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Eshkol, Eban Denounce Gun Attack On El Al Plane By Saboteurs

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A sudden savage attack by two Arab terrorists against an El Al airliner at the Athens airport today, in which an Israeli engineer was killed and two stewardesses wounded, was denounced by Premier Levi Eshkol as an act of "insane terrorism" which was a danger not only to Israel air travellers "but to all people."

Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on Kol Israel that the attack constituted a violation of one of the most important rights -- the right of free airways and that he was convinced that world public opinion would be shocked by such "a murderous attack." Officials of El Al said scheduled El Al flights had not been affected and that flights would continue as usual.

Athens airport police seized the terrorists soon after they fired at the airliner with sub-machine guns and hand grenades. The plane, with 51 passengers, had been awaiting permission for takeoff to Paris enroute from Tel Aviv when the attack took place. The engineer, Leon Shurdan, 50, from Haifa, was killed by one of the bullets as he sat in his seat. Hana Spira, 21, one of the stewardesses, suffered a broken back and leg when she jumped from the plane. She was reported in serious condition in the hospital. Another stewardess suffered minor bullet wounds.

The assault caused damage to one engine of the Boeing 707 and touched off a small fire in the baggage section which was quickly put out. The plane then took off for Paris and was scheduled to arrive in New York City tonight shortly after midnight.

Menelaos Pegiadi, the Athens prosecutor, identified the gunmen as Naheb Suleiman, born in Tripoli of Palestinian parents, and Mahmoud Mohamad, born in Palestine in 1943. He said they had been charged with a variety of offenses, including intentional homicide, illegal carrying of arms, illegal use of arms and intentional damage of property. Under laws of the present Greek regime, the terrorists could be executed on conviction. Police said the Arabs said they were members of the El Fatah terrorist group and that they had flown to Athens from Beirut earlier in the day with the intention of destroying the jet and all its Israeli passengers.

(In New York, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, said in a statement that "these insane actions will continue as long as the terrorists feel that American and world public opinion is on their side. Such periodicals as Life and Time which have glorified the Arab terror organizations, must assume their share of responsibility for such acts, which stem not from a genuine people's resistance movement within Israel's borders but from outside bands created and supported by reactionary Arab governments.")

Sources in Israel said that the attack was carried out by members of the Egyptian-sponsored Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. They said they were convinced that Egyptian authorities knew of the plans for the assault.

Mr. Eban instructed Israel's representative in Athens, Jacob Karoz, to ask Greek officials for complete details of the attack and to keep Israel fully informed of actions taken against the two terrorists. Greece has never formally recognized Israel and there are no formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

State Dept. Concerned Over Spread Of Arab Terrorism To Greece

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (JTA)--State Department officials reported they had been informed by the United States Embassy in Athens that no Americans were injured in the Arab terrorist attack today on an El Al airliner at the Athens airport. The Department, concerned about the extension of Arab terrorist activities to Greece, was understood to have the situation under careful observation.

Greek diplomats here predicted that the two Arab terrorists captured at the airport shortly after they blasted the El Al Boeing jet with machinegun fire and hand grenades would be prosecuted to the full extent of Greek law. They expressed concern that the incident might diminish tourism to Greece by inhibiting the many American Jewish and Israeli travelers who transit Athens in El Al airliners.

Greek diplomats were reported to be sensitive to the airport assault because Greece has consistently refused to accord normal diplomatic recognition to Israel. Greek representatives are posted to Israel and an Israeli representation is permitted in Athens but de jure recognition of Israel has been withheld, apparently out of fear of offending the Arab states. Greek officials say many Greeks live in Egypt and other Arab states and add that Greece maintains important trade, shipping and airline ties with the Arab countries.

Israel Health Minister Denounces Orthodox Charge In Heart Transplant Case

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Israel's Minister of Health, Israel Barzilai, clashed with ultra-Orthodox members of the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday over the question of heart transplant operations. Rabbi Shlomo Lorincz, of the Agudat Israel, charged that the as yet unidentified donor in Israel's first heart transplant case was not dead when his heart was removed. Mr. Barzilai called the charge an "unfounded libel." The case came up in the Knesset as a result of three agenda motions

presented after the death on Dec. 19 of 41-year-old Yitzhak Sullam, Israel's first heart transplant patient. Mr. Sullam, who was operated on at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah on Dec. 5, died of kidney malfunction. His new heart was said to have functioned normally.

