kfar Assad was bombed for more than half an hour "by waves of Israeli military aircraft." The letter asserted that 15 civilians were killed and 17 others seriously wounded in the village and 40 houses were destroyed. Mr. el-Farra asserted that Israel's continued use of "naked force and aggression" made it necessary that the Security Council "should take adequate steps to put an end to these acts of lawlessness." He did not however ask for a Council meeting.

Mr. Tekoah submitted a first letter late Monday night to Mr. Makonnen declaring that acts of aggression from Jordan had continued unabated in recent weeks and had increased since King Hussein signed a pact with Palestinian commandos Nov. 16. He said the pact defined the sphere in which the terrorists were free to operate and the kind of support Amman would give them. "By granting official sponsorship and protection to these organizations, the Jordan Government has assumed direct responsibility for all acts of terror directed and carried out from bases in its territory," Mr. Tekoah said. He defended an Israeli commando penetration 37 miles into Jordan on Sunday which resulted in two bridges blown up. "The action was taken in pursuance of Israel's right of self-defense, in an attempt to ward off the persistent acts of aggression and to impress upon the Jordanian authorities the dangers inherent in violations of the cease-fire by regular or irregular forces," he declared.

3 Waves Of Israeli Jets Bomb Jordanian City, Knocking Out 122-Millimeter Guns

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Three waves of Israeli jets bombed the town of Kfar Assad in northern Jordan today and knocked out Russian-made 122-millimeter artillery pieces used in an artillery duel that raged along a 20-mile front between Jordan and Israel earlier in the day. The weapons were fired from areas occupied by Iraqi troops based in Jordan since the Six-Day War and it is believed artillery emplacements manned by Iraqis were knocked out. The artillery duel, second since Sunday, ranged from the Jordan to the Beisan Valleys and was one of the heaviest since the war.

An Israeli military spokesman said the duel today lasted three hours, ending before dawn. No casualties were reported although shells from Jordan landed in the settlements of Kfar Ruppim, Maoz Haiyim, Neve Eitan, Hamadiya, Beit Yosef, Yardenia, Ashdot Yaakov, Tel Katzir and Kinneret. (The 122-millimeter guns have been supplied by Russia to North Vietnam and have been effectively used against United States Marine positions near the demilitarized zone.) The Israeli spokesman said they had been fired from positions stretching 20 miles inside Jordan. Both sides accused the other of starting the exchange.

Another heavy artillery duel ended Monday morning after Israeli jets hit the town of Irbid, about 40 miles north of Amman, the capital. During the exchange Israeli tanks were firing at Iraqi units, Jordanians and Palestinian guerrillas, Israeli sources said. The Palestinians used Russian-made Katyusha rockets against Israeli settlements. The powerful weapons fire up to 32 rockets simultaneously from mobile launchers. The exchange occurred as Israeli commandos struck Sunday inside Jordan, knocking out two bridges carrying road and rail links from Amman to Maan and the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Israel says Katyusha rockets have been fired into its own and occupied territory since Sept. 16. It claims three such attacks on Beisan, two on the Dead Sea Works at Sodom, and on Shaar Hagolan, Masada, Kinneret, the Kallya area, Eilat, Jiftlik, Musa Alami farm near Jericho, and the Allenby Bridge area.

In Moscow, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda warned in a front page editorial that the Israeli raid into Jordan and a November one 140 miles inside Egypt were "recklessly adventurous" and "fraught with grave consequences." It said that "dangerous complications may develop in the Middle East" as a result of them, adding that "the Soviet Union will administer a resolute rebuff to the intrigues of the aggressors and will uphold the interest of our security and the security of our friends."

Ambassador Jarring Will Return To Moscow Post But Will Continue UN Peace Mission

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 3 (JTA)--Gunnar V. Jarring, the special Middle East representative of Secretary-General U Thant, is resuming his duties as Sweden's Ambassador to the Soviet Union. But he is not resigning his UN mediating post. In a letter to Mr. Thant made public today, Dr. Jarring said he will hold a new round of discussions with Middle East officials in mid-January, giving them time before then to consider their respective positions on the Middle East deadlock. Dr. Jarring, whose mission is just one year old, returned this week to his Cyprus headquarters and conferred with Foreign Minister Abba Eban. He will meet with Arab diplomats shortly and then go to Moscow.

