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British Relations With Arab World Grow Tense Over Rumored Arms Deal With Israel

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Britain's relations with the Arab world appeared today to be growing tense as a result of a rumored agreement for the sale of Centurion tanks to Israel and a growing fear on the part of the Arabs that Britain's Middle East policy now tends to favor Israel. The rumors of an arms deal grew out of last week's meeting between former Israeli Chief of Staff Zvi Tsur, now an assistant to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan with special responsibility for obtaining arms, and British Defense Secretary Denis Healey.

The British Army is replacing its Centurion tanks with new Chieftains, leaving a surplus of Centurions for sale. A Government spokesman refused to confirm or deny that any arms pact with Israel was in the making. He said the Government's policy was guided by the Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart's declaration of June, 1967 that Britain favored the suspension of all arms shipments to the Mideast but was not prepared to act unilaterally.

These developments brought strong representations from pro-Arab elements in Parliament and from the Arab world's press. Sir Dingle Foot, Christopher Mayhew and other Members of Parliament associated with the "British Committee for an Understanding with the Arabs" were expected to raise the question in the House of Commons. They have already brought it up with the Foreign Office. The semi-official Cairo daily, Al Ahram said yesterday that Egypt would advise Britain informally that arms supplies to Israel would be regarded as "a hostile act against the Arab countries."

The official Egyptian Government spokesman, Mohammed Hassan el-Zayyat, said Friday that any sale of arms to Israel "can only be explained as encouragement if not incitement to the continuation of aggression" and added that Britain's silence on the reported arms deal "calls for an explanation." The pro-Western Beirut newspaper L'Orient said that London was adopting a position which was intended to be a counterweight to that of Paris and to neutralize the effects of French diplomacy.

Following French President de Gaulle's recently enacted embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel, Aharon Remez, Israel's Ambassador to London, spoke hopefully of the likelihood of Britain being ready to fill orders for material affected by the embargo.

Dayan, Sinai Commander Warn Egyptians Of Reprisals For Sniping, Mining

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's Defense Minister and the commander of its military forces in the Sinai served notice on Egyptian authorities over the weekend that the continued escalation of sniping and mining incidents along the Suez Canal would provoke retaliation.

Gen. Dayan said Friday, "We shall not remain silent, we will react if these provocations persist." Several Israeli soldiers have been wounded by sniper fire across the canal in recent days and there has been an increase in the number of minings, although the latter have not caused any deaths so far. Gen. Dayan said it was possible that local Egyptian commanders, not Cairo, were responsible for the incidents. He said, "I appeal to the top level command to end these provocations lest the situation deteriorate along that front."

Maj. Gen. Haim Herzog warned, in a Jerusalem radio interview Saturday, that Israel was prepared to reply to Egyptian military actions along the Canal. "Hostile actions constitute a two-way street," he said. "The Egyptian command must surely realize by now that there is a line beyond which it is unwise to move if they wish to avoid Israeli reaction. They are very close to that line."

Israel Awaits Official Word On Egyptian Move To Free Ships In Suez

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- A new move by Egypt toward at least partial clearance of the Suez Canal in order to free 15 merchant ships stranded in the waterway since June, 1967 appeared to be underway today. But Israel, which must concur in any such move under the terms of the cease-fire agreements, officially knows nothing about it. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that contrary to press reports, Egypt has not asked United Nations chief cease-fire observer, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, to make any new arrangements with Israel concerning the canal.

The Egyptian Government announced Friday that it had given permission to the owners of the trapped ships to begin a survey of the canal bottom preparatory to removal of the vessels via the canal's southern exit. It was the first move toward freeing the ships since Israeli forces fired on an Egyptian survey launch in the northern reaches of the canal 13 months ago. Israel had agreed then to free the ships but only via the southern exit. (The London Telegraph said today that Israel's attitude has apparently not changed, for so long as the northern section of the canal remains blocked, Israel holds an important card in any diplomatic bargaining for a general settlement of the Mideast conflict.)

AJCongress Tells Nixon It Expects Him To Stand By Pledge On Israel's Strength

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress put President Nixon on notice today that it expects him to stand by his campaign assertions that Israel's military strength would be kept at a level to deter aggression and that the United States would deal directly with Russia to make sure its "client states" are kept in "check". Addressing a rally dealing with Israel's defense, AJCongress president Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland told 1,000 members that Jewry counted on Mr. Nixon's leadership to prevent "Israel's being sold into extinction or attrition by international wheeling and dealing." The rally voted a resolution voicing confidence that Mr. Nixon would reject efforts by "outsiders" to impose a Mideast peace not accepted by Israel and the Arabs in direct negotiations.

