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Middle East Deadlock Is One Of Major Foreign Policy Problems Facing Nixon

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The torch was passed today to Richard M. Nixon, who became the 37th President of the United States. Among the myriad problems facing his new Republican Administration was the Middle East crisis. Whether that torch will cast light on the rocky road to an Arab-Israeli settlement will hinge, to a large extent, on what foreign policy Mr. Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and their advisors adopt in the days ahead.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Nixon stressed the theme of America as a "peace-maker." Without any direct reference to the Middle East, he said that a United States goal should be this: "where peace is unknown, make it welcome; where peace is fragile, make it strong; where peace is temporary, make it permanent." He said, "After a period of confrontation, we are entering an era of negotiation. Let all the nations know that during this Administration, our lines of communication will be open. We seek an open world--open to ideas, open to the exchange of goods and people, a world in which no people, great or small, will live in angry isolation."

Mr. Nixon, a Quaker, took the oath of office using two brown leather-covered King James family Bibles, dating back to 1828 and 1873. They were open to Isaiah, chapter two, verse four: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more."

One of the world's hottest trouble spots is the Middle East. The scene of potentially renewed warfare, it is the locus of a major conflict of interest between Moscow and Washington. During his campaign, Mr. Nixon called for Israeli military superiority to deter possible war, but Republican politicians and business interests have tended to show greater concern over the years for the Arabs than for Israel. In one campaign speech, Mr. Nixon characterized the Russians as "fishing in troubled Middle Eastern waters" and called on the U.S. to "deal directly" with the Kremlin on peace-keeping in the region. He also called for strengthening America's ruptured ties with the Arab world and said Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser was the "key" to a settlement. He opposed "simply writing Nasser off."

As Mr. Nixon was taking the oath of office, President Nasser, addressing the National Assembly in Cairo, called for a military buildup that could force Israel to retreat from Arab land occupied during the Six-Day War. He hinted that there might be an Arab summit conference soon to study the Middle East deadlock. Pledging support of Arab guerrillas, he rejected negotiations with Israel, said Egypt advocated peace, and added, "we must realize that the enemy will not retreat unless we force them by fighting."

The Arab world meanwhile was angry over reports that the U.S. had adopted a pro-Israel stance in replying to Soviet peace proposals. Hope was expressed that President Nixon would alter U.S. policies. The authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported Sunday that the Johnson Administration, in replying to the Soviet plan, had called for an international campaign to halt the "grave increase of Arab terrorist operations." (The State Department did not confirm whether the article was true.) The Al Ahram report said that Mr. Johnson's reply (which was understood to have been seen by Secretary of State Rogers) called for guarantees of navigation rights, assumed to be Israeli, through the Strait of Tiran, and for demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula. It also said that the U.S. insisted that a peace settlement must be reached by the disputants and not be imposed. According to reports reaching here, headlines in Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut denounced the Johnson message, and some newspapers hoped for better things from Mr. Nixon.

At the inauguration on the Capitol steps, Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles was one of the clergymen delivering prayers.

Israel Replies Formally To De Gaulle's Embargo, Does Not Request Refund

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Israel today handed its first official note to the French Government on President Charles de Gaulle's embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. The note was presented to the French Ambassador, by Gideon Rafael, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry. The two conferred at the French Embassy for about 45 minutes. The note reportedly denounced the embargo as a breach of faith by the French Government. It was learned that the note made Israel's juridical position clear and reserved its right to take whatever action was deemed necessary with respect to the embargo. However, Israel made no request at this juncture for a refund of some \$100 million paid to France for embargoed Mirage V jets, spare parts and other equipment. Israel has demanded that France live up to its contractual obligations and supply the arms ordered.

It was learned that the French Ambassador, on his own initiative, took the occasion of Mr. Rafael's visit to acquaint him officially with France's proposal for a Four Power conference on the Middle East. Mr. Rafael reportedly rejected the French stand as prejudicial to the mission of United Nations peace envoy, Gunnar V. Jarring.

