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Confirm Reports That Iraq Plans New Executions, Including Jews, For Alleged Spying

UNITED NATIONS, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Reports circulated here yesterday that Iraq will hang seven more men tomorrow or Tuesday--at least two or three of them Jews--for allegedly spying for Israel, were confirmed today by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Jerusalem. Mr. Eban, citing informed sources, said three Jews were among those scheduled for the noose. Tuesday marks the Jewish festival of Purim, celebrating the rescue of Persian Jewry from annihilation.

The reports of impending new hangings here came from various diplomatic sources. The informants, who remained anonymous, said that, as in the previous hangings in Iraq, the victims had been convicted by a military tribunal of spying on behalf of "Israel, Zionism and imperialism." On Jan. 27, 14 Iraqis were executed in Baghdad and Basra, and their bodies were displayed in public. Nine were Jews. Eight more persons, none Jews, were executed on Feb. 20. The first executions brought widespread criticism from Western countries, UN Secretary General U Thant, Pope Paul VI, Jewish organizations, and even admonitions to Iraq from several Arab governments. The second executions passed with fewer protests.

(The Israeli Government noted the reports with anxiety and voiced hope that the world reaction to the earlier hangings would lead the Baghdad authorities to refrain from repeating the act. Israeli Arabs attending a memorial meeting for the late Premier Levi Eshkol adopted a resolution protesting the hangings, harassment and torture of political prisoners of the Moslem, Jewish and Christian faiths in Iraq. The gathering included several hundred Arab labor leaders and representatives of town councils. Representatives from East Jerusalem also attended.)

(In Geneva, World Jewish Congress secretary-general Dr. Gerhard M. Riegner appealed to UN Human Rights Commission, meeting there and attended by Iraqi representatives, to do everything in its power to halt the new executions.)

(In anticipation of the new hangings involving more Jews, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, called on the U.S. Government "to act quickly and in the most forceful manner to prevent the execution of Iraqi citizens" who are victims "of nothing more than the fact that they are out of sympathy with the aims of the present Iraqi rulers." Jewish students said they would demonstrate in front of the Iraqi UN mission tomorrow in protest against the anticipated hangings. The demonstrators will represent the North American Jewish Youth Council, Yeshiva University, Stern College and several local Hebrew day schools.)

The summary executions of the alleged spies and the brutal display of their corpses created a wave of revulsion that was believed in some quarters to have had political effects on the Baghdad regime. Several news reports following the Jan. 27 hangings said that Iraq had released some Jews held in prison. These reports were denied last week by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Speaking at a memorial service for the victims, he said that "reliable sources reveal that the tragic status of Jews in Iraq, Egypt and Syria remains unchanged. He claimed that "hundreds of Jews are still languishing in prison for no other crime whatever other than that they are Jews."

Israel, Iraq Complain About Hangings At UN Human Rights Meeting

GENEVA, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Israel and Iraq lodged complaints against each other before the UN Human Rights Commission last week. The Israeli representative Zeev Zeltner denounced Baghdad for "the judicial murder" of nine Iraqi Jews and charged that the Iraqi Jewish community was the victim of persecution and incitement. Mrs. Bedia Afnan, the Iraqi representative, accused Israel of responsibility for the hangings and said Jerusalem was trying to exploit them for propaganda purposes.

Judge Zeltner said Iraqi authorities were spreading anti-Jewish propaganda at home. "As far as the Jews of Iraq are concerned," he said, "there is no solution or salvation but to emigrate." Mr. Zeltner also accused Egyptian authorities of arbitrary arrests of Jewish citizens and their imprisonment amid "inhuman cruelties." He said in Syria, school children were being "taught hatred of the Jew from nursery school." Mrs. Afnan claimed that the hangings were strictly an internal matter. She said if nine of the victims had not been Jewish "the Israeli Government would have never bothered to mention them."

(A committee for Iraqi Jews was formed on Friday in Amsterdam, consisting of 16 prominent Dutch personalities, including former Prime Minister William Drees and J.M.L. Cals, university professors, newspaper editors and clergymen. The group's first act was to send a telegram to the Iraqi Ambassador in Holland demanding that Iraqi Jews be given the right to emigrate.)