In a letter to Dr. Jarring, Mr. Thant voiced commendation for a "sound judgment and fine sense of timing which you have demonstrated in taking initiatives and considering new ones which in the nature of the case must remain strictly within the realm of quiet diplomacy." The wording of Mr. Thant's letter raised questions about whether Dr. Jarring had taken "initiatives" in his meetings with Israeli and Arab diplomats or had, as the UN maintains, been acting as a "mailbox" receiving and delivering questions and statements from both sides. An Israeli spokesman here denied that Dr. Jarring had taken any initiatives.

Eban Returns From Jarring Meeting; Israelis See Improved Relations With Cyprus

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban returned today from a brief visit to Cyprus where he met with Dr. Jarring, and Foreign Ministry sources said Mr. Eban stressed the need to obtain replies from Egypt to questions submitted through the UN envoy in New York last month. The principal question was whether Cairo was willing to contract a "just and lasting peace" with Israel and how it defined such a peace.

Mr. Eban's visit, though unofficial according to the Israeli and Cyprus Government announcements, was treated like a state visit. He met with Archbishop Makarios, the President of Cyprus, Foreign Minister Spiro Kyprianou, and with two leaders of the Turkish community, Fadil Kutchuk, vice-president of the Turkish community, and Raouf Denktash, chairman of the Turkish Communities Association. The Foreign Ministry gave no details of Mr. Eban's talks with the Cypriot leaders, but said President Makarios spoke of the many young Cypriots training and studying in Israel. The Eban visit apparently marked an improvement in relations between the two countries which had cooled after the June, 1967 war. At that time President Makarios denounced Israel as an aggressor. Israel maintains an embassy on Cyprus but there is no Cypriot ambassador in Israel.

Nasser Declares That Israeli Spy Network, Served By Egyptians, Is Smashed

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt declared yesterday that an Israeli spy network in Egypt that was served by some Egyptians had been smashed, according to reports received here. Col. Nasser told an emergency meeting of the 1,700-member National Congress of the Arab Socialist Union, the country's only legal political party, that any Egyptian "who became involved with Israel" and was compelled to behave as a traitor would not be punished if he surrendered within 30 days. Addressing the first meeting of the congress on Monday, Minister of Justice Mohammed Abu Nusseir charged that an Egyptian hired by Israeli agents was responsible for student rioting in the cities of Mansoura and Alexandria that led to the closing of Egyptian institutions of higher learning in November.

Italian 'Peace-Feeler' Mission On Middle East Tour Arrives In Cairo

ROME, Dec. 3 (JTA)--A "peace-feeler" mission of two high ranking Italian diplomats with backgrounds in Middle Eastern affairs was in Cairo this week on the first leg of a tour that will take them to Israel, Jordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Ministry announced today. The purpose of their tour, the Ministry said, was to sound out Middle Eastern governments on peace possibilities and support for the mission of United Nations' special peace envoy, Gunnar V. Jarring, that would give it new impetus. The diplomats are Carloperrone Capona, deputy director-general for political affairs, former ambassador to Damascus and head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern desk, and Umberto Bozzini, former minister of the Italian Embassy in Cairo. They were to meet with Mahmoud Fawzi, President Nasser's political adviser, and with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad. Italy has cordial relations with Israel and the Arab states.

Israel Inaugurates New Travel Restrictions Designed To Tighten Security

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Israeli authorities today began to apply tight restrictions on travel between the occupied Arab territories and Israel and the transportation of goods between the West Bank and Jordan. The restrictions grew out of the Nov. 22 terrorist bomb explosion in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda vegetable market which took 12 lives and injured 55 and are designed to improve security. The Gaza Military Governor's office announced that effective tomorrow persons wishing to travel from the Gaza Strip to Israel in their own cars will be required to have special car permits in addition to personal travel permits. They must travel by a route and to the destination prescribed in their permit. The new regulation regulating the transportation of goods over the Allenby and Damiya bridges across the Jordan went into effect today.

