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63 Congressmen Voice Concern Over Possible Terrorist Repercussions Of UN Censure

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Sixty-three members of the House of Representatives yesterday signed a joint statement voicing concern lest the United Nations' censure of Israel for its Dec. 28 attack on the Beirut Airport without a simultaneous condemnation of Arab terrorism and provocation "encourage the Arabs to intensify their terrorism." The Congressmen said, "There are ominous signs that the Soviet Union will exploit the censure of Israel to whip up international opinion against Israel."

"It is difficult to understand why the international community remains mute when Arab terrorists commit murder and finds its voice only when Israel undertakes to put an end to such atrocities," the statement said. Signatories included members of both parties.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, Montana Democrat, said today he did not think the United States has any real commitment to defend Israel, while stating the U.S. should seek a regional solution in cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Appearing on a television interview program, he said, "I don't think we have a hard and fast commitment to go to the side of Israel or any other country in that area that is not a member of NATO." He said he felt that the Arab-Israel situation was "getting worse" but indicated that he looked for a solution through American-Soviet diplomacy.

Eban Tells Cabinet Proposals Made By Soviet Union On Mideast Peace Are Unacceptable

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet today that proposals made by the Soviet Union recently for a Middle East settlement were totally unacceptable to Israel even as a basis or framework for discussion. Mr. Eban said that Washington and London have kept Israel informed of the latest Soviet moves. Russia, he said, persists in demanding Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories without a peace treaty, without practical guarantees of freedom of navigation in international waters, and without a contractual basis for future relations with the Arabs.

Mr. Eban drew the Cabinet's attention to the statement by United States Secretary of State Dean Rusk at his press conference last Friday that peace in the Middle East depended upon agreement between the states in the area which have the responsibility of arriving at the conditions necessary for coexistence. (Mr. Rusk also urged the Arabs to "restrain terrorist activity" and the Israelis to remember that "excessive retaliation" may bring "catastrophic" results for the Middle East. "The terrorists on the Arab side have to accept a very heavy responsibility for their unwillingness to accept the cease-fire lines...One can understand how impatient the Israelis get from time to time when these terrorist raids continue, raids for which the Arab governments do not accept direct responsibility," he added.)

Mr. Eban disclosed that Israel has warned Lebanon that it views with gravity the rocket attacks on the town of Kiryat Shmona in Upper Galilee which was fired on twice this weekend from Lebanese territory. He said Israel had asked Lebanese authorities to take appropriate steps to insure observance of the cease-fire. Michael Arnon, secretary of the Cabinet, declined to reveal how the warning was conveyed to the Beirut authorities. It was believed to have been through the embassy of a friendly nation. No one was injured in the two attacks, but three civilians were killed last week in a rocket attack on Kiryat Shmona.

Mr. Eban, at a press conference earlier, rejected all proposals for coordinated Big Power action on the Middle East crisis, declaring that machinery was in existence for Israel-Arab meetings for peace. The machinery, he said, was the mission of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring under the mandate of a Security Council Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. He said peace negotiations offered the only possible change in the existing Mideast situation, which he called grave but not explosive. He said it was still possible to check "eruptions" in time and in ways which would not undermine the cease-fire structure created after the Six-Day War. He said the crux of the Mideast problem would be whether Arab governments would take responsibility for activities of terrorists operating from their territories or whether it would be left to international public opinion to treat such activities as actions for which no one was to be held responsible.

Gen. Bar-Lev Says Arab Terrorism Could Lead To War If Not Checked

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Israel's Chief of Staff, said that Arab terrorist activities against Israel might spark a new Middle East war and that prevention of a conflict would depend on Israel's ability to check such operations. He made the statement after meeting with military correspondents. Gen. Bar-Lev said that the current situation had three possible outcomes -- peace, war and continuation of the present situation. He said peace appeared remote because the Arabs were "simply uninterested" in it. He expressed the belief that the Egyptians would choose war as a solution if Egypt could not achieve its goals politically. He predicted that Egypt would go to war only when its leaders were convinced they had military superiority over Israel. He added that if Egypt did resume major war action, he was convinced that "we will achieve those targets that would ensure our security in the broad meaning of this word."

Gen. Bar-Lev said that the third prospect, continuation of the existing situation, was difficult but that Israel would be able "to stand through it." He declared there was no "absolute reply" to the attacks by terrorists but that there were ways to reduce such actions to a minimum. He also said that while Israel had created defensive positions along the Suez Canal and the Jordanian cease-fire line, this action did not mean that the Army had "dug in" to fight only a defensive war. He said the Army was geared for "an offensive defense."