Both Rabbi Lelyveld and Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark, N.J., World Jewish Congress governing council chairman, decried as dangerous to Mideast peace the "illusion" that a Mideast war was on the verge of breaking out. Rabbi Lelyveld said a "manufactured mood of hysteria" would enable the Kremlin to achieve through appeasement a settlement at the expense of Israel's security. Dr. Prinz called for a U.S. policy that demands an end to terrorism and the Arab refusal to recognize Israel, and calls for a negotiated and "mutually respected relationship of peaceful co-existence and co-operation."

Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York City declared that the United Nations must end its "double standard" in its treatment of Israel and the Arabs. He said Israel is the potential victim of international "conduct which threatens to leave it helpless before renewed aggression." The U.S., he stressed, must refuse "to permit Israel to become a victim of superior military might." Father Edward Flannery, executive secretary for Catholic-Jewish relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, declared, "Israel's existence...must be preserved and guaranteed. Israel must be accorded all means necessary for a vigorous economic life." It must not "be a victim of terrorism, guerrilla warfare, border raids and inflammatory propaganda," he said.

Thant Responds To Jordanian Request, Asks Israeli Report On Status Of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry confirmed today that United Nations Secretary General U. Thant has asked Israel to report on progress made toward implementing the Security Council's May 21, 1967 resolution demanding the repeal of all steps taken to integrate and unify East and West Jerusalem. Mr. Thant's note was sent after Jordan's UN envoy Mohammed H. el-Farra asked him last week to furnish the Council with a report on implementation of the measure. Mr. Thant was also asked to request that Israel rescind without delay various measures that would make Israeli law applicable to businesses and professional endeavors in East Jerusalem.

The Ministry said that the Thant letter was "being studied." The May 21 resolution required Mr. Thant to submit a progress report to the Security Council. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and other members of the Government have said that the unification of Jerusalem is irrevocable.

Credit Dayan's Appearance Before Gahal With Saving National Coalition Cabinet

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- An 11th hour appeal for national unity by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan on Thursday was credited with averting a split in the national coalition Cabinet. But some of Gen. Dayan's Labor Party colleagues said today it was unseemly for Gen. Dayan to have intervened in the internal affairs of Gahal, the Herut-Liberal parties alignment.

Gahal, second largest party in the Government, voted 103-33 to stay in the coalition. The balloting stemmed from dissatisfaction with a remark attributed to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in a Newsweek magazine interview that Israel did not wish to retain the heavily populated Arab centers of the West Bank. Gahal is opposed to withdrawal from the occupied territories. Gen. Dayan, in an unprecedented appearance, urged alignment leaders to avert "a tremendous blow to Israel's capacity to face the grave challenges ahead."

Menahem Beigin, leader of the militant nationalistic Herut faction, said Gen. Dayan's appearance influenced the vote. Sources close to Gen. Dayan said his plea was made as a Cabinet member, not as a party member. Had Gahal left the Government, the remaining coalition partners would have still commanded 106 seats in the 120-member Knesset. Gahal has 22 Knesset seats.

Eban Tells Cabinet U.S., Britain Have Reiterated Opposition To Imposed Solution

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet today that the United States and Britain have reaffirmed their position that a peace agreement must be reached by the parties to the Mideast conflict. They have also reiterated opposition, he said, to an imposed settlement and continued support for the mission of United Nations Mideast peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.

Reporting on the latest Israeli talks with Dr. Jarring and Charles W. Yost, the U.S. envoy to the UN Mr. Eban indicated that Israel has told the U.S. it views with concern the current delay in the Jarring mission which it attributed to political maneuvering by France and other nations.

Dr. Jarring has indicated that he will not resume his mission unless something substantive emerges from the current bi-lateral UN talks among the Big Four (U.S., Britain, Russia and France) aimed at possible full-scale talks on a Mideast settlement.

He was said to be so disappointed over the lack of progress that he was considering the resumption of his post as Sweden's Ambassador to the Soviet Union. He reportedly does not want to return to the Mideast unless he carries a new endorsement of his mission and substantive guidelines from the major powers.

