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Unrest, Discontent Over Embargo Continue To Spread In France; Industrialists Furious

PARIS, Jan. 13 (JTA)--President Charles de Gaulle's decision to impose a "total embargo" on arms shipments and military spare parts to Israel appears to be having more serious repercussions in France than the 79-year-old French leader could have foreseen. Widespread unrest and discontent in the ranks of the French Army over the embargo were reported from several reliable sources today. French industrialists were reported to be furious over the loss of lucrative Israeli orders for military equipment and spare parts. Economists were fearful that a further deterioration of France's balance of payments as a result of the embargo could lead to a new economic crisis.

Unrest in the French Army reportedly reached such proportions that special measures were taken by military authorities. The well-informed weekly, *Nouvelle Observateur*, reported today that many senior Army officers have publicly and privately expressed dissatisfaction with Gen. de Gaulle. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that a number of them approached Defense Minister Pierre Messmer to let him know their "shame that France has once again forsaken her pledges." The JTA also learned that President de Gaulle included the French "Army and administration" along with the press and radio in his assertion at last week's Cabinet meeting that French institutions were under "Israeli influence." It was only at the urging of Prime Minister Maurice Couve de Murville and M. Messmer that references to the Army were deleted from the communique later released by Information Minister Joel Le Theule.

The weekly *L'Express* reported today that France has lost \$500 million worth of orders from Israel during the past year owing to the earlier embargo on 50 Mirage V jets bought and paid for by Israel. The paper said Israel had planned to place orders for additional Mirages. The report coincided with a release from the Government bureau of statistics that showed further deterioration of France's balance of trade during December, 1968. France's exports were only 81 percent of her imports compared to 95 percent in October, 1968.

(Two London newspapers noted today that Israel could obtain spare parts for its French-built Mirage jets from Belgium, thus circumventing the de Gaulle embargo. The *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Telegraph* reported that Marcel Dassault, whose firm manufactures the Mirage, had bought a 50 percent interest in a Belgian aircraft company which could be the source of needed parts. A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Brussels yesterday that there had been no approaches from Israel so far. However, the *Daily Mail* reported that the Belgian factory could start producing Mirage spare parts almost immediately. The paper said that Dassault stands to lose some \$600 million as a result of the embargo and moved into Belgium last year as a form of "insurance.")

1,000 Victims Of Nazi Persecution To Demonstrate In New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA)--About 1,000 persons representing the Jewish Nazi Victims Organization of America were scheduled to demonstrate against the embargo tomorrow at the French Consulate here. The president, Moses I. Socachevsky, said the theme of the demonstration will be "Never a Second Munich for Israel." He told the JTA that the organization is picketing because "President de Gaulle, by embargoing weapons, is helping Arab terrorists kill survivors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald."

(In Toronto, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Federated Zionist Organizations of Canada protested to the French Ambassador against the embargo. In a telegram to the envoy, the groups warned that Gen. de Gaulle's action, in defiance of French public opinion, weakened the hands of such nations as Canada which are working for a viable peace in the Middle East. They charged that the embargo was a manifestation of Gen. de Gaulle's personal vindictiveness toward Israel and did not reflect the views of the French people.)

Cabinet Confers On French Action; Eshkol To Make Statement Tuesday In Knesset

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)--The Cabinet met for three hours today to consider the implications of France's embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. No details were disclosed except that Prime Minister Levi Eshkol will make a statement on the embargo to the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow. The Cabinet ministers were joined at the meeting by Lt. Gen. Amihai Tsur, assistant to the Defense Minister, and Maj. Gen. Mordechai Hod, Commander of Israel's Air Force. Cabinet secretary Michael Arnon told newsmen afterwards that Foreign Minister Abba Eban had briefed the Cabinet on world reaction to President de Gaulle's embargo, stressing the almost universal condemnation of it in the French press. Mr. Arnon quoted him as saying, "Israel's relations with France have a glorious past and probably a great future, but meanwhile we must overcome the difficulties of the present."

The Foreign Ministry denied press reports yesterday that Israel's Ambassador to France, Walter Eytan, would be recalled for consultations on the new crisis in Franco-Israel relations. The

Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that several Cabinet ministers favored consultations with Mr. Eytan but Mr. Eban opposed them at this time. Israeli authorities were taking pains to distinguish between the Gaullist Government and the French people in their comments on the boycott. But the Israeli public was embittered. A poll published by the newspaper Haaretz today revealed a spontaneous boycott movement against French merchandise and services by Israelis. A majority said they would not buy French automobiles and would not travel on Air France. Some women were uncertain whether they would give up French perfumes but others said they planned to switch to American or Israeli perfumes. The Israeli bus cooperative, Egged, reportedly cancelled orders for three French automobiles for its executives.