'Al Ahram' Warns 'War A Certainty' Unless Fast International Action Is Taken

LONDON, Jan. 5 (JTA)--The authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahram warned yesterday that the "eruption of war is a certainty" in the Middle East unless there is fast international action to avoid it. The paper, which is considered to reflect the views of the Egyptian Government and President Gamal Abdel Nasser, issued the warning in the context of a report on current Big Power contacts aimed at working out a formula for settling the Middle East crisis.

The paper reported that Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad would fly to Belgrade this week to deliver an "important message" from President Nasser to President Tito of Yugoslavia. The message will deal with the "probabilities of the explosive situation," Al Ahram said. The newspaper warned that Israel might "risk launching a grave adventure in the hope of forcing its friends into re-assuming a position of unreserved support and barring any big power accord on the Middle East."

King Hussein of Jordan, who arrived here for medical treatment today, hinted that he would welcome Big Power intervention in the Middle East dispute. "I believe that if we are able to move with the help of the rest of the world toward accepting as a whole the principles of the Security Council (Nov. 22, 1967) resolution we might be well on the way toward peaceful co-existence," he told newsmen. According to reports from Beirut where the Jordanian ruler stopped off earlier for a two-hour meeting with President Charles Helou of Lebanon, King Hussein warned that "if the situation deteriorates any further it will affect world peace" and expressed the hope that "the great powers will take a closer look at what is happening here."

London Underwriters, Government Of Ghana, File Heavy Claims For Plane Damages

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Heavy claims for damages caused by Israel's Dec. 28 commando raid on Beirut International Airport have been lodged by London underwriters and by the Government of Ghana, one of whose planes was destroyed in the attack.

The Ghanaian plane, a Viscount-10 jet, was leased to the Middle East Airlines, a largely Arab-owned company, and carried its insignia. The Israeli commandos who carried out the raid were scrupulously careful not to harm the aircraft bearing the insignia of non-Arab countries. The claim from Ghana for compensation was embarrassing because that country has been friendly with Israel and maintains close commercial ties with it. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Government was studying the claim. He denied a news agency report that Ghana had threatened to sever diplomatic ties with Israel unless compensated for the aircraft and said that the Ghanaian Foreign Minister had assured Jerusalem on Friday of his country's intention to maintain good relations with Israel.

Reports from London meanwhile said the British Government was preparing to pressure Israel to compensate British underwriters who were processing some \$25 million in claims arising from the Beirut raid. The total cost of the 13 aircraft destroyed was estimated at close to \$50 million but the burden did not fall entirely on British underwriters because part of the claims were re-insured. The British Board of Trade has reportedly asked for pressure on Israel and the Government was said to be working out the "mechanics of a diplomatic approach."

American Members Of Jewish Agency Executive Deplore Security Council Vote

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--American members of the Jewish Agency Executive, here for a series of Agency meetings, said this weekend they were shocked by the decision of the United Nations Security Council in condemning Israel for its reprisal action against the Beirut Airport.

A statement issued for the group by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, declared that "having considered all the circumstances surrounding the murderous attack on the El Al plane in Athens and Israel's retaliatory action in Beirut, the American members of the Jewish Agency Executive express their sense of shock at the one-sided resolution of the Security Council condemning Israel without even any mention of the Arab provocation.

"This action," the statement went on, "is a travesty of justice reflecting sadly on the Security Council and its abdication of international morality. Most troubling is the concurrence of the American delegate representing the Department of State whose subsequent statement (dissociating the United States from attacks on Israel made in the course of the debate) does not undo the harm caused by his vote."

The Executive decided at a plenary meeting to create a world bureau for Jewish education intended to be primarily a research center. Designed to spread Jewish awareness throughout the world, one of the bureau's research projects will deal with the status of Jewish teachers abroad, which is low, with the result that too few qualified Jews are attracted to the profession. The decision was taken on recommendation of Chaim Finkelstein, head of the Agency education department. The bureau will be part of the Memorial Fund for Jewish Culture established several years ago with funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

World Jewish Congress Urges Direct Arab-Israel Peace Talks To Ease Tensions

ROME, Jan. 5 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress today urged direct Arab-Israeli peace talks to ease Middle East tensions but rejected "attempts by outsiders to bring peace -- or impose it -- between Israel and its Arab neighbors." The resolution by the WJCongress governing council was the first order of business on the second day of meetings here which will end Tuesday. It was aimed at the reported consideration by the Big Powers of a Four Power conference on the Middle East or a two power -- United States and Soviet Union -- effort to work out a Middle East solution and impose it on both sides in the dispute.