The Israeli Government meanwhile approved a visit to France by Menachem Beigin, leader of the Herut Party and a Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Cabinet. Mr. Beigin will go to Paris next week to attend a dinner in honor of Gen. Pierre Koenig, former resistance leader and head of the Franco-Israel Friendship League. The Government felt that a refusal of the invitation would be an affront to Israel's friends in France.

Peres Says West German Government Made Gift Of \$500 Million In Arms

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- A former official of Israel's Defense Ministry disclosed yesterday that West Germany had made a gift to Israel of \$500 million worth of arms. Shimon Peres, who was the ministry's director-general and is now deputy secretary general of the Israel Labor Party, spoke at a party meeting in Ashdod. He did not elaborate on the German gift nor did he say when the arms were received. Mr. Peres made the disclosure in the course of remarks on France's recent embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel.

Labor Gains First Knesset Majority in Israel's History As Alignment Covenant Signed

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The new political alignment between Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's Israel Labor Party and the left-wing labor party, Mapam, was hailed by Mr. Eshkol and other party leaders at a celebration following the signing of a formal protocol between the two factions here yesterday. The alignment gives Labor an absolute majority in the Knesset (Parliament) for the first time in Israel's history. But the ink had not dried on the document when differences appeared between the new partners and within the ranks of each.

The Israel Labor Party, which is middle-of-the-road Socialist, was created early in 1968 by the merger of Mapai, Achdut Avodah and Rafi. Rafi adherents, led by Shimon Peres, deputy secretary general of the Labor Party, refused to sign the alignment covenant on grounds that it was contrary in spirit and wording to the Labor Party's own founding document. They objected specifically to Mapam's representation of six seats on the alignment's 15-member executive board which they considered excessive in view of the fact that the Labor Party holds 55 Knesset seats to Mapam's nine.

Mapam's secretary-general, Meir Yaari, did not attend the alignment festivities because of ill health. But the veteran politician dashed some cold water on the proceedings with a message warning that "We promise no idyl" inside the new partnership. Mr. Yaari said, "We will continue our struggle for a just balance between capital and labor and will not tolerate a wage freeze when capitalists are making 30 percent profit." Another view was taken by Pinhas Sapir, secretary-general of the Labor Party, Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Cabinet and former Finance Minister. He asserted that the alignment will not be just a "technical edifice" but a "close partnership" between "the most constructive forces" in Israel. Mr. Sapir promised that the alignment would strive for a society based on cooperation, equality, pioneering and military strength. Yacov Hazan, a Mapam member of the Knesset, said that the June, 1967 Six-Day War was mainly responsible for bringing his party into alignment with its former rivals because "it shattered old concepts and made previous divisions meaningless." Mr. Peres declared however that fundamental differences remained between Labor and Mapam despite the alignment. "On the national level we believe in the need to maintain separate Jewish and Arab parties (Mapam and its Arab affiliates have always appeared on a common election list) and in the social sphere we do not think we are still engaged in a class struggle but that we are in a state of transition from a working class to a working nation," Mr. Peres declared. Minister of Transport, Moshe Carmel, a leader of the Achdut Avodah faction, urged expanded Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

The independent newspaper Haaretz, commenting on the alignment today, said that despite its parliamentary majority, Labor still speaks in terms of coalition governments which means it will not exercise its power to combat clerical influences. The paper referred to the National Religious Party which, though representing a minority of the electorate, has always held the balance of power in coalition governments. Representatives of the religious bloc were conspicuously absent from yesterday's festivities which were attended by President Zalman Shazar and leaders of other parties. Also absent were members of Gahal, the alignment of the right-wing Herut and the Liberal Party, and former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who has had differences with Mr. Eshkol.