British Protest Plight Of Jews In Arab Countries, Ask Humane Treatment

LONDON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Demands that Jews in Arab countries be accorded their basic human rights or be permitted to leave were made here today at a protest meeting on the plight of the Jews in those lands. The meeting was organized by the British section of the World Jewish Congress, Poale Zion and the Association of Jewish Journalists. Itzhak Korn, general secretary of the international Labor Zionist movement, told the gathering that Israel acted on its moral obligation when it urged the United Nations to conduct a humanitarian investigation of Jews in the Arab countries. He said the Arab governments did not confine themselves to persecution of their own Jewish citizens but in recent years had embarked on a massive propaganda campaign against all Jews. The hate campaign is fed to their populations by newspapers, radio and television, he said.

Another speaker, Itzhak Nathani, chairman of the British Mapam Party, said that while everyone must protest emphatically against the inhuman treatment of Jews in Arab countries, Jewry should acknowledge the stand taken by President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia who not only ended anti-Semitic excesses in his country but urged the Arabs to find a new approach in their relations with Israel and the Jews. Mr. Nathani also praised the Italian Government for its intervention on behalf of persecuted Jews and aid to them.

Syrian Tells UN Committee That Israel Is Building Atomic Reactor, Could Produce Bombs

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 3 (JTA)--Syria told a United Nations committee considering disarmament today that Israel is building an atomic reactor which could produce atomic bombs. Addressing the Political and Security Committee, Raffic Jouejati said that Israel had rejected inspection and had not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The committee is considering six draft resolutions on disarmament.

Mr. Jouejati said that mistrust between nations must be eliminated in order to achieve disarmament and security and that the non-proliferation treaty should be ratified and go into force as soon as possible. He added that by continuing its occupation of Arab territories, Israel had given proof of colonialist objectives and that security guarantees were thus necessary.

Spanish Make Plans For Dedication Of Madrid Synagogue, First New One Since 1492

MADRID, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Plans are being made here for the Dec. 16 dedication of a new synagogue -- the first since the Jews were expelled in 1492. It was designed by a Spanish architect and is rectangular in shape. The synagogue's first stone was laid and construction begun last March. It will have room for 550 worshippers. There are two synagogues in Barcelona, one Ashkenazic and the other Sephardic.

Sixth Conference Of European Rabbis, Slated In Paris; 120 Delegates Will Attend

LONDON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--The sixth conference of European rabbis is scheduled to open in Paris Dec. 9 with 120 delegates from Western and Eastern European countries attending as well as guests from the United States and Israel. The keynote speaker will be Rabbi M. J. Ushpizai of Israel. The conference, which will be concerned with the "challenge of Judaism in our days," will also be addressed by Rabbi Zev Segal of Newark, N.J., president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania; Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth; Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France, and Dr. Solomon Gaon of Britain, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi. Chief Rabbi Emeritus Israel Brodie of London will serve as chairman.

Foreign Ministry Assures Students It Maintains Interest In Coming Polish Trials

LONDON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry official today assured student delegates that the British Government was keeping a close watch on the situation in Poland where university students and faculty members, mostly Jewish, will soon face secret trials for alleged responsibility for the Polish student uprising last March. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, received the group which represented the National Union of Students and the World Union of Jewish Students, among others. He reiterated the Government's position on human rights and religious freedom. A spokesman for the students said they were pleased with the courtesy extended them in contrast with the curt dismissal they received at the Polish Embassy when they requested an audience with the ambassador last week.

Reports That Soviet Jews Used Lulavim and Etrogim Sent By Canadian Jewish Congress

TORONTO, Dec. 3 (JTA)--A Canadian Jewish Congress official who visited Russia recently reported that Lulavim and Etrogim sent there by the CJCongress arrived and were used to celebrate Succoth by Jews in Moscow and Leningrad. Judge Harold Lande, CJCongress treasurer, said he received his information from Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow with whom he spoke. Judge Lande visited the Soviet Union as a delegate to the International Labor Organization's special conference on the application of labor laws in various countries.

