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Eban Tells Nationwide TV Audience He Sees No 'Erosion' in Nixon's Mideast Position

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today on the nationally televised "Meet the Press" program that he saw "no erosion" in President Richard M. Nixon's Mideast position and reiterated Israel's firm position that there would be no withdrawal from occupied territories before there is peace with its Arab neighbors. Mr. Eban also voiced strong opposition to any solution "imposed" on the region by the Big Four powers which, he contended, would "globalize" what is now a local conflict and thus increase the danger of a nuclear confrontation.

Mr. Eban conferred with President Nixon in the White House for 45 minutes Friday, met with Secretary of State William P. Rogers on four other occasions over the weekend, and spent 75 minutes at the United Nations yesterday with Secretary-General U Thant. Prior to his meeting with the President, the Israeli diplomat, appearing before the National Press Club, stressed what he considered to be the "complexity and peril" of big-power guarantees for a Mideast settlement. Mr. Eban said that his meetings with Mr. Nixon and other officials had convinced him that "the basic principles of U.S. policy in the Mideast over the past two years are still intact."

On the "Meet the Press" telecast, Mr. Eban said Israel would not be bound by any Big Four decision and insisted that there was a gap between the Anglo-American and Franco-Soviet positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He made it clear that Israel would not accept the return of UN emergency forces as a basis for its withdrawal. He recalled that the removal of the UN forces at President Nasser's request in May, 1967 helped precipitate the Six-Day War.

Predicts Emergence Of 'New Peace Map' If Arabs Come To Terms

The Foreign Minister declared that in any peace settlement, "the agreement of the parties" to the conflict must come first. He said a "new peace map" would emerge if the Arabs come to terms but it would not represent a return to the 1949 armistice lines. He voiced the belief that a new war is "neither imminent nor inevitable." He charged that Arab terrorists were the "tools and instruments of the Arab governments" and said Israel held those governments fully accountable for terrorist actions. He charged that Western information media had glamorized the terrorists who murdered innocent civilians in a supermarket and aboard an El Al airliner. Mr. Eban denied, in response to a question, that he had met secretly with King Hussein of Jordan in London last October. He said he was willing to meet Hussein or any other Arab leader in talking peace.

According to White House spokesman Ronald Ziegler, Mr. Eban's meeting with Mr. Nixon took place in an "atmosphere of cordiality" and covered "important basic elements" involving the Mideast. Mr. Eban said later that he considered his visit to Washington "a very useful 72 hours" that afforded him an opportunity for a thorough discussion in depth at top levels. He said he and Secretary of State Rogers had the chance to go into "utmost detail." Participants in the White House meeting included Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Yitzhak Rabin, and President Nixon's top adviser on international security affairs, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Mr. Eban said that in his discussions with the President, "no maps were discussed." He concluded that there was no reduction in the "harmony" of the "central accord" in American-Israeli relations.

Before meeting Mr. Eban, Mr. Nixon told a press conference that as a result of separate talks the U.S. has held in recent weeks with representatives of France, the Soviet Union and Britain, the Four Powers were "closer together than we were" on the Mideast. He cautioned, however, that he did not want to "leave the impression that we are completely together at this point...We still have a lot of yardage to cover and until we make further progress I don't think we should lay out what our position is; I don't think it would be helpful in bringing them to what we think is the right position."

White House officials indicated following the Nixon-Eban meeting that the U.S. planned a series of meetings with Arab states similar to the high level discussions just concluded with Israel. They said the first such meeting will be held in the near future when King Hussein of Jordan visits Washington.

Mr. Eban declined to comment yesterday on his conversation with Secretary-General Thant. He said, however, that he felt the talks being conducted by the UN's special peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, had entered a new phase. Dr. Jarring returned to his headquarters at Nicosia, Cyprus, after another round of visits to Mideast capitals. He reportedly submitted a list of questions designed to develop a peace plan to the governments of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon. Diplomatic sources said he had received no replies to date. Mr. Thant was reported yesterday to have said that some form of Big Four talks would start sometime next week.

Report Saudi Payroll Tax Aiding Terrorists

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Arab guerrillas were obtaining funds for their anti-Israeli activities through a payroll checkoff by which civil servants in Saudi Arabia have one percent or more of their pay deducted to finance the terrorist bands.