Israeli Soldier Injured In Exchange Of Fire; Other Commando Incidents Reported

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was injured yesterday in an exchange of fire with El Fatah marauders near the Damiya bridge. The El Fatah band opened fire with bazookas, a military spokesman said. An explosion damaged a small bridge on the Raffah-Khan Yunis road in the southern Gaza strip yesterday. The Nablus labor exchange office was damaged by explosives detonated on the building's staircase. There were no casualties in either incident. A number of home-made bazooka shells with self-firing devices were discovered near Arad, north of Beersheba, yesterday. An investigation is under way.

Agency Treasurer Says World Jewry Will Be Asked For \$300 Million In 1969

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The treasurer of the Jewish Agency said today that world Jewry will be asked to raise \$300 million for Israel in 1969, twice last year's amount and close to the record peak of 1967. Leon Dultzin spoke at a press conference prior to his departure for the United States on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's Israel Emergency Fund campaign. He said that despite the increased goal, the Jewish Agency's budget will remain at \$328,572,000, the same as last year. He said the Agency had at its disposal the balance of \$100 million from last year's emergency fund campaign. He said the new budget was established in anticipation of an influx of 35,000 new immigrants this year.

Nablus Students Cut Classes, Hail De Gaulle

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Pupils of the Al Salahiya High School in Nablus boycotted classes today in an expression of solidarity with French President Charles de Gaulle for his embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. The youngsters told reporters that they wanted to stage a demonstration for Gen. de Gaulle but feared the reaction of Israeli authorities.

Bonn Interior Ministry Says Government Has New Basis For Avoiding Action On NPD

BONN, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- An official of the West German Ministry of Interior said on a television interview today that the Government should not be expected to take action to outlaw the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) because new information about the party indicated that barring it was not the right method to deal with the problems it posed. The remark, by Heinrich Koppler, Secretary of State for the Ministry, appeared to contradict earlier statements by Minister of Interior Ernst Benda that there was ample evidence to warrant banning the NPD as anti-democratic under West German law. Mr. Koppler said the new information was derived from studies of the NPD's "social structure." Mr. Benda's evidence was compiled in an investigation of the reputedly neo-Nazi party by the ministry which was completed last fall. It was to have been the basis of a Government appeal to the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe for a ban on the NPD. Such an appeal had been under consideration for some time but the Government hesitated to move for fear that a rejection of its brief by the court would invest the NPD with respectability. The party, headed by Adolf von Thadden, espouses ultra-nationalistic views and many tenets of the old Nazi Party but has been careful to remain within the bounds of West German law. It holds seats in seven West German state legislatures and will stand for election to the Bundestag (lower house) next fall. Mr. von Thadden has predicted that his party would poll 10 percent of the national vote and win 50 Bundestag seats.

Trial Opens For 5 Austrians Charged With Murder, Complicity In Death of Poles

GRAZ, Austria, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The trial opened today of five Austrians charged with murder or complicity in the murder of Jews in Poland while serving in the Nazi occupation police during World War II. The prosecution was expected to call 50 witnesses from the United States, Israel, Australia, Poland and West Germany. The crimes were allegedly committed in the towns of Kielce, Opatow, Busko, Zdroj and Jedrzejaw.

The defendants are Gerulf Mayer, 59, a gendarmery major; Alfred Lusser, 57, a senior gendarmery official and Karl Popp, 55, a senior sergeant in the Austrian Army, who are charged with murder; and Karl Macher, 57, an insurance clerk, and Georg Unterberger, a retired policeman, who are charged with complicity in murder.

Franz Novak, a former SS officer and wartime aide to Adolf Eichmann, will go on trial for the third time in Vienna next May on charges of conspiring to murder 400,000 Jews at Auschwitz concentration camp. Previous verdicts against Novak were overturned.

(Nine former guards at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp who are serving previous sentences for complicity in murder were brought to trial anew by a Cologne court today on the basis of fresh evidence. The main defendant is former SS sergeant Otto Kaiser, 56, who received a 15-year term in 1965.)