Egyptian Government Praises Soviet Peace Offensive, French Embargo

LONDON, Jan. 13 (JTA)--An Egyptian Government official praised the Soviet Union for its new Middle East peace offensive and President de Gaulle for his "total embargo" on arms and airplane spare-parts equipment to Israel, as reports of an impending large-scale Israeli strike against Jordan circulated in Cairo today.

The semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said that Israel was massing troops for an attack intended to destroy Iraqi troop concentrations in Jordan. The paper said it was timed to coincide with the last days of the Johnson Administration so that U.S. disapproval would be at a minimum. Al Ahram attributed its alleged information to Iraqi and Jordanian intelligence reports.

Egypt's Information Minister, Mohamed Fayek, said following a Cabinet meeting presided over by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, that the Egyptian Government considered Gen. de Gaulle's embargo decision "a stance which the Arab nation will never forget since it restores to international politics that spirit of principles without which it is impossible to solve world problems." Mr. Fayek said that the Cabinet found the Soviet Union's peace efforts "highly valuable in this crisis of the destiny of the Arab nation."

Foreign Minister Nenni Insists Italy Must Play A Role In Middle East Solution

ROME, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Pietro Nenni has served notice that Italy would not agree to attempts at solution of the Middle East crisis in which this country, as a state with great Mediterranean interests, particularly in the Suez Canal, was excluded and did not play a part. He told the Parliamentary Foreign Policy Commission that current Soviet initiatives in seeking a Four Power solution could be successful only within the framework of the United Nations.

He told the commission that mankind as a whole had a great responsibility toward the Jewish people because of the persecution to which it had been subjected for so long. He said he understood the despair of the Arab refugees and the Arab tendency to judge Israel on the basis of Arab past experiences with colonialism. He said Italian policy was directed toward building a bridge between the Israelis and the Arabs. Mauro Ferri, Socialist Party secretary, told the commission that Yugoslavian interests were parallel with Italy's and he urged possible mediation offered by Marshal Tito.

Women, Children Take To Bomb Shelters As Mortar Shells Drop From Lebanon

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Women and children of Avivim, an Upper Galilee settlement spent two hours in bomb shelters last night as Arab marauders lobbed 60 mm. mortar shells at the village from behind the Lebanese border. They drew heavy return fire from Israel guards and police who were credited with discouraging a further assault. Only eight shells exploded, a military spokesman reported. There were no casualties and damage was negligible. The incident was the first on the Lebanese border since last Tuesday when Arab saboteurs blew up an empty house in Shetula village.

An Israeli policeman was hurt near Ramallah yesterday when his patrol car hit a mine. A soldier was wounded by a sniper's bullet near Kantara at the northern end of the Suez Canal. A military spokesman said a soldier and an Army technician were wounded when Syrian gunners attacked a military vehicle in the Golan Heights.

Military sources reported yesterday that terrorist and saboteur activities showed a marked decline last week -- only 29 incidents compared to 42 the week before. The incidents were scattered and resulted in the death of one Israeli soldier and injuries to three others and to a dozen Arab residents. The reported decline in terrorist activities contrasted with claims by Arab commando groups that they were stepping up pressure and had forced Israel to call up reserves and dispatch troop reinforcements to the frontiers. An Israeli spokesman said there had been no call-up of reserves and that troop concentrations were at a normal level.

The decline in commando activity was attributed here to Arab fear of reprisals such as the Dec. 28 raid on Beirut Airport. Israeli military sources further maintained that strategic raids on commando bases had severely handicapped the marauders. It was noted also that winter rains had swollen the Jordan River making infiltration into Israel-held territory from Jordan more hazardous. The relative quiet along the Lebanese frontier was seen as the result of internal political problems in Beirut where Premier-designate Rashid Karami has been unable to form a coalition Government, members holding with a common policy toward Israel.

Israeli, Jordanian Officers Confer Over Repairs To Damiyah Bridge

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Israeli and Jordanian Army officers met peacefully at the damaged Damiyah Bridge over the Jordan River today to discuss repairs to the span which was blasted last week during an exchange of mortar fire across the river. The meeting was requested by the Jordanians, through the International Red Cross, to get Israel's approval of their plans for repairing the bridge. A Red Cross representative was present. The explosion that destroyed the Jordanian end of the bridge, one of two road links between Jordan and the West Bank, was originally attributed to terrorists. Amman claimed that it was hit by Israeli fire. They acknowledged today that the blast was touched off by a nervous Jordanian officer who feared that an Israeli attack across the bridge was imminent.