Mr. Barzilai said that doctors performing heart transplants were faced with two grave questions: What determines death and who is to be responsible for applying these criteria. He told the Knesset that the doctors who had tried in vain to save the life of the patient whose heart was given to Mr. Sullam acted independently of the surgical team, headed by Dr. Maurice Levi, which performed the transplant. He said that Israeli doctors shared the modern medical view that death has occurred when the brain ceases to function. He added that this was a considerable advance over the halachic (Jewish religious law) thesis that only cessation of breathing means death.

Rabbi Lorincz denounced that view and insisted that both Mr. Sullam and the person whose heart he received might now be alive if transplant surgery had not been performed. He alleged that doctors were keeping the donor's identity secret "so that they can forge the records more easily." Rabbi Kalman Kahane, of the Poalei Agudat Israel claimed that public opinion in Israel was opposed to transplants and therefore the doctors in the Sullam case performed the operation surreptitiously. He said Israel was the only country in the world where doctors could extract a heart without asking permission. Shlomo Rossen, of Mapam, declared that heart transplant surgery has come to stay and that Israel's medical profession is qualified to stand the test as far as human skills and technical facilities are concerned.

Yost Stand For Imposed Mideast Solution Held At Variance With U.S. Views

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A proposal for a Middle East solution imposed by the Big Powers, which United States' Ambassador-designate to the United Nations Charles Yost, made in a magazine article written prior to his appointment, is "utterly at variance with what representatives of the U.S. have been telling Israel," Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday. Mr. Yost's article appeared in the January edition of Atlantic Monthly. He contended in it that Israel and the Arab states were too deeply entangled in mutual distrust and antagonisms to work out a peaceful solution among themselves and called for a Big Four summit conference to arrive at a solution and impose it. Mr. Eban spoke in reply to a question by Uri Avneri of the Haolam Hazeh faction.

Israeli Soldier Killed, Two Hurt In Mine Blasts; Border Clashes Continue

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--An 18-year-old Israeli soldier, Yehoshua Madai, was killed today when the vehicle he was driving struck a mine in the Jordan Valley south of the Allenby Bridge. Another soldier was injured, a military spokesman reported.

An Israeli soldier was injured yesterday when the command car he was driving struck a mine near Nahal Oz, a settlement just east of the Gaza Strip. A military spokesman said the soldier was a member of a patrol investigating a bazooka attack on the settlement, the scene of several fatal mine explosions. Three bazooka shells, activated by a timing device, were fired at Nahal Oz damaging a truck and a shed but causing no casualties, the spokesman said.

Israeli and Jordanian forces exchanged fire near the Mandassa Bridge in the Jordan Valley yesterday after Jordanians attacked Israeli forces in the area. It was the first shooting incident since Tuesday's Israeli air attack on saboteur positions at Manshiya village opposite the Beisan Valley. A hand grenade was thrown in Gaza township yesterday but caused no casualties. Explosives were detonated in the southern Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities are searching for the perpetrators.

Decision On 1967 Arab War Dead Memorial In Jerusalem Shifted Again

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The question of whether to permit the Waqf, the Moslem religious council, to proceed with the erection of monuments to Jordanian 1967 war dead in East Jerusalem has become a "hot potato" tossed back and forth between the Government and the Jerusalem City Council. As of yesterday it was back in the Council's hands. But after a stormy five-hour debate the latter decided to shift the burden of decision to the district town planning commission which is composed of Government officials.

The issue arose when Mayor Teddy Kollek, who takes a liberal view toward relations with the Arabs, approved the Waqf application for the memorials. One monument has already been erected in the Moslem cemetery. Two more were planned, one on the slopes of Mt. Scopus. Mayor Kollek's decision was severely criticized by City Council members who contended that the monuments would only encourage Arab civil disobedience and possible violence. Earlier this week the issue was submitted to the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem which is made up of Cabinet ministers. A majority of them were said to have favored allowing the monuments to go up but decided that the Jerusalem Municipality should make the final decision.