JDC Will Provide ORT With \$2,350,000 For Overseas Vocational Training Programs

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee will provide ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) with at least \$2,350,000 in 1969 for its overseas vocational training programs, it was announced by officials of both organizations. They said the sum was \$100,000 more than the 1968 allocation, reflecting the increased need for vocational education among Jewish youth and training for adults overseas, especially in Israel and France. The JDC grant will help finance such activities in Europe, North Africa, Iran and India, benefitting more than 50,000 persons. ORT-operated trade schools in 38 cities and towns in Israel will be the largest beneficiaries of the 1969 grant. Substantial allocations will be assigned to the training of Jewish refugees from North Africa in France.

Esperanto-Yiddish, Yiddish-Esperanto Dictionary Is Published In Montreal

MONTREAL, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Esperanto, an artificial international language that never caught on, and Yiddish, the language of generations of Eastern European Jews, have been combined in an Esperanto-Yiddish-Yiddish Esperanto dictionary published here by Harry Fineman. The author noted in his introduction that the root areas of the Yiddish language were destroyed by the slaughter of six million Jews by the Nazis in Europe, and use of the language today is confined to the immigrant generation in the free world. Esperanto, invented by the late Dr. Ludwig Zamenhoff, a Polish Jew, was intended to be a world language that would become universal when a global society without national barriers was achieved. Some Yiddishists today see a revived interest in the language among Jewish youth and the note of the many Yiddish words and expressions that have become part of the English language. Esperanto, however, has never been spoken by more than a scattered few. The Esperanto-Yiddish section of the dictionary comprises 149 pages and the Yiddish-Esperanto section, 317 pages.

Kosher Hotel, Restaurant In Argentina Resort Damaged By Anti-Semitic Vandals

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- A kosher hotel and restaurant in Mar del Plata, an Argentine sea resort, was severely damaged by vandals who left virulent anti-Semitic inscriptions and swastika daubings. The attack was made during the absence of the owners. Much of the furniture was destroyed. Abraham Rubinstein, chairman of the Mar del Plata section of the DAIA, the central representative agency of Argentine Jewry, denounced the vandalism in a statement to Raul Nava, the Buenos Aires provincial government minister.

New Yiddish Weekly Begun In Winnipeg, Succeeds Bi-Lingual Paper Now Defunct

TORONTO, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- A new Yiddish weekly, "Dos Naye Yiddish Vort," has begun publication in Winnipeg, Manitoba, succeeding the Yiddish-English Israelite Press, a bi-lingual newspaper that ceased publication recently after 58 years. The new journal is edited by a board consisting of Joseph Bar-El, Shmuel Tauber, Mechl Nitikman, Meyer Zucker and George Skulsky.

Negro Teachers Organization Charges Lindsay With Appeasing Jews On Poem Issue

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Mayor John V. Lindsay was accused by the head of the African-American Teachers Association of "trying to appease the powerful Jewish financiers of the city" for ordering an investigation into the reading of an anti-Semitic poem by a controversial Negro school teacher over a local radio station last month. The teacher, Leslie R. Campbell, was under suspension but was reinstated recently when a state panel found insufficient evidence to back up charges that he had harassed white teachers during the New York City teachers strike.

Albert Vann, president of the Negro teachers organization, said that Mayor Lindsay had, in effect, called for the dismissal of Mr. Campbell and threatened that "the black community...will not tolerate such action." He claimed that there were no anti-Semitic overtones in the poem read by Mr. Campbell over WBAI-FM last Dec. 26 but conceded that it was "critical of the Jews." Mayor Lindsay denounced the poem as "obviously anti-Semitic." It was dedicated to Albert Shanker, UFT president, and began with the verse, "Hey, Jew boy, with that yarmulka on your head/you pale-faced Jew boy, I wish you were dead." The poem was purportedly written by a 15-year-old Negro school boy. Mr. Vann said "poems critical of blacks are taught daily, are Jews beyond criticism?"