Terrorists Use Katyusha Rocket Launcher On Israeli Soil For First Time

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Soviet-made Katyusha rocket-launcher, a highly mobile deadly weapon, figured in widespread attacks on Israeli civilian settlements over the weekend. Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, visited the new immigrant township of Mitzpah Ramon deep in the Negev, which was the target Friday of the first Katyusha rocket attack launched from Israeli soil. Hitherto Arab marauders have fired the rocket from behind the cease-fire lines. Arab saboteurs fired Katyusha rockets at Israel's Timnah copper mines Thursday but caused neither casualties nor damage.

Rocket and mortar fire from Jordan hit four settlements in the Beisan Valley area Friday--Kfar Ruppim, Kinneret, Poria and Deganya Beth. In the latter, the regional council secretary Hillel Kimche suffered a fatal heart seizure as a result of the explosions. In Poria, a woman was injured by shell splinters. A new, larger rocket launcher was used--the 240-millimeter Katyusha. Previously, 133-millimeter Katyushas were fired.

Mitzpah Ramon, with a population of 3,000, lies some 70 miles south of Beersheva and less than 40 miles from the Jordanian border. The rocket attack caused little damage, but Israeli Army units were investigating how marauders managed to cross the border, penetrate Israeli soil to a point less than 10 miles from the village, fire their two rockets and escape. The Katyusha is light and can be transported by truck.

A military spokesman reported that an Israeli patrol came under machinegun fire from Jordanian territory in the northern Beisan Valley today. The patrol and other Israeli forces returned the fire.

Two soldiers and a civilian working with the Israeli Army were injured today when a military vehicle struck a mine in a Gaza street. Two soldiers were also injured when an Army vehicle hit a mine in the Negev. A hand-grenade thrown in Nablus missed an army truck but struck a local car, injuring seven local Arabs.

Two Israeli fighter-bombers Friday attacked and "silenced" Jordanian gun emplacements reported to have fired bazooka shells at a border patrol in the northern Beisan Valley, the military spokesman said.

Ghanaian Government Will Seek Repayment From Israel For Plane Destroyed In Beirut

ACCRA, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Ghanaian Government will seek compensation from Israel for a \$3.6 million Viscount-10 jet destroyed in Israel's Dec. 28 commando raid on Beirut Airport. The Ghanaian-owned plane was on lease to the Middle East Airlines and bore that company's markings. The plane was not covered by war risk insurance and Middle East Airlines has refused to compensate Ghana for the loss on the grounds that the plane's owner is responsible for insurance under terms of the charter. Thirteen commercial airliners were destroyed, without loss of life, in the raid, a reprisal for an Arab terrorist attack on an El Al airliner in Athens that took one Israeli life.

British Jews Will Circulate Nationwide Petition Seeking Thant Aid For Iraqi Jews

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews has prepared a national petition aimed at the rescue of the remaining Jews of Iraq and other Arab countries. Alderman Michael M. Fidler, board president, announced today that the petition would be addressed to United Nations Secretary General U Thant, urging him on behalf of "the men and women of Britain" to use his good offices to persuade the Baghdad Government to permit the immediate emigration of Iraqi Jews. The petition will also call on Mr. Thant to call upon the Governments of Egypt and Syria to permit their Jews to leave as well.

In Amsterdam, the Holland-Israel Society and the Catholic Peoples Party, the largest political party in The Netherlands, have urged high level intervention in Arab countries to secure permission for emigration by Jews whose lives are endangered. The Catholic Party called on the Dutch Government to act. The Society asked the local Red Cross to request intervention by the International Red Cross in Geneva to speed the departure of Jews from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

2 Former Nazis Go On Trial Again For Shooting Thousands Of Jews In Russia

BONN, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Two former Nazis charged with shooting to death thousands of Jews in Russia during World War II were on trial today in Mainz for the second time. The first trial of Leopold Windisch, 65, and Rudolf Werner, 61, a government official, was ended on a technicality. The two are accused of taking part in the shooting of 12,800 persons between the autumn, 1941, and summer, 1942. Most of the victims were Jews, many were Gypsies.

20 Knesset Members Will Visit West Germany; Confer With Top Leadership

BONN, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- A delegation of 20 members of the Israel Knesset (Parliament) representing all parties in the Israel Government will visit West Germany from March 17-28 and meet with top German leaders, it was announced here today. The delegation will be headed by David Hacohen, chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs committee. It will include an Arab MK. Meetings are scheduled with Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, Bundestag (lower house) president Kai-Uwe Von Hassell, Foreign Minister Willy Brandt and Interior Minister Hans Benda. The Israeli delegation will also meet Mayor Klaus Schuetz of West Berlin and will visit the city council and the Jewish community there. They will visit Hamburg and Munich. An "Israel Week" in Stuttgart will coincide with their visit.