Arrest Arab Students From Pro-Israel Middle Class Homes In Cafeteria Explosion

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police said today that a 19-year old girl from Nablus and two 22-year-old Israeli Arab seniors at the Hebrew University have confessed to planting the explosives which blasted the Hebrew University library cafeteria March 6, injuring 28 students. All three come from middle class Arab families which have been friendly toward Israel. The girl was identified as Maryam Shakshir, daughter of the representative of an Israeli insurance firm in Nablus, the largest West Bank town. The two youths were identified as Farhi Khalil and Adnan Khlehl, both from villages in Upper Galilee and both liberal arts students at the University. Young Khalil's father is a retired Israeli policeman. The Khlehl family had a long record of cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund prior to Israel's independence and took shelter in a nearby Jewish settlement during the 1948 war because they thought they would be killed by Arab invaders, police said.

The three who confessed to the Hebrew University bombing were among more than 200 Arabs arrested in recent weeks on suspicion of terrorist acts. According to Jerusalem police superintendent David Barelli, they belong to three cells of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine which have been involved in internal feuding. Mr. Barelli declined to say how the explosives were planted at the cafeteria. However, he disclosed a long list of terrorist acts in the Jerusalem area dating back to last November in which he said the three Popular Front cells were involved. These included the hurling of two grenades at Israel Government offices in East Jerusalem several weeks ago; a grenade planting in an East Jerusalem television shop jointly owned by Jews and Arabs; a grenade planting near the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv railroad lines; and an attempt to set fire to three Arab shops in East Jerusalem whose owners failed to observe a strike on Balfour Day last November. Mr. Barelli said police had found large caches of weapons and explosives in several Jerusalem area houses. He said they included Russian-made rifles, Chinese-made revolvers, a British-made sten-gun and a Bren light machinegun, automatic timing pencils, grenades and button mines.

Egyptians Continue Sniping At Canal; Israelis Say Algerians Hit During Battles

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Egyptian sniping, which wounded an Israeli soldier Friday, continued along the Suez Canal today but there was no escalation of fighting despite Cairo radio boasts that Egypt would not permit Israel to continue fortifying its positions along the waterway's east bank. Israeli officials said that it appeared that a number of Algerian officers and men were hit during the artillery clashes along a section of the Suez Canal during the week. Algerian units have been deployed along a section of the canal as part of the Egyptian force. The Algerian troops reportedly have no artillery and are supported by Egyptian guns and other artillery positioned in their camps. Israel has complained to the United Nations about the participation of Algerians in "skirmishes."

In another military activity, six mortar shells were fired last night at Baram settlement near the Lebanese border. They exploded in an orange grove where damage was reported negligible. Shells were fired at Ashdod Yaacov in the Beisan Valley last night but caused no casualties or damage.

(A British and an American authority on the Middle East agreed on a New York television panel last week that the Suez Canal, which marks its 100th birthday this year, has no more than 10-15 years of profitable use ahead, even if it is reopened in the near future. The discussants were Lord Kinross, author of "Between Two Seas," a newly published history of the building of the Suez Canal and its early years, and Prof. J. C. Hurewitz, professor of government at Columbia University and author of a new book on the military aspects of the Middle East conflict. They agreed that the construction of supertankers, prompted by the canal's long shutdown after the 1956 Arab-Israeli war, had rendered the 100-mile waterway obsolete for the transportation of oil which constitutes more than two thirds of the cargoes passing through it. In addition, they predicted that the increased use of large vessels carrying dry cargo in containers would further deprive the canal of much of its volume. They noted that containerized cargo could be speedily transferred by rail or highway between ships at either end of the canal.)

Says President Nasser Seeking To Pressure Big 4 With War Scare

LONDON, March 16 (JTA) -- The Egyptian Government, abetted by the local press, was generating a war scare deliberately among the populace, in order to impress the Big Four powers, especially the United States, that a major new war in the Middle East could be touched off at any time, the London Times reported from Cairo yesterday. The paper said the crisis atmosphere, following four major artillery battles across the Suez Canal last week, was intended by President Gamal Abdel Nasser to arouse Egyptians to demand vengeance against Israel.