The American Jewish Committee meanwhile urged the immediate suspension of Mr. Campbell in a telegram to John Doar, president of the New York City Board of Education. Theodore Ellenoff, president of the AJCommittee's New York Chapter, said there was no place in public schools for bigots as teachers, no matter what their color, and demanded a full investigation of Mr. Campbell's fitness to teach.

Organizations Simmering Over Passages Considered Anti-Semitic In Museum Catalogue

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations were today still simmering over passages they regard as anti-Semitic in an introduction to a catalogue for an exhibition on Harlem life. Some 30 members of the Jewish Defense League yesterday picketed the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the controversial "Harlem on My Mind" exhibit opened, and urged that it be boycotted. Rep. James H. Scheuer, Bronx Democrat and a Jew, who has announced his candidacy for Mayor, denounced the passages in the catalogue as "crude and obvious, virulent anti-Semitic and anti-ethnic remarks."

Among the remarks written two years ago as a high school term paper by Candice Van Ellison, now an 18-year-old Bridgeport University sophomore, were these: "The already badly exploited black" was allowed "to be further exploited by Jews...behind every hurdle that the Afro-American has yet to jump stands a Jew who has already cleared it."

Mayor John V. Lindsay and a number of Jewish organizations had asked that the introduction be deleted from the catalogues. The Museum prevailed upon the author to write a disclaimer, which appears only in the soft-cover edition, that "any racist overtones inferred from the passages quoted out of context are regrettable." The American Jewish Congress assailed the "so-called disclaimer" as unsatisfactory and called upon the museum to take the entire catalogue out of circulation. It said the disclaimer had "added insult to injury," adding that "the negligence of the museum in giving credence and support to racist remarks in the catalogue cannot be mitigated by any disclaimer, particularly one as half-hearted as this."

B'nai B'rith Study Official Says Jewish Education 'Too Wrapped Up' In The Past

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The national director of the B'nai B'rith's adult Jewish study program sharply criticized Jewish education yesterday for being "too wrapped up" in what Judaism and Jewish life were in the past and not active enough in interpreting the concepts of Judaism so that individual Jews can find answers to current social and moral issues.

Mrs. Lily Edelman spoke at the annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith's commission on adult Jewish education. She urged the Jewish community to make Jewish education more "problem-centered" and less concerned with "ladling out tradition for its own sake." Mrs. Edelman said that proponents of Jewish study oriented in the past "foster a harmful provincial attitude that points the Jew in the wrong direction--toward a self-imposed ghetto mentality--instead of equipping him to live constructively as a citizen, a family-member and an individual." She said "Jewish education need not be concerned solely with specifically Jewish issues but can be applied to moral problems in today's society--such as racial unrest, Vietnam, poverty and the urban crisis--to which the Jewish ethic and the spirit of the Jewish tradition are relevant."

Rabbi Teitz Reports Receipt Of Religious Goods By Rabbi Levin Of Moscow

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Rabbi Pinhas Teitz of Elizabeth, N.J., a leading Orthodox rabbi, reported he had received a cable of thanks from Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow for a shipment of ritual objects sent to Moscow last month by Rabbi Teitz. Rabbi Teitz arranged for the shipment of nine cartons of prayer shawls, Mezuzot and other items, which were flown from Kennedy Airport on Dec. 24 by Aeroflot, the Soviet Airline. Rabbi Teitz said the cable from Rabbi Levin was in Hebrew and declared that "the religious articles you sent me have arrived properly."

2 Israelis Are Among 12 Semi-Finalists In Federation's Music Competition

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Two aspiring Israeli musicians are among 12 semi-finalists from seven nations who will compete in the seventh annual Dimitri Mitropoulos International Music Competition here next week. Avi Ostrowsky and Uri Segal were among the 12 who emerged from 30 hours of symphonic conducting trials at Carnegie Hall. The competition is sponsored by the Women's Division of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Other semi-finalists represent the United States, Italy, France, West Germany, Brazil and Bulgaria.