Israel Presents 4 Torahs To New York City, Will Be Given To Burned-Out Synagogues

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Four Sifrei Torah donated by the Israel Government to two New York synagogues that were vandalized and burned recently were presented to the rabbis of the congregations in an informal ceremony at the Israel Consulate today. Receiving them were Rabbi Meilech Silber of the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, which was severely damaged by fire Nov. 27 and Rabbi Isaac Liebes of Congregation Toirei Zonov in The Bronx, which was destroyed by a fire earlier. The presentation was made by Consul General Rehavam Amir and Consul Zvi Caspi in the presence of three City Hall officials representing Mayor John V. Lindsay, who is on vacation. Mr. Caspi said that the Torahs will be formally installed in their respective congregations at a date to be set when the damage is repaired. He said the Israel Government would be represented. The Torahs were property of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jerusalem. They are among the 1,000 Sifrei Torah that the Ministry has been collecting all over Europe. They belonged to Jewish communities that no longer exist. The Torahs donated to the New York congregations originated in Romania. Mr. Caspi said they were very old but would not venture a guess about their age. Mayor Lindsay took the initiative to help the vandalized synagogues replace their destroyed sacred scrolls. After inspecting the gutted premises he phoned Consul General Amir to ask for help. The Israel Government responded immediately.

Bronx District Attorney Burton B. Roberts told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he has learned from a fire marshal that three fires occurred in Jewish schools and synagogues in his borough between June 1 and Dec. 2, 1968 that were of suspicious origin. He said that in the same period, six fires were reported in religious institutions in Brooklyn — two of them Jewish — and the others in churches of various denominations. He said not all were suspicious. Mr. Roberts would not give the names or addresses of the synagogues where fires had occurred, but he stressed that all of the information available to him indicated that there was no "conspiratorial pattern" behind the blazes. He attributed fires under suspicion to "juvenile exhibitionists" or "psychotics."

Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, director of school organizations and professional services of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, informed JTA of measures being taken to protect Jewish schools against fires and vandalism. He said Fire Commissioner Robert Lowery was given a list of all affiliated schools and promised that Fire Department representatives will visit them and alert the principals to spot suspicious persons or packages on their premises. He said Torah Umesorah has also urged all day schools in the city to keep lights burning through the night and to organize parent patrols to watch for vandals. He said that through Mayor Lindsay's office his organization was trying to get city agencies to help yeshivas relocate some of their students until damaged classrooms can be repaired. The American Jewish Congress today gave emergency \$500 grants to the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway and Yeshiva Sharei Zedek of Coney Island, also hit by fire, "to enable education to proceed."

Rap Christmas Stamps With Religious Themes As Violation Of Church-State Separation

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress and other groups are protesting the issuance of Christmas postage stamps with religious themes which, they say, puts the Federal Government in the role of supporting a religion in violation of the separation of church and state guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. The American Jewish Congress has directed its protest specifically to this year's Christmas stamp which shows a detail of "The Annunciation," a painting by the 15th Century Flemish master Jan Van Eyck that hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Another group, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, has a suit pending in Federal District Court over the 1966 and 1967 Christmas stamps that show Madonna and Child details from the Hans Memling painting, "Madonna and Child with Angels."

The AJCongress, in a letter to Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson, noted that when Christmas stamps were first introduced in 1962, they contained such "relatively innocuous" designs as holly wreaths. But the Van Eyck painting, the AJCongress maintained, celebrates "the dogma of the Virgin birth." By issuing such a stamp, "the Government sets a precedent for using its power and prestige to support the celebration of a religious holiday. This amounts to Government support of specific religious ideas even when those ideas are antithetical to the religious beliefs of others," the AJCongress letter charged.

(Two Christmas stamps issued by the British Post Office carefully avoid any religious connotation. Both show customary holiday scenes of children playing with toys.)

The Federal District Court refused to hear the case brought by the Americans United group last year but was subsequently overruled by the United States Court of Appeals. Spokesmen for the group said that sending sectarian symbols into private homes through the mails opens the way for putting such symbols in public buildings. Stamp proponents have called the charges "ridiculous" and insist that the themes for the Christmas stamps were selected for their artistic validity, not their religious content. Opponents say, however, that postage-stamp size reproductions of great paintings have little artistic value.

Mrs. Beatrice L. Magnes Dies At 89, Was Wife Of First President Of Hebrew University

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Mrs. Beatrice L. Magnes, widow of the late Dr. Judah L. Magnes, who was the first president of the Hebrew University, died here yesterday at the age of 89. Mrs. Magnes was born in New York City and, with Henrietta Szold and Lotte Levensohn, founded Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, in 1907. She and Dr. Magnes settled in Palestine in 1922. She is survived by three sons, David Magnes of Nathanya, Prof. Jonathan Magnes of the Hebrew University, and Benedict Magnes, of Scarsdale, N.Y.