Eban Plans Washington Visit, Will Confer With Rogers And Possibly Nixon

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban will fly to Washington sometime after March 9 for an expected meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and possibly with President Richard M. Nixon, it was disclosed today. Mr. Eban's visit, though officially described as involving speeches to American Jewish organizations, was viewed here as having an urgent diplomatic nature. He intends to place Israel's position in the Middle East conflict clearly before the top officials of the U.S.

Government at a time when the Nixon administration is about to crystallize its views on various world problems, among them the Middle East. (U.S. officials said in Paris before President Nixon's flight to Rome today that there would be more bi-lateral talks on the Mideast with Britain, France and the Soviet Union to set up ground rules for a Four Power conference on tensions in the region. Secretary of State Rogers was expected to meet "very soon" with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin in Washington on the subject. Reports from Paris said that President Nixon had agreed with President Charles de Gaulle of France on Four Power talks to be held within a United Nations framework.)

Israel Government sources noted in connection with Foreign Minister Eban's Washington visit that the late Premier Levi Eshkol had been scheduled to go to the U.S. sometime this spring for a meeting with President Nixon and other U.S. officials. Mr. Eshkol's visit was originally to have taken place last fall as a farewell call on President Johnson and a meeting with the then President-elect Nixon. That visit was called off reportedly for reasons of health.

Reliable sources here stressed that in talks Mr. Eban held with members of the official U.S. delegation to Mr. Eshkol's funeral there were no indications of any proposed change in the American attitude toward the Mideast. However, Israel was said to feel an urgent need to discuss with Washington the implications of an "imposed settlement" of the Mideast problem and to ascertain whether Washington intends a compromise, a diplomatic move the Israelis feel would inevitably be at their expense.

There was speculation here today about whether President Nixon intended to visit Israel in the near future. It arose from remarks attributed to U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert H. Finch who headed the official U.S. delegation to the funeral. Sources here said that Mr. Finch told Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon that Mr. Nixon intends to visit Israel early during his tenure in office, but Americans and Israeli officials said they knew of no such plans. The U.S. Cabinet member reportedly said, "I know that while this is my first visit I will be back and I know from my discussions with President Nixon that he will be here very early in his Administration." Mr. Nixon, officials said in Paris, has expressed a desire to visit the Mideast and Mediterranean areas at some time but had not specified when.

(The authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported that Mahmoud Fawzi, President Nasser's chief foreign affairs advisor, will confer Friday in Paris with Henry Cabot Lodge, the U.S. chief delegate to the Vietnam peace talks. Fawzi was to begin a tour of Europe tomorrow to explain Egypt's position on the Mideast crisis to Government leaders. He will meet with President de Gaulle of France.)

Eban Decries Nasser's Statements To Times As Inimical To Peace In Mideast

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Eban reacted angrily to Egyptian President Nasser's New York Times interview today in which Col. Nasser predicted a new war unless Israel withdrew from every inch of territory occupied in the 1967 war and repatriated all Palestinian refugees who left since 1948. Mr. Eban called Col. Nasser's remarks to correspondent C. L. Sulzberger "a startling rejection of political truths and human values," and said he would "discuss the implications of the statements with other governments and with Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring," the UN special peace envoy.

Mr. Sulzberger reported that Col. Nasser spoke to him for two hours at the Presidential residence in Cairo on Feb. 26 in the presence of his close friend, Mohammed Hassanein Heykal, editor of the Cairo daily Al Ahram. "Mr. Nasser estimates that there are more than one million Palestinian Arab refugees," Mr. Sulzberger reported. "He gives the impression that he does not expect Israel to accept a political solution on the terms he suggests and that therefore a solution must be found by other means."

Mr. Eban, whose comments were published today in the daily Haaretz, declared that it was "evident among other things that Nasser effectively rejects the Security Council's resolution of November, 1967 for the establishment of permanent peace with Israel in secure and recognized boundaries." He added, "We must regard all contrary declarations by Egyptian spokesmen as null and void."

