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Fate Of 7 Iraqis Uncertain; Reports On Possible Executions Of Alleged Spies Conflict

NEW YORK, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Conflicting reports today cast uncertainty over the fate of seven Iraqis, at least two or three of them Jews, who were reportedly sentenced to death over the weekend for allegedly spying for Israel. A report from Damascus quoted Baghdad Radio as saying that there had been no trial and that no executions were scheduled yesterday or today. This ran contrary to reports from diplomatic sources at the United Nations and from Israel that seven were scheduled to die. Dispatches from Beirut today said there was neither confirmation nor denial of impending executions in Baghdad. But Baghdad Radio was reported to have declared that "no power in the world" would prevent Iraq from executing traitors. The broadcast, monitored in Beirut, reportedly said, "Iraq reaffirms anew that it will execute everyone who proves to have been a traitor to his homeland and to have spied for imperialism and Zionism."

A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the United States Government had unconfirmed reports that additional mass hangings were scheduled in Baghdad but hoped such information proved unfounded. The spokesman, Carl Barch, said, "As we have made clear on two recent occasions, we are concerned on humanitarian grounds by the circumstances of these trials and executions." On Jan. 27, 14 Iraqis, nine of them Jews, were hanged for alleged espionage for Israel. Seven more Iraqis--none Jews--were executed on the same charges on Feb. 20.

The New York Times said in an editorial today that "everyone interested in Mideast peace will hope that the Government of Iraq is not dissembling in its disavowal of plans to hang seven more persons" as Israeli spies. The editorial said, "The world will never be convinced that justice was done in secret trials and the whole history of the Middle East agony shows that political executions in such circumstances only breed savage retribution. Certainly, the Iraqis brought only dishonor on themselves by making a monstrous public spectacle of the hangings on similar charges of 14 persons in January and seven more last month...so far as the situation in Iraq is concerned, the interests of all parties would be well served if the remaining Jews were permitted to emigrate to Israel as the Israeli Government has again proposed."

In Montreal, Canadian Jewry, through its representative organizations, called on international public opinion to act to avert further hangings. A statement issued by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada said: "That the remnant of Iraqi Jewry, which is now subject to new persecution reminiscent of the Nazi error, is being further terrorized by the public hangings of its members, is beyond the comprehension of the civilized world."

In Sao Paulo, the Brazilian Institute for Human Rights urged United Nations Secretary-General U Thant today to intervene with the Iraqi Government. It was "deeply concerned over the Iraqi government's crimes against human dignity."

(Other pleas directed to the regime came in a full-page \$7,440 New York Times advertisement paid for by children in 17 New York area Jewish religious schools and placed through the Jewish Education Committee of New York; from Italian Foreign Minister Pietro Nenni; and the Dutch Committee For Support of Iraqi Jews, who sought aid via Foreign Minister Dr. Joseph Luns.)

UN Human Rights Commission Adopts Resolutions On Territories, Mideast Peace

GENEVA, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- An anti-Israel resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Commission yesterday, with Arab and Soviet-bloc support, was somewhat balanced today by a second resolution on the Middle East that avoided blaming either Israel or the Arab states for the current tense situation in that region.

Today's resolution, sponsored by Chile, Venezuela and Paraguay, appealed to all governments, people and world opinion "to make all efforts to ensure a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East through respect for the principles of the UN Charter...and to ensure...respect for the fundamental rights of human beings which will greatly contribute toward creating conditions for the establishment of peace."

Yesterday's resolution, which accused Israel of violating human rights in the occupied Arab territories, was adopted by a vote of 13-1 with 32 abstentions, the latter mainly Western and Latin American countries. Israel cast the lone negative vote and declared that it would not cooperate with a special working group established by the resolution to investigate Israel's alleged violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in times of war. The resolution was co-sponsored by India, Mauritania, Pakistan and Yugoslavia. Its adoption followed an acrimonious debate in which spokesmen for Arab, African and Communist-bloc nations accused Israel of mistreatment of Arabs in the occupied territories. They "deplored" particularly the alleged destruction by Israel of the homes of Arab civilians, the deportation of inhabitants and "the resort to violence against inhabitants expressing their resentment of the occupation."