Among the measures taken, according to the Times dispatch, were a black-out of government buildings which was extended to blocks of apartments and shops, construction of more air raid shelters, and preparation of a civil defense alarm system throughout Egypt. The Times said that Egypt's efforts to convince the U.S. that the crisis was worsening will be supported by King Hussein of Jordan when he meets with President Nixon in Washington shortly.

Services Held In New Jersey For Ben Shahn, American Jewish Artist, Dead At 70

ROOSEVELT, N.J., March 16 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Ben Shahn, an internationally prominent American Jewish artist and champion of liberal causes, who died here Friday at the age of 70. Mr. Shahn was born in Kovno, Lithuania, the son of a woodcarver and carpenter. He came to the United States with his family in 1908 and worked as an apprentice in a lithography shop to pay for his studies at college and at the National Academy of Design. Mr. Shahn was an assistant to the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera and from 1933 to 1943 was active in the Federal Government's public art works projects. He was known for blending written messages into many of his paintings which were on universal Jewish themes. He illustrated recently a Passover Haggadah.

West German Upper House Asks Bundestag To Abolish Statute Of Limitations On War Crimes

BONN, March 16 (JTA) -- The judicial committee of the Bundesrat, West Germany's Upper House, is decided by majority vote to recommend that the Bundestag (Lower House) take the initiative for the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecutions. The statute will go into effect at the end of this year unless the Parliament decides otherwise. At present there is no majority voice in the Bundestag on the issue, one way or another. State Secretary Gunther Diehl said in reply to a JTA question that the cabinet will discuss the statute in the near future because "a decision will have to be made sometime." The Bremen City Council this week adopted a resolution calling for abolition of the statute of limitations.

Former Nazi Officers Get Mild Sentences For Wartime Murders

BONN, March 16 (JTA) -- Two former SS officers drew relatively mild sentences Friday for the war-time murders of slave laborers in Poland and Soviet Russia who were used to destroy evidence of Nazi mass murders. Two other defendants were acquitted after a three-month trial in a Stuttgart court. A sentence of four years at hard labor was passed on Hans Sohns, 61, a former SS major who was convicted of having abetted the murders of 280 slave laborers after using them to exhume and burn the remains of other Nazi victims buried in mass graves. Fritz Zietlov, 66, a former SS captain, got a two-and-a-half year sentence for his role in the murder of 30 slave laborers.

West Germany's Right-Wing National Democratic Party Claims Membership Is Growing

BONN, March 16 (JTA) -- The reputedly neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) boasted today that its support is increasing. According to a party spokesman, the new strength stems from the failure of Minister of Interior Ernst Benda to get the cabinet to agree to steps to ban the NPD as anti-democratic and unconstitutional. It is also attributed to the distribution of three million NPD pamphlets to West German households. The party claims that attendance at meetings has gone up.

Daughter Of Aiter Kaczizne, Slain Polish Yiddish Writer, Publishes His Works

LONDON, March 16 (JTA) -- The daughter of Alter Kaczizne, a well known Warsaw Yiddish writer who was beaten to death by Polish Nazi collaborators during World War II, is sponsoring the publication of her father's works. The first volume was published some time ago. The second volume is now being prepared for publication by the J. L. Peretz publishing house of Tel Aviv. Two more volumes will be published later. They include several plays, poems, essays and humorous pieces. Mr. Kaczizne was born in Vilna and achieved prominence for his writing between the world wars. His wife was killed by the Nazis but his only child, Shulamit, was rescued by the Italian Embassy in Poland. Today she is Mrs. Eugenio Reale, the wife of a prominent Italian politician and makes her home in Rome.

CAO Legal Subcommittee Drafts Convention Aimed At Stopping Airliner Hijacking

MONTREAL, March 16 (JTA) -- A legal subcommittee of the International Civil Aviation Organization has drawn up a draft convention by which any person who hijacks or tries to hijack an aircraft will be considered a criminal and any state signing the pact will agree to hold him under arrest until criminal proceedings can be started. The 13 member states composing the subcommittee are Algeria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, India, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

The draft also stated that hijacking should be considered an extraditable offense in any extradition treaties between the members of the ICAO. The draft added that any state should consider hijacking as extraditable even in the absence of a treaty. The draft referred to the ICAO Council which will decide on it on March 17. Any member nation holding a hijacker and refusing to extradite him will be obliged to submit the case to the competent authorities with a view to initiating legal proceedings against the hijacker, according to the draft. If the draft is approved by the ICAO, each of the member countries would have to pass enforcing legislation to implement it.