Mr. Eban said the Nasser interview "confirms all the most negative interpretations of Egyptian policy. The author of the 1967 war is the saboteur of peace in 1969. Nasser's policy is no peace, no recognition, no negotiation, no establishment of secure and recognized boundaries, no acknowledgement of Israel's sovereignty, no freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal, no agreement on arms limitation."

Mr. Sulzberger said Col. Nasser expressed admiration for El Fatah, the principle Palestinian guerrilla organization, which he likened to the resistance movements in Europe and the Philippines in World War II. Col. Nasser expressed readiness to resume diplomatic relations with the U.S. which he severed in 1967 but said there were serious difficulties, such as the sale of Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel which he saw as encouragement of Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories. Mr. Sulzberger reported that the Egyptian leader played down the role of Soviet aid and the Russian presence in his country. He said Moscow had sent large arms shipments to make up 1967 war losses but to date Egypt's armed strength does not exceed its pre-war strength. He said there were only 1,000 Russian technicians and training personnel in Egypt, "a figure far smaller than that mentioned by some Cairo diplomats," Mr. Sulzberger noted. Col. Nasser also claimed that Jews in Egypt enjoyed all the rights of Egyptian citizens and were free to emigrate if they wished, "a statement that is contested by foreign observers," Mr. Sulzberger remarked.

Mr. Eban appeared to consider it ironic that some diplomatic sources thought Col. Nasser's remarks in an interview published in Newsweek magazine recently had showed moderation. He said that today's interview confirmed "what I said after his Newsweek interview. He envisages a policy in two stages. First, the restoration of the fragile and insecure armistice lines of June 4, 1967; second the effective liquidation of Israel through terrorist action combined with the introduction of enough Arabs into what remains of Israel to ensure our country's conversion into an Arab state. His encouragement of those who murder people in supermarkets and passengers in civil aircraft is a true index of his char-

acter," Mr. Eban said. Referring to Mr. Sulzberger's report that Col. Nasser regarded all Israeli leaders as "hawks," Mr. Eban declared, "Anybody who wants Israel to exist and survive in peace with its neighbors is a hawk in Nasser's eyes. Nasser regards Israel's very existence as an offense which can only be expiated by its destruction. It is not from such sources as Nasser in the present mood of his policy that peace will come," Mr. Eban said.

Eshkol Buried With State Honors On Mount Herzl; 100,000 Lined Cortège Route

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Levi Eshkol, the third Premier of Israel, was buried with state honors on Mount Herzl overlooking Jerusalem on Friday. His coffin, draped in the blue and white national colors, was borne through the streets of the ancient capital from the courtyard of the Knesset (Parliament) where he had lain in state following his death at 73 from a heart attack last Wednesday. The funeral services were attended by scores of foreign dignitaries as well as Israeli leaders of all parties, delegations representing Jewish communities abroad and the family and friends of the late Premier. Israel's Arab citizens were also represented as were Arabs of East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank, wearing their traditional garb.

An estimated 100,000 Israelis lined the route as the cortège marched slowly to the hilltop named for the founder of the Zionist movement which has become a pantheon of Israeli leaders dating from the pre-Statehood era. Mr. Eshkol's coffin was lowered into a grave between those of Eliezer Kaplan, whom he had succeeded as Israel's Finance Minister, and Yosef Sprinzak, the first speaker of the Knesset. Maj. Gen. Shlomo Goren, Israel's chief military chaplain, intoned the verse, "A prince and a great man has fallen in Israel." Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Untermann read a chapter of the Psalms. Benzion Shkolnik, the late Prime Minister's brother, recited Kaddish, the mourner's prayer. President Zalman Shazar delivered a brief eulogy. Mr. Eshkol's coffin was covered with Judean marble. His grave was filled with earth from all parts of Israel, including his home kibbutz of Degania. Wreaths were placed around the fresh grave, one from President Richard M. Nixon.