Monthly Trade Deficit Jumped 90 Percent In January Following Import Increase

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- An increase in imports last month hiked Israel's trade deficit nearly 90 percent over January, 1968.

Leading Negro Newspaper Urges Black Organizations To Condemn Anti-Semitism

CHICAGO, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- One of the nation's leading Negro dailies urged the major national Negro organizations and civil rights groups this week to issue an unqualified condemnation of anti-Semitism in the black community.

The Chicago Daily Defender said in an editorial, "Though anti-Semitism among Negroes is on a minimal scale, we think the NAACP and the National Urban League and other civil rights organizations such as CORE and the Southern Christian Leadership (founded by Dr. Martin Luther King) should issue a strong statement either collectively or individually, denouncing in no uncertain terms any and all anti-Semitic agitations among black people."

The plea by the Defender was made at the conclusion of an editorial which praised the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) for its recent call to American Jews not to abandon their traditional support of the Negro struggle for civil rights, despite the anti-Semitism of some black militants.

The Defender said, "It should be brought out that such racism is not only injurious to the Negro cause per se, but is equally harmful as an impediment to the whole democratic process. Let's not forget the old Scriptural injunction: He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword."

A view that the white community was not adequately informed of the dimensions of black anti-Semitism was presented in a letter published in another major Negro daily, the Amsterdam News of New York. The author, Robert B. Hill, a research associate in the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University, cited two studies of the issue which, he said, provide "a more balanced perspective." One was the 1964 study conducted by Gary Marx for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which found that Negroes on the whole were less anti-Semitic than whites, that Jews were not being singled out by blacks as scapegoats and that Negroes had more, not less, favorable attitudes toward Jews than toward any other white ethnic group. The second study, which largely agreed with Mr. Marx's findings, was completed in 1968 for the American Jewish Committee by Carolyn Atkinson of the Columbia University Bureau of Applied Social Research, Mr. Hill said. "The findings from this study, to my knowledge, have never been made public," Mr. Hill wrote.

Hyman Bookbinder, the Washington, D.C. representative of the Committee warned, in a letter published in the Washington Post today, that the anti-Semitism of a relative handful of blacks who also cry for separatism, segregation and Negro nationalism is playing into the hands of white racists in America. "Never before have we had so classic a case of opposite extremes ending up advocating the same programs," Mr. Bookbinder wrote.

Jewish National Fund Announces Memorial Forest For Iraqi Martyrs, In Israel

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund announced today that it will plant a Memorial Forest for Iraqi Martyrs in Israel. Herman L. Weisman, president, and Dr. Milton Aron, executive vice president, said the forest will memorialize the nine Iraqi Jews recently executed as Israeli spies by the Baghdad Government and serve as an "act of solidarity" with the remaining 2,500 Jews in that country.

The decision to plant the forest, the officials said, followed a "flood" of requests to JNF offices across the United States that trees be planted in memory of the nine men publically hanged in Baghdad and Basra.

Greater New York UJA Names Levinson As President, Bassine As Chairman Of Board

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York has elected industrialist Morris L. Levinson as president, merchant Charles C. Bassine as chairman of the board, and attorney Albert Parker as executive committee chairman. The organization raises funds in New York City, Westchester and Long Island for the United Israel Appeal; Joint Distribution Committee, including the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT); New York Association for New Americans; United Hias Service, and National Jewish Welfare Board.

Bostonians Plan Holocaust Memorial; Will Be Designed By Nathan Rappoport

BOSTON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Boston will join other cities across the United States that have erected memorials to the Six Million Jews slaughtered in the Hitler holocaust. The Association of New Americans, many of whom lost entire families to the Nazis, has established the Z'chor Memorial Foundation which will conduct a campaign to finance the memorial.

The preliminary design by sculptor Nathan Rappoport contains a broad 32-foot arch symbolizing the rainbow, on which is lettered the Biblical admonition of God following the flood that "never again shall a holocaust envelope an entire people." Above the arch is a pair of hands holding aloft the Torah on which are inscribed Hebrew words relating to the flood epic. In relief on the underside of the arch is a tableau depicting the struggles of the Jews during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The foundation also hopes to build a "living memorial" in the form of a museum or open air amphitheater.

Dr. David Klein Dead at 45; Taught Literature At CCNY And Hebrew University

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Dr. David Klein, a professor of English literature at the City College of New York for 45 years and for five years a lecturer in English language and literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, died here at the age of 88. He was an active Zionist and a member of several national Jewish organizations.