Labor Party Leaders Talk With Coalition Partners On Acceptance Of Mrs. Meir

TEL AVIV, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Leaders of the Israel Labor Party plunged into negotiations with their partners in the national unity coalition today in an effort to persuade them to accept the leadership of Mrs. Golda Meir whom they nominated last night to succeed the late Levi Eshkol as Israel's Prime Minister. The vote for Mrs. Meir, who will be 71 in May, was 40-0 with seven abstentions. Endorsement of her by the Labor Party's central committee next Sunday appeared a virtual certainty. Mrs. Meir said she would announce in a few days whether she would accept the nomination but remarked pointedly that she had never in the past failed to heed a party call. Observers here said Mrs. Meir was withholding her final acceptance until her supporters could determine the extent of the backing she would receive from the other coalition partners.

The most important of these is Gahal, the Herut-Liberal Party alignment, which is the second largest party in the coalition put together by Mr. Eshkol during the crisis of May, 1967. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, a key figure in the Cabinet, said his participation in a government headed by Mrs. Meir was conditional on its inclusion of Gahal. Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon and Pinhas Sapir, secretary-general of the Labor Party and Mrs. Meir's strongest supporter, were conferring today with Gahal leaders Menachem Beigin and Joseph Sapir, both of whom are Ministers-Without-Portfolio. They were joined by the Gahal Knesset (Parliament) leaders Yohanan Bader and Elimelech Rimalt in a meeting that was regarded as crucial to the Premiership of Mrs. Meir. Other meetings are scheduled with leaders of Mapam which recently aligned itself with the Labor Party, the Independent Liberals, the National Religious Party and the Poalei Agudat Israel. All indications were that these parties would accept Mrs. Meir in the interests of national unity.

Mrs. Meir would head an interim government until the October 28 national elections. Her candidacy was urgently supported by Labor Party leaders to avert a show-down struggle between the two men considered the most serious contenders for the Premiership, Gen. Dayan and Mr. Allon. Mrs. Meir declared that her choice was Mr. Allon who was made Deputy Prime Minister by Mr. Eshkol last year and was widely regarded as his heir apparent. Gen. Dayan, considered to be the most popular public figure in Israel today, lacks political backing among the Labor Party leadership and its rank and file.

Gen. Dayan abstained in the vote on Mrs. Meir last night because, he declared, "I see no point in a negative vote under existing conditions." He acknowledged the right of the party's central committee to decide and said he would accept its decision, although he did not support any of the candidates mentioned. "But I do not disqualify Golda or Allon from the Premiership," he said. Gen. Dayan, however, made no secret of his bitterness over the party's negative attitude toward him. "I have not felt at home in the party. I feel on its fringes," he said, adding, "As far as I am concerned, it is not too late to make a new start." He chided the party leadership which he claimed considered all cabinet members representatives of the party, "apart from Moshe Dayan who, I am told, is the representative of the street and the choice of the Merry Wives of Windsor." Gen. Dayan's reference was to the petitions signed on street corners and the demonstrations by women on the eve of the Six-Day War demanding his inclusion in the Government. Gen. Dayan's appointment as Defense Minister was a response to popular demand during the May, 1967 crisis. It was vigorously opposed at the time by Mrs. Meir. Nevertheless, it is believed that she would invite him to participate in a government under her leadership. The Labor Party central committee is scheduled to meet Friday and by next Sunday it is expected to submit the name of Mrs. Meir to President Zalman Shazar as Prime Minister-designate.