Overflow Crowd Jam Jewish Agency Building In New York Tribute

NEW YORK, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- An overflow crowd jammed the auditorium of the Jewish Agency building here Friday to attend memorial services for Mr. Eshkol, who was buried a few hours earlier. The memorial was sponsored by the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel in cooperation with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and took the form of a national tribute by American Jewry. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, American Section chairman, presided. The audience was addressed by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, of New York; Rehavam Amir, Consul General of Israel representing his government; Dr. Joachim Prinz, former Presidents' Conference chairman; Pinchas Cruso, honorary president of the United Labor Zionist Organization, a longtime personal friend of Mr. Eshkol; and Meyer Weisgal, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Cantor David Kusevitsky chanted the El Moleh Rachamim. Mr. Amir said he was "the same man from his farm-kibbutz days until the days of his talks with the United States President."

Allon Hopes For Unity In 'Caretaker' Government; See Mrs. Meir As Interim Premier

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon said today that his interim "caretaker" Government would act as a unified body in the aftermath of the death of Premier Eshkol and would continue to assume collective responsibility for the nation's policies, even though, according to Israeli law, coalition discipline is no longer binding. Mr. Allon spoke at the first Cabinet meeting since Mr. Eshkol's death. His words appeared to be more of a plea for unity than a statement of fact, observers said. He said he hoped his view was shared by all members of the Government. The caretaker regime will continue to function until a new Government is formed with Knesset approval. Mr. Allon urged the various Knesset factions to do all they could to ease the task of President Shazar in naming a Premier-designate.

It appeared virtually certain today that the reins of Government until next November's national election would be placed in the hands of Mrs. Golda Meir, 70, former Foreign Minister, former Labor Minister and Israel's one-time Ambassador to Moscow. Mrs. Meir, though out of active political life for several years, is still regarded as a major power in the dominant United Labor Party. She was reportedly under heavy pressure from friends and Labor Party leaders to accept the interim Premiership in the interests of unity within the party and the nation. She was said to have promised a reply following the seven-day mourning period for Mr. Eshkol, but not before next Sunday at the earliest.

Mrs. Meir appeared to be the choice of Labor Party secretary general Pinchas Sapir, former Finance Minister and Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Eshkol coalition who was lobbying strenuously on her behalf with other coalition partners. She was considered acceptable to other elements in the coalition since her age and reported poor health indicate she is not likely to have political ambitions beyond next fall's elections. Her influence in the Labor Party inner circles was also believed capable of preventing a bitter show-down struggle for Mr. Eshkol's mantle between Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and acting Prime Minister Allon. Mrs. Meir was openly opposed to the appointment of Gen. Dayan as Defense Minister by Mr. Eshkol on the eve of the June, 1967 war. She represents the "old guard" of the Labor Party, the generation of the late Mr. Eshkol which many Israelis believe must relinquish power to younger, Palestine-born leadership. The Government announced today the appointment of a special ministerial committee to plan the construction of a memorial to the late Premier.

Rabbi Issachar Levin, 76, Dead; Was Former President Of Religious Zionists

MIAMI BEACH, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- Rabbi Issachar Levin, 76, of Trenton, N.J., a former president of the Religious Zionists of America, died here last weekend. He is spiritual leader of Congregation Jeshurun of Trenton.

Israel Bond Campaign Under Way With Unprecedented Initial Sale Of \$61,124,000

MIAMI BEACH, March 2 (JTA) -- The 1969 Israel Bond campaign was under way today with an unprecedented initial Bond sale totaling \$61,124,000. More than 2,500 delegates from the United States and Canada who participated in the international inaugural conferences of the Bond Organization endorsed adoption of a quota of \$200 million for the Bond drive throughout the free world. The Bonds will be sold in tribute to the late, Premier Levi Eshkol who died Wednesday. Mr. Eshkol was termed by Louis H. Boyar of Los Angeles, chairman of the Bond organization's board of governors, as the "chief architect" of Israel's economic program.

Mr. Boyar said that the decision to raise \$200 million as a "worldwide tribute" to Mr. Eshkol was made after the organization received numerous inquiries from persons across the country who wanted to buy Bonds in his memory.