Tekoah Replies To Jordanian Note, Calls It 'Atrocity-Mongering'

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, today described as "atrocity-mongering of the cheapest and most vulgar kind" the contents of a letter sent by Jordan to Secretary-General U Thant on Jan. 7. The Jordanian letter contained a purported statement by a Jordanian national, As'ad Abdel Rahman, described as president of the Union of Palestine Arab Students in Lebanon, alleging mistreatment of himself and other Arab prisoners in Israel jails in occupied territory. In Mr. Tekoah's reply, he told Mr. Thant that "this is undoubtedly the most scurrilous document ever to be circulated in the UN." He termed it "unworthy of the attention of any UN member state."

Jewish Agency Plans 22 Additional Golan Heights Settlements, Bringing Total To 32

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency announced today that it will establish 22 more settlements in the Golan Heights, bringing the total to 32 since the June, 1967 Six-Day War, when the Syrian territory was seized by Israel in bloody fighting. A Jewish Agency official said that Israel had invested more than \$5 million in the Golan Heights and planned to invest \$5 million more. For the time being, settlers are using abandoned Syrian Army camps as temporary quarters. Another project in the region will be development of six miles of the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee which had formerly been within the range of Syrian guns on the Heights. Israel has approved about 70 requests from Syrians for permission to join their families in the occupied Heights, but Syrian authorities refused to let them go, it was disclosed in the Knesset (Parliament) last week.

Eshkol's Conference Says Aliyah, Jewish Education Should Be Top Diaspora Priority

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's conference of world Jewish leaders ended yesterday with 160 delegates representing communities and organizations in 26 countries concurring in a statement asserting that aliyah — immigration to Israel — and Jewish education should be given top priority in the concerns of Jews outside Israel. Mr. Eshkol, who addressed the closing session, took issue with some speakers who had referred to "two parts" of the Jewish people — those in Israel and in the diaspora. He argued that such a distinction was "purely geographical" and "somewhat damaging," insisted that there was "only one Jewish people," and urged a doubling of immigration from the free world in the next 30 years.

The conference was the second of three international gatherings called by Mr. Eshkol within the framework of Israel's 20th anniversary year. The first, a world Jewish economic conference, convened last June. An international conference on the mobilization of resources to meet Israel's needs is scheduled for this June. The delegates were also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon who declared that Israel would not budge from the present cease-fire lines without a formal peace treaty negotiated with the Arabs. Apparently rejecting current Soviet and French moves for a Four Power initiative in the Middle East, Gen. Allon warned that temporary arrangements with the Arabs would only lead to another war.

The conference's closing statement was not presented in the form of a resolution on which the delegates could vote but as a consensus. There were no dissenting voices. However, five American organizations, including the American Jewish Committee, said they would have to present the key passage on aliyah to their respective governing bodies. That passage said the conference regarded "aliyah from all parts of the world as the responsibility of the whole Jewish people" and called on all communities, synagogues and Jewish organizations to establish special aliyah committees to promote the movement. The conference also said priority should be given in raising and allocating funds to the strengthening of Jewish education without ideological interference, to strengthening of youth activities and enhancement of the status of Jewish teachers and improvement of their working conditions.

At an earlier session, the conference heard a report from Dr. Benjamin Eliav, a Government official and authority on Soviet affairs, who said Moscow's anti-Israel campaign had degenerated into the crudest form of anti-Semitism but protests against it by Jews and others in the free world had prevented any large scale persecution of Russian Jews. Dr. Eliav said there was evidence of the existence of a special center in the Soviet Union for the dissemination of anti-Semitic propaganda.

3 Iraqi Jews Slated To Die, Charged With Serving As Spies For Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Three Iraqi Jews, sentenced to death in Baghdad for allegedly spying for Israel, were scheduled to be executed today, according to reliable information received here. Four other Jews were on trial for their lives and at least 12 more were under arrest on the same charge and their trial was imminent, the informant said.