Foreign Ministry Probes Report That El Fatah Members Are Trained In Cuba

JERUSALEM, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry announced today that Gabriel Doron, Israel's Minister in Havana, has been instructed to look into a report that El Fatah members were being trained by Cuban army officers on Cuban soil. The report appeared yesterday in the newspaper Yedioth Achronot. Cuban diplomats here could neither confirm nor deny it and said they were awaiting word from Havana.

The Foreign Ministry said that if the report turned out to be correct, Israel would regard it as a hostile action and would consider a proper counter-action. Israel and Cuba maintain "correct", but not warm diplomatic relations, as one source put it. They had cooled when Cuban leaders made anti-Israel statements during and after the Six-Day War. According to sources here, leftist circles in Israel supported Premier Fidel Castro with money and material in the initial stages of the Cuban revolution 10 years ago. Israeli experts were sent to Cuba to help in reconstruction, but that aid was suspended as a result of anti-Israel remarks by Cuban authorities.

Thant Voices Concern Over Possible Large Scale Warfare At Suez Canal

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant said yesterday that he shared the concern of his chief truce supervisor in the Middle East over the possibility of new large scale warfare erupting across the Suez Canal. Mr. Thant's warning that almost daily firing across the canal could lead to a "still more serious breach of the cease-fire" by Israeli and Egyptian forces was contained in a note appended to the report of Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, of Norway, head of the UN truce supervision team, on cease-fire violations. Gen. Bull reported that most rifle, automatic and machinegun fire was initiated by the Egyptians.

(Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring will meet with Egyptian officials tomorrow, a UN spokesman said. He did not indicate when the Mideast peace envoy would visit Amman and Jerusalem.)

Gen. Bar-Lev Says Israel Could Stay In Territories Indefinitely

TEL AVIV, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- The Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces said today that Israel could maintain its occupation of captured Arab territories indefinitely if necessary with relatively little

strain on the country's economy and manpower resources. Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, addressing a press luncheon here, said the occupation would continue as long as the Arabs refused to come to the peace table. He said strikes by students and teachers in the occupied territories could not be considered a serious problem and that Israel could easily cope with them as well as with Arab terrorism. While it is not possible to eliminate guerrilla activities entirely, they can and are being held to an absolute minimum, Gen. Bar-Lev said.

An Israeli operating a scraping machine was slightly injured today by a bazooka shell fired from Jordanian territory at a field near Neve Urr in the Beisan Valley. Israeli forces returned the fire. A military court in Gaza sentenced six Arabs to jail terms of from four to 12 years for transporting anti-vehicle mines. The accused, members of El Fatah, were captured in a clash with Israeli troops.

Israeli Police Arrest Minister, 2 Professionals, In Market Bombing

JERUSALEM, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Israeli police announced today that a Christian minister and a lawyer, both from Ramallah, and an East Jerusalem surgeon have been arrested in connection with the investigation into the Feb. 21 bombing of the Supersol supermarket in West Jerusalem which killed two. The minister, Rev. Elia Khader Khalil Khouri, 47, of St. Andrews Church, was being held as a liaison with Arab extremists in the Gaza Strip. He is militantly anti-Israel and has refused to hold mass in his church since the Six-Day War as a sign of protest, police said. The surgeon, Dr. Nabih Ammar, was also linked with terrorists and is believed to have used the "welfare hospital" in the Abu Tour quarter of East Jerusalem as a center for sabotage activity. The Ramallah lawyer detained was identified as Bashir Khairy. Police said the investigation of the bombing has led to the exposure of two illegal underground organizations on the West Bank, one political and the other terrorist. They said that a total of 70 persons have been arrested so far and that charge sheets were being prepared for presentation in court.

Suggestion Of Dual Loyalty Aggravates Gaullist Debate Over Embargo On Israel

PARIS, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- A suggestion that French Jews maintain dual allegiance--to Israel as well as to France--has further inflamed a debate within Gaullist ranks over President Charles de Gaulle's embargo of military equipment and spare parts to Israel.