"The problem is not one for outsiders, it is a problem for the peoples of the Middle East," the WJCongress argued. The resolution blamed the growing violence in the region squarely on the Arab governments which give aid and encouragement to terrorist forays against Israel and which refuse "to accept repeated Israeli invitations to seek a peaceful permanent settlement to the Middle East crisis." The organization expressed wholehearted support of Israel "in its resolve to maintain its sovereign independence within secure and recognized frontiers."

The WJCongress meeting opened Saturday under the chairmanship of Dr. Joachim Prinz of Orange, N.J., chairman of the governing council. The keynote address was delivered by WJCongress president Dr. Nahum Goldmann who assailed the United Nations Security Council's resolution condemning Israel for the Beirut Airport raid as completely one-sided. He said the resolution would tend to encourage Arab terrorism.

At a press conference, Dr. Prinz and Dr. Gerhard Riegner, WJCongress secretary general, outlined topics on the agenda. Referring to Jewdo-Christian relations, Dr. Riegner said that the Catholic Church had come to realize that Judaism and the Jewish people must be accepted. Dr. Prinz said that, apart from Israel, the major preoccupation of the Jewish world was with the position of Jewry in Eastern Europe. Armand Kaplan, director of the organization's international affairs department, elaborated on that problem in a report to the meeting. He stressed, however, not the current anti-Semitic campaign by the Warsaw regime but the danger of cultural extinction for Jews remaining in Poland. He said that old-age homes for Jews had become mixed institutions where Jews and non-Jews lived. He said Jewish schools in Poland are now Jewish in name only -- they are mixed schools where Jews can learn Yiddish only in special classes. Jewish publishing houses have been liquidated. Mr. Kaplan said that Jews are permitted to take possessions when they emigrate from Poland but must renounce Polish citizenship, becoming stateless. An exit permit, he said, costs the equivalent of \$1,000.

Fourth Appeal For Peace In Middle East Issued By Roman Catholic Pontiff

ROME, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Pope Paul VI today delivered his fourth appeal in a week for peace in the Middle East. The Pontiff spoke as he gave his weekly blessing to a crowd in St. Peter's Square on the fifth anniversary of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He said Middle East conflicts are "painful for us, perhaps more than for others." The head of the Roman Catholic Church on three previous occasions has expressed grave concern over renewed violence in the Middle East and has called on Arabs and Israelis to halt guerrilla activities, terrorism and acts of reprisal. Today he recalled his plea for peace on this day in 1964 when he met in Jerusalem with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras, a meeting that was hailed as the beginning of a rapprochement between the two churches after 900 years of separation. "Our wish for peace was then, and is still, for the populations resident there and at odds there because of conflicts known to all and painful for us perhaps more than for others," he said.

Rabbinical Alliance President Urges End To Criticism Of Pope

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA)--An American Orthodox rabbinical group called on Jewish leaders today to refrain from further criticism of Pope Paul VI lest it create a backlash that would alienate Christian supporters of Israel. The statement, issued by Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, referred to rebukes of the Pope from some Jewish quarters for his implied criticism of Israel's Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut Airport, in a message of sympathy to Lebanon President Charles Helou.

According to Rabbi Weinberger, the Pope's remarks were "another blot on the Church's record of indifference to Jewish blood" but criticism of it "once made, should not require overwhelming repetition." He criticized the fact that statements made by "umbrella" groups such as the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Synagogue Council of America were repeated individually by the dozens of individual organizations represented by those groups. "This leads to an impression of over-reaction which mitigates the impact of the initial criticism," Rabbi Weinberger said. He noted that his group and a majority of Orthodox Jews were not represented by the "umbrella groups."

Chief Rabbi Nissim Rebuked By Minister For Attack On The Pontiff

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim was rebuked by an unidentified Cabinet Minister at a Cabinet meeting today for delivering too sweeping an attack on Pope Paul VI for the latter's letter of sympathy to President Helou. The minister said that while the Pope may have deserved criticism, Rabbi Nissim made too sweeping a generalization when he accused the Pontiff and the Vatican of conducting an extensive campaign against the Jewish religion and Jewish people. The Jerusalem Post suggested editorially that Rabbi Nissim "overreacted."