The record-breaking \$61,124,000 result of the initial Israel Bond sale was announced by Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, who characterized it as "a lasting tribute to Levi Eshkol" and as a "demonstration of our solidarity with the people of Israel in their struggle for a just peace." An air of solemnity hung over the inaugural dinner which was converted into the first nationwide memorial tribute to the late Premier by Jewish communal leaders from all sections of the country. The sorrow of American Jewry was expressed by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Bond Organization, who said, "This is a solemn and dark day in the life of the Jewish people. Israel has lost its Prime Minister. The Jewish people has lost a great leader. We have lost a dear friend who inspired and guided us in our efforts to promote the building of Israel."

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Itzhak Rabin, paid a warm personal tribute to Mr. Eshkol. Gen. Rabin recalled his close association with the Israeli Premier in the three-and-a-half years during which Mr. Eshkol also headed the Ministry of Defense and Gen. Rabin was his Chief of Staff. The envoy declared that Israel was now engaged in three struggles for survival: the political struggle for peace; the military struggle for physical survival; and the struggle for national consolidation through development. Deploing the failure of the Arab states to enter into direct negotiations with Israel, he said he was pessimistic about prospects for an early settlement, but emphasized that Israel was confident that it has the means to maintain its defensive position.

Gen. Rabin placed great stress on the role of development and consolidation of the economic and social structure of Israel as the most decisive factor in its capacity to survive. He emphasized the "crucial importance" of the Bond campaign in giving Israel the economic strength to convince the Arab states "to give up any hope of destroying Israel and to make them realize that they have many benefits to gain from true cooperation in the Middle East."

The 1969 drive will be conducted under the leadership of Abraham Feinberg, president; Dr. Schwartz; Mr. Rothberg; Mr. Boyar; Ira Guilden, national chairman; Jack D. Weiler, secretary-treasurer; Lawrence G. Laskey, chairman of the executive committee; Morris W. Berinstein, national chairman of trustees; Mrs. Jan Pearce, chairman of the National Women's Division, and Julian Venezky, national chairman for regions. Since the first campaign in 1951, Bond receipts have been used for expansion of the economy. Until the parley began, \$1.3 billion in bonds had been sold.

Negro Editor Urges Black Power Proponents To Emulate Jewish Drive For Excellence

CHICAGO, Mar. 2 (JTA) -- A Negro editor called upon proponents of Black Power to emulate the Jewish drive for success and go after "Black excellence," Louis Martin, editor of Sengstacke Publications, said in a column in the Chicago Daily Defender, a Negro newspaper, that "there is something to Jewish culture, some dynamic factor that seems to impel them to excel." The Jews "have a passion for excellence," which has carried them to the top in the arts, science, business and professions despite a long history of persecution, he said.

Mr. Martin dismissed alleged Negro anti-Semitism as something "deliberately manufactured" by a handful of Black nationalists and a few Jewish unionists in the recent New York City school strike. He accused the press of giving it disproportionate coverage. "The big time journalists grabbed this story with all the glee of a hungry dog in a meat house. The prospect of Jews and Negroes beating each other over the head is a Christian delight," Mr. Martin said there was not a Black man in America who was not a direct beneficiary of Jewish interest and investment in liberal causes. "It would be an example of incredible stupidity for Blacks to single out of white society the Jews for special scorn."

Penna. AJCommittee Backs Bill Denying Liquor Licenses To Discriminating Clubs

HARRISBURG, Pa. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has endorsed a bill pending in the State Legislature that would deny liquor licenses to clubs that engaged in discrimination. The endorsement was contained in letters to the bill's sponsors, House majority leader Rep. K. Leroy Irvis and State Sen. Frederick H. Hobbs, written by J.C. Leff and Dr. Murray Friedman, the AJCommittee regional president and regional director respectively. The Jewish leaders urged that the Pennsylvania Legislature investigate and hold public hearings on restrictive club practices. The bill and the AJCommittee endorsement arose from an incident last Dec. 29 when Rep. Irvis, a Negro, was denied service in the dining room of the Harrisburg Moose Lodge while present in the lodge as a guest of a member. A three-member panel of the State Human Relations Commission has recommended that it issue a cease and desist order to the club. The AJCommittee letters cited a 1966 study which showed that 36 downtown and country clubs in 13 communities maintained restrictive practices based on race, religion and/or ethnic origin. The survey concluded that "social club discrimination is the most pervasive form of institutional anti-Semitism in our state."