Many prominent Frenchmen, Jewish and non-Jewish, are extremely critical of the embargo and have accused the government of reneging on its contractual obligations. A Gaullist deputy, Maurice LeCombe, writing in the Gaullist newspaper La Nation today, denounced such criticism and hinted that Frenchmen of Jewish faith were prepared to betray their loyalty to France and Gen. de Gaulle in the interests of Israel. M. LeCombe called on French Jews "to remain loyal to their country."

Another Gaullist deputy, Claude Gerard Marcus, took sharp issue with this criticism. In a statement published today, he maintained that Frenchmen who supported Israel and opposed the embargo were upholding the interests of France. "Are Frenchmen to be allowed to take an interest in Vietnam or Biafra but forbidden to show the same awareness of the problem where Israel is concerned?" M. Marcus asked.

UN Unit Gives Wizo Consultative Status Despite Libya, Soviet, Bulgarian Opposition

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 4 (JTA) -- The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations voted yesterday to give the Women's International Zionist Organization (Wizo) special status along with a number of other organizations having a consultative relationship with the UN Economic and Social Council. The status for Wizo was voted by Tanzania, United States, United Kingdom and Uruguay against the objections of Libya, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

Prominent Arab Israeli Educator Visiting India Is Knifed But Out Of Danger

NEW DELHI, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- An Israeli Arab educator visiting India as a guest of the Friends of Israel Society was beaten and knifed by a group of Moslem students at Aligarh University east of here. Abdul Karim, who develops adult education programs in Tel Aviv, was assaulted while on his way to visit a friend at the university, Prof. Maqbool Ahmed of the department of central Asian studies. Mr. Karim was said to be out of danger. The assault was one of several manifestations of bitter hostility toward Israel that he encountered among Moslems in the Indian capital. A Moslem member of Parliament allegedly barred him from paying his respects to the head priest at the New Delhi Mosque where he had gone to pray. Mr. Karim, who attended a Rotarian conference here, told the Hindustan Times that most Indians he met were astonished to learn that he was an Arab and an Israeli citizen. He said the high point of his visit was the audience granted him by Dr. Zakir Husain, President of India.

British Relief Federation Marks 49th Anniversary, Surveys Accomplishments

LONDON, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations of Britain marked its 49th anniversary here and looked back over nearly half a century of service to Jews in Britain and abroad which ranged from the dispatch of relief packages and clothing to needy war refugees to participation in the construction of a new youth center in the Israeli town of Ramleh. The Federation is providing half of the \$17,000 to build the center and the township is providing the balance. Other Federation projects in Israel include the maintenance of nursery schools for children eight months to three years of age; kindergartens for three and four year-olds and youth clubs in Tel Aviv and Beersheba. It is building a new day nursery in Gadera designed to care for 80 infants. The Federation reported that since its establishment it had spent \$6 million on constructive Jewish relief. Since May, 1949, it distributed 390 tons of clothing and 38 tons of other material.

Anti-Poverty Consultant Tells Jews Not To Exaggerate Black Anti-Semitism

WASHINGTON, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- A rabbi who is a consultant on anti-poverty programs called on American Jews yesterday to "come to their senses" and stop exaggerating the extent of black anti-Semitism. Rabbi Johathan Prinz addressed the biennial national convention of the American Jewish Congress' Women's division. He is the son of Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark, N.J., former president of the AJCongress.

He charged that hostility and prejudice spread in New York City after the teacher's strike. He accused the Jewish-led, largely Jewish United Federation of Teachers of helping to "infect and even poison the atmosphere with exaggerated backlash" by duplicating and distributing thousands of copies of an anti-Semitic flyer put out by some black extremists. "Anti-Semitism must be condemned and fought wherever it appears," Rabbi Prinz said. "But let us place it in its limited context and perspective."