American Jewish Congress Raps Editorial In Negro Teachers' Magazine As Racist

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA)--An editorial in the African-American Teachers Forum charging Jews with responsibility for "stifling" the education of black children was criticized today by the American Jewish Congress as a "vicious piece of racism that can serve only to debase any rational approach to the school problem." Shad Polier, chairman of the national governing council, noted that the magazine was the same publication that had "opened its columns last year to the malign ignorance of John F. Hatchett" and described the editorial as "an obvious and calculated attempt to stoke the fires of racial and religious tension that are already burning in our city." Mr. Hatchett became involved in controversy after writing in the magazine that Jewish teachers dominated the New York public school system and were mentally poisoning Negro pupils. This and other incidents led to his being fired by New York University as director of its Martin Luther King Jr. Afro-American Student Center.

"The inadequacies of the city school system," he said, "are acknowledged by men and women of all religions and races who are concerned with improving public education in New York. To charge that these inadequacies are the result of a specific policy and design by Jews is a disheartening example of extremist tactics and insults the great mass of Jews who are concerned about the very evils of racism, discrimination and the failure of our schools," Mr. Polier said. "I am confident that the Jewish community will not be deterred by this attack from the great effort that must be launched to strengthen and improve the education of all our children. We are equally confident that the black citizens of our city will reject this blatant appeal to bigotry," he said.

The Negro teachers' magazine bitterly attacked the "Jewish dominated United Federation of Teachers" and the New York City Board of Examiners for allegedly preventing Negroes and Puerto Ricans from becoming teachers and principals and for keeping "our children ignorant." The African-American Teachers Forum, a bi-monthly publication, also charged in an editorial that "the Jew, our liberal friend of yesterday, whose cries of anguish still resound from the steppes of Russia to the tennis courts of Forest Hills, is now our exploiter." The magazine said "the time has come for a great responsible voice to speak up in the Jewish community. It is time to right these grave wrongs."

The African-American Teachers Forum said it is now fashionable not to criticize Jews "who have hidden behind the cloak of anti-Semitism as a broad shield against criticism." The editorial said, "Don't tell us any more about the six million destroyed by Hitler. Tell us instead about the 12 million blacks slaughtered in 300 years of black genocide. The Jews have recovered and now prosper. We blacks...hampered by vicious laws, beaten by sadistic police, exploited by employers, landlords and merchants, still exist in the stifling slums of our poverty-ridden ghettos." The editorial specifically accused the Board of Examiners of systematically disqualifying Negro and Puerto Rican applicants for licenses as teachers and charged UFT president Albert Shanker with "racist diatribes" that "do a disservice to the entire Jewish community." A spokesman for the teachers' union refused to answer the charge. Paul Denn, a member of the Board of Examiners, denied that discrimination existed. He pointed out that all applicants for licenses were assigned numbers and their identities were unknown until their examination papers were rated. The African-American Teachers Forum declared, "It is time to pour water on the growing fires of religious and racial hatreds in New York City by finally facing up to the truth; most Jewish teachers and administrators here have failed a grave public trust; They have kept us functionally illiterate."

Wexler Urges Johnson To Rescind 'Most Favored Nation' Treatment Given To Poland

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA)--William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, has urged President Johnson to rescind the "most favored nation" treatment extended to Poland by a tariff agreement four years ago in view of that country's harassment of its Jewish population. Dr. Wexler, in a letter published today in the New York Times, said that if the President did not act, "I would hope that Congress would legislate to the same end." The head of the 125-year-old Jewish service and fraternal organization noted that President Johnson and the United States State Department have condemned Poland's anti-Semitic campaign. "But I feel that we have failed to take the appropriate substantive step called for by Poland's continued defiance of world opinion," he wrote.

"Four years ago President Johnson, acting pursuant to statutory authorization, extended to Poland the important tariff benefit -- most favored treatment. Mr. Johnson made no bones about the reasons for granting the concession. The United States, he said, wished to 'encourage peaceful efforts toward loosening of control from Moscow.' Another consideration he cited was that Poland was permitting greater freedom of speech and religion. But it is crystal clear that Poland today is more servile toward Moscow than ever," Dr. Wexler wrote. "It is clear too that freedom of speech and religious liberty for Jews have been drastically curtailed. The reasons for granting the special tariff concession to Poland have disappeared. The concession should be withdrawn...until such time as the Polish Government gives new evidence that it deserves it."

introduces Bill Seeking Posthumous U.S. Citizenship To Israeli Killed In Vietnam

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA)--A bill to confer posthumously, American citizenship on an Israeli who died in action while serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Bertram L. Podell, New York Democrat. Aaron Tawil, although a citizen of Israel, served as a specialist in the 198th Infantry brigade. He was killed by Communist forces Nov. 17. Gen. Greighton W. Abrams, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, wrote Rep. Podell that Spec. Tawil earned the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Gen. Abrams supported the "very worthy endeavor to recognize the supreme sacrifice of Spec. Tawil."