(The American Jewish Committee reported in New York yesterday that seven Iraqi Jews and 12 other Iraqis, including a Christian, were facing death sentences on charges of espionage. The AJCommittee's information was received from its overseas office. Richard Maass, chairman of its foreign affairs department said that five of the Jewish defendants had been arrested immediately after the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. "The whole basis of this show trial seems absurd when we realize that Jews who have been held in jail for 18 months are now being tried for alleged spying activities," Mr. Maass said. According to the AJCommittee's information, two of the Jews were being tried in absentia. They were identified as Shaul Sasson, probably the son of the Grand Rabbi of Iraq, and Albert Nounou. The others are Ezra Zilkha, Haskiel Zilkha, Yakob Namirdi, Eliahu Ilyash and Safa Hayim. The latest reports of the trial, which was said to be conducted on camera, followed reports two weeks ago of Iraqi charges of an alleged Israeli, pro-American plot against the Iraqi Government, Mr. Maass noted.)

(At a press conference in Paris today, the World Jewish Congress expressed horror at the death sentences and said the victims were clearly the scapegoats for Iraq's internal difficulties.)

Italian Jewish Community Leader Discloses Wave Of Hate Literature, Activities

ROME, Jan. 13 (JTA)--An Italian Jewish community leader has disclosed a wave of anti-Semitic literature, daubings of anti-Jewish slogans on walls and threatening phone calls to the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Elio Toaff, and to other prominent Italian Jews. Renzo Levi, vice president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, said at a press conference that his organization attributed the hate activities to an international movement, possibly composed of extremists of the right and left wings. Asked if he suspected specific individuals or groups, Mr. Levi said, "Yes, we do, but we cannot prove our suspicions."

Anonymous telephone calls were made to Chief Rabbi Toaff by a man who threatened, "tomorrow you die." Similar threats were received recently by Aldo Garosci, a Jewish journalist, and Gianfranco Tedeschi, president of the Rome Jewish community. Mr. Levi said the threats followed at least 16 incidents in 20 months of anti-Semitic literature being distributed and anti-Jewish slogans being painted on walls in 12 Italian cities.

He said that vandalizing of Jewish cemeteries in three Italian towns last year and swastika daubings on synagogue walls were ominously similar to incidents in West Germany, Holland, France and Belgium. While the telephone threats appeared to come from right-wingers, slogans such as "Jew equals SS" appear to be the work of leftist extremists, he said.

Rep. Hogan Deplores Synagogue Explosion, May Seek Tougher Federal Anti-Bombing Laws

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Rep. Larry Hogan, Maryland Republican, today deplored the bombings Saturday night of Shaare Tikvah Synagogue in Prince Georges County, Md. and said he may initiate action for stronger Federal anti-bombing laws. Rep. Hogan told Congress, "American people will not tolerate terrorist attacks on houses of worship...The time has come to review anti-bombing statutes to determine what additional stronger Federal legislation might be adopted to punish and discourage such terrorism." He said, "to ignore such a reprehensible deed as the bombing of a synagogue is to invite further depredations of this nature. We are dealing here with not only a desecration of a sacred edifice but a grave threat to lives of innocent persons." He said he is studying existing statutes and would consider sponsoring "entirely new legislation" if needed.

The shattering explosion that blasted the suburban Washington Conservative synagogue might have taken a heavy toll of lives if a dance scheduled in the social activities room had not been cancelled at the last minute because of flu. Rabbi Robert Chernoff of Shaare Tikvah, said the explosion, which caused an estimated \$150,000 damage to the 15-month-old building, occurred at a time when the social room would have been occupied by teenagers. "Had they been in the social activities room, it would have been a slaughter," Rabbi Chernoff said.

Local police summoned the Federal Bureau of Investigation and experts from the U.S. Army bomb squad at Fort McNair, Va., to determine the nature of the explosive that knocked a hole in a pressed concrete floor, blew out three heavy metal doors and send debris flying across the social room. Police said, "A high explosive charge of undetermined type was placed on the floor of a short passageway between the social room and the kitchen." They reported finding no signs of forcible entry into the locked building and no notes. Members of the 175-family congregation said that a group of teenage boys entered the kitchen through a skylight last fall and raided a supply of sacramental wine. They speculated that the same skylight may have been used to plant the explosives. The major damage was confined to the rear of the synagogue and Rabbi Chernoff said the sanctuary would be ready for use by next weekend. He reported receiving "many calls" from Christian churches in the area offering the use of their facilities.

Constitutional Court In West Germany To Hear Appeals Of Auschwitz Defendants

BONN, Jan. 13 (JTA)--The Constitutional High Court at Karlsruhe will start hearings tomorrow on appeals by defendants in the main Auschwitz trials which were held in Frankfurt and lasted over a year. Six of the accused were given life sentences, 11 received lesser sentences and three were acquitted. Several of those convicted however are already free, among them Robert Mulka who was deputy commander of the Auschwitz death camp. The appeal hearings are expected to last several weeks.