No vote was taken after yesterday's caucus in which Mayor Kollek was said to have had the support only of his own faction. The decision to refer the matter to the planning commission was seen as a compromise which would leave the monument in the Moslem cemetery intact while the other two would be subject to the usual town planning rules governing the erection of monuments.

Senator Supports Nixon Stand For Israel Stronger Than Arab States

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, reporting on a trip which included visits to several Middle East countries, feels that the Arab-Israeli crisis is dangerous but not critical. Sen. Jack Miller, Iowa Republican, said in a radio interview that he also believed that Israel "has the situation well in hand."

Noting that Israel wants the United States to provide it with military weapons as a deterrent, the Senator added that "I think Israel should have a deterrent capability -- a little stronger than that of the Arab countries." He said he agreed with the campaign statement of President-elect Richard M. Nixon that the Mideast power balance should be tipped in Israel's favor to avert war. He added that he agreed the United States should seek good relations with all Middle East countries but also that Israel should be assured that United States Mideast policy would not be formulated at Israel's expense.

Ben-Gurion Planning To Run For Knesset In 1969 As One-Man Faction

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion who is said to be planning to run for a seat in the Knesset (Parliament) in next year's national elections, has informed Parliamentary labor leaders by letter that he regards himself as a one-man faction which he calls Rafi. Rafi was the name of a faction headed by Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, which broke away from the Mapai party several years ago. It was incorporated into the Israel Labor Party by merger early this year along with Mapai and Achdut Avodah. It was learned that while the Labor Party leadership is prepared to acknowledge Mr. Ben-Gurion's designation of himself as a one-man faction, they will not accept the name Rafi which, they note, no longer exists.

Cabinet Gets Dayan Two-Year Plan For Development Of Occupied Areas

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told the Knesset that plans for the administration of public services and the economic development of the occupied areas for the next two years had been submitted to the Cabinet by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The Defense Ministry has major responsibility for the territories occupied in the Six-Day War. Gen. Dayan's plans were described as being based on the assumption that the areas will be linked to Israel for many years to come.

Winter Storms Force Suspension Of Citrus Loading At Haifa Port

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Winter storms sweeping over Israel forced the suspension of citrus loading at Haifa port today. Loading at the port of Ashdod to the south continued but with long interruptions. Pickers were unable to work in the citrus groves because of the weather. The crop was reportedly in excellent condition owing to the rains during the last few days.

Sand storms whirled across the Negev today. On the Sea of Galilee, a small body of water subject to sudden violent squalls, a fishing boat capsized. High winds and steep waves made navigation impossible.

Haifa Hospital Physician Reports Technique To Control Parkinson's Disease

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A doctor at Haifa's Rambam Hospital reported today the successful treatment of Parkinson's Disease, a generally incurable ailment that affects the brain cells and causes palsy.

According to Dr. Elli Faizer, head of the hospital's neurological surgery department, he performed a three-minute brain operation which introduced frozen nitrogen to the diseased area. The low temperature killed the affected cells. Dr. Faizer said the patient on whom the experimental treatment was performed said afterward that he felt "almost new-born."

Knesset Gives Final Reading To Bill To Make TV A Regular Service

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The Israel Parliament has given the final reading to a bill which would terminate the present experimental status of television in Israel and make it a regular service. Israeli television, like radio, according to the bill, will come under the Broadcasting Authority which is run by a public body. Parliamentary responsibility for television will rest with the Minister of Information.

Ohio Students To Study Kibbutz Life During Visit To Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Eighteen American students from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, will spend 17 days on a kibbutz near the Red Sea port of Eilat next month for an on-the-spot study of a "unique society" in action, the American Zionist Youth Foundation announced today. The youngsters who leave for Israel on Jan. 5, will be accompanied by their teacher, Prof. Stuart Hills of the Sociology Department. They will receive full credit for the course. The visit was arranged by the American Zionist Youth Foundation and the Jewish Agency's youth department. Their stay at Kibbutz Yotvatah will be divided between work and study. They will spend three days in Jerusalem and a week touring Israel.

Report First Request Of Two Jewish Pueblo Crewmen Was For Mezzuzahs

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 26 (JTA)--The first request of the two Jewish crewmen of the U.S.S. Pueblo, on their return to the United States from North Korean captivity, was for mezzuzahs, it was learned today. Chaplain Garson Goodman conducted a special prayer of deliverance and portions of the Chanukah service for the two men and their families in the San Diego naval chapel. He noted that the men crossed the "Bridge of No Return" to freedom on the last day of Chanukah, stressing the symbolism of their liberation.