Another speaker, Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America said it was not true that black anti-Semitism was "just another variety of anti-white racism" but rather is "a racist disease that in the past brought deadly effects to the Jews." He, Rabbi Prinz and Mrs. Charles Snitow, president of the AJCongress' Women's Division, urged Jews not to abandon their traditional support of civil rights for Negroes.

Economies Of Territories, Israel Growing Together, American-Israel Chamber Told

NEW YORK, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- The president of the Israel Manufacturers Association told an audience of American businessmen today that the economy of the occupied Arab territories was moving toward integration with Israel's economy. Zalman Susayeff, addressing a luncheon of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that large amounts of Israeli-made goods such as textiles, furniture and plastics were purchased in the occupied territories and that the "new territories export to Jordan and other countries." He added that about four percent of the total work force now employed in Israeli industry is from the occupied areas.

Mr. Susayeff said the purchases of Israeli goods by the Arabs accounted in part for the increased productivity of Israel's industry. Other factors, he said, were increased exports, defense needs and increased consumption. He noted that Arab workers in Arab industries in the occupied territories increase three-fold during the year. Mr. Susayeff, who was deputy minister of commerce and industry from 1953-1955, reported that Israel's exports had increased 11-fold since 1955. Industrial production in 1968 rose by 28 percent and some \$500 million in comparison with 1967. Mr. Susayeff said Israelis expected a rise in industrial production of 18 percent in 1969.

Jewish College Youth, 'Establishment' Representatives Will Address Each Other

WASHINGTON, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Jewish college youth and representatives of the organized American Jewish "Establishment" will attempt to bridge the generation gap at a three-day National Conference on Jewish College Youth, sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, which opens here March 8. The meeting will bring together about 65 student leaders representing small colleges and major universities and representatives of more than 20 Jewish organizations for what the sponsors said would be a "free-wheeling exchange of opinions."

According to Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn, national director of the Hillel Foundation, the conference stems from widespread student dissatisfaction with the adult power structure and a concomitant concern among adults that Jewish students are rejecting Judaism. Rabbi Kahn said that the students attending the conference will represent not only supporters of the New Left but members of traditional and religion-centered college youth movements who are nevertheless often critical of the established community. Rabbi Kahn said that more than 350,000 Jewish youth--over 80 percent of the college-age Jewish population--are enrolled in institutions of higher learning. He said that Jewish students, many of them in leadership positions, comprise about one-third of the campus activist groups. However, less than five percent of a school's enrollment is directly involved in campus uprisings, though generally a third of the student body sympathizes with their aims.

Rabbi Kahn noted that many Jewish religious and secular leaders regard the campus as a "disaster area" as far as Jewish consciousness is concerned and are calling for emergency measures. He warned, however, that critics "excessively pre-occupied" with Jewish participation in the New Left have failed to recognize that "for every Jewish student identified with the New Left, there are dozens of others, equally committed to social concerns and change, who have a positive attitude toward Judaism."

According to Rabbi Kahn, the real problem "is not rejection of but an indifference toward Judaism." He said this was borne out by the way in which Jewish students "matter-of-factly" identify themselves as Jews but reject participation in the synagogue, secular organizations, community center or other institutions of Jewish life as being irrelevant to the social problems of contemporary society. Some of the organizations apart from B'nai B'rith participating in the conference will be the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, National Jewish Welfare Board, United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Farband, the American Association for Jewish Education and national lay and rabbinical organizations.

Services Held For Hyman Horowitz, 75; Was Editor Of Former Cleveland Yiddish Paper

CLEVELAND, Mar. 4 (JTA) -- Services were held here for Hyman Horowitz, 75, editor of the now defunct Cleveland Jewish World, a Yiddish daily newspaper. He also contributed to the Cleveland Plain Dealer and to periodicals in Yiddish and Russian on Jewish topics. Mr. Horowitz, who died Feb. 21, had retired in 1966 as a Cleveland assistant police prosecutor. He was a member of the Jewish Community Federation board of trustees and the Cleveland Zionist Society.