The Jewish sailors were Steven Jay Robins, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Robin of Silver Springs, Md., a communications technician, and Steven Paul Ellis, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ellis of Los Angeles, a seaman. The Jewish sailors were reported to have been fearful during their year of captivity that their Communist captors might take notice of their religion and seek to link them with Zionism or Israel but they were never asked about religion during interrogations.

Navy Chaplain Goodman said the religious fervor of the two men and their families was "very emotional and deeply moving." They sang Chanukah songs at the chapel while the Christian members took part in Christmas devotions at other chapels. The families expressed their appreciation to Chaplain Goodman, who is stationed at the San Diego naval station, for leaving a sick bed to greet the returning sailors despite influenza and a 104 temperature.

Synagogue Youth Assail Police Brutality, But Warn Against Violent Dissent

CHICAGO, Dec. 26 (JTA)--A resolution condemning police brutality or use of force by a government agency to suppress dissenting demonstrations anywhere in the United States was adopted yesterday by 1,600 delegates to the 18th annual convention of the United Synagogue Youth. The resolution, approved at the closing session of the Conservative youth organization, also criticized protestors deliberately seeking violent means in exercising their democratic right of dissent.

Although several speakers during floor debate deplored Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's handling of demonstrators during the Democratic national convention last August, a specific reference to the behavior of the Chicago police was deleted from the resolution. Bob Kahn, a suburban Chicago youth leader who proposed the deletion, explained that to single out Chicago would be to ignore police incidents in other cities, such as Detroit, Los Angeles and Newark.

Paul Freedman of New York, USY director, told the delegates they had the right to be revolutionaries but he warned they must not protest without offering solutions to the problems they protested. He also said he had been shocked in talks with Jewish teenagers to find "an appalling" lack of association between the Jewish tradition and the involvement of Jewish youngsters in social problems. He placed blame partly on the "gap" he said often existed between pronouncements and actions of Jewish institutions.

During the convention, delegates went into the community as social action teams to aid in old age homes, hospitals, orphanages and homes for the blind. They prepared educational materials for physically handicapped and mentally retarded children in the United States and Israel, obtained toys for poor children and made tape recordings for blind children and Passover cards for Jewish servicemen in Vietnam and elsewhere.

San Francisco Community Relations Council Hits Violence At State College

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Relations Council, in its first statement on the student revolt at San Francisco State College, has called on the Jewish community to "support those student goals which are just" but at the same time, to "condemn any violence or disruption of democratic process committed in the pursuit of even those just goals." The student body, largely Negro, has demanded, and received a Black studies program and is also demonstrating for greater participation in college policymaking. The campus erupted with violence on several occasions.

The Community Relations Council conceded that the stance it advocated was "difficult" to hold. "It is much easier to be polarized into either a rejection of the goals because of the methods -- or an acceptance of the methods because of the goals. Either pole spells disaster of a kind with which the Jewish community has had tragic experience. Some of the worst, most de-humanizing tyrannies imposed on man in modern history have been attached to legitimate human problems. Even Hitler came to power on a program calling for an end to the poverty and indignity of a starving and degraded German people. But good men as well as evil can be caught in the same trap. To abandon the democratic process, in whatever cause, is to start down the road to brutality."

AJCongress Hits Use On N.Y. Lottery Ticket Of Star Of David, Menorah

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress denounced today the use of the religious symbols -- Christian or Jewish -- on public documents as "offensive" and "violative of the constitutional requirement of church-state separation." The charge was made in a letter to Orin S. Wilcox, chairman of the New York State Lottery Commission, by David Haber, chairman of the AJCongress' New York Metropolitan Council who protested the depiction of a Star of David and a Chanukah menorah on the December lottery ticket. Last month the AJCongress protested on the same grounds to the United States Postmaster General against depiction of the Annunciation on a 1968 Christmas stamp. Mr. Haber wrote, "If the menorah is on the lottery ticket in December, the month of Chanukah, why not a Crucifix during April, the month of the Passion?"