Jordan Refuses To Accept Body Of Terrorist Killed By Rachamim

LONDON, March 16 (JTA) -- Jordanian authorities have refused to accept the body of an Arab terrorist killed in last month's attack on an El Al airliner at Zurich airport for burial in Amman. As a result the body has been shunted between Zurich and Amsterdam and will probably be interred in Switzerland. The terrorist was shot by the El Al security guard, Mordechai Rachamim, after he and three others peppered the aircraft with machinegun bullets. A pilot trainee aboard the plane was seriously wounded. The terrorist reportedly came to Zurich from Amman. His coffin was being shipped back via Amsterdam. But Jordanian authorities informed the air carrier that they would not accept it because the dead man had no connection with them.

Australian Laborite Retiring From Politics, Will Go To Israel To Work On Kibbutz

MELBOURNE, March 16 (JTA) -- A former Laborite leader in the Victoria parliament has announced that he will go to Israel to do volunteer social work on a kibbutz when he retires from politics shortly. Clive Stoneham, who was an opposition leader, said he was impressed with kibbutz life when he visited Israel several years ago.

Irish Jews Celebrate St. Patrick's Day And Purim With A Reigning 'Colleen Queen'

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- The Loyal League of Yiddish Sons of Erin, an organization of Jews born in Ireland, celebrated a kosher St. Patrick's Day at a New York restaurant yesterday, combined with a slightly belated Purim festival. Marsha Coleman, a student at Montgomery Junior College in Silver Springs, Maryland, reigned as "Colleen Queen Esther" at the festivities. She and her parents were born in Ireland where her late grandfather, J. T. Clein, was registrar of births, marriages and deaths for the city of Cork.

AJCommittee Sees Slow Progress In Implementation Of Kerner Commission Recommendation

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee said today that progress toward bridging the growing gap between white and black societies in America cited by the Kerner Commission report exactly a year ago has been slow but "private efforts, while insufficient to the need, have increased." The assessment was made in a summary, prepared by the AJCommittee, of actions taken by private business and voluntary organizations over the past 12 months, and released by Mervin H. Riseman, chairman of the organization's domestic affairs committee. The document said that while the general commitment to eliminate bigotry and poverty has not been "on a scale equal to the dimensions of the problems...many business, labor and religious leaders are now more conscious of community responsibility, aware of urban and social problems and eager to work on their solution."

In the area of Negro-Jewish relations and black anti-Semitism, the AJCommittee concluded that while in some communities where black extremists were most visible there may have been a "slowdown in Jewish participation in anti-poverty and civil rights work," there remains among AJCommittee members a conviction that "black extremists formed a small but raucous minority" and that "Jews must continue to help the disadvantaged." The study cited the joint statement of February, 1969 by its president, Arthur J. Goldberg, and Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, which appealed to all groups to move quickly against manifestations of prejudice. The statement, signed by other prominent Negro, Christian and Jewish organization leaders, announced the creation of a cooperative effort "to respond quickly and firmly to counter intergroup conflict and to develop programs to prevent such flareups." The AJCommittee survey cited actions by its chapters in a score of American cities and communities designed to respond to the disaffections cited by the Kerner Commission.

Rabbi Says Negro Clergy Have 'Significant' Role In Black Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- An Orthodox rabbinical leader charged today that Negro clergymen have a "highly significant" role in the inception and spread of black anti-Semitism, either by failing to discourage it or by originating it and serving as a "core of racial antagonism." The charge was made by Rabbi Jacob J. Hecht, executive vice-president of the National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education. He asserted that "these clergymen are not basically anti-Semitic but rather see anti-Semitism as a vehicle for solidifying and increasing their support among their own people." Arguing that most Negroes sought only to better themselves and their families, he added that "no group, however tolerant, can resist a constant bombardment of hateful attacks." He added that when those "in the group see no decisive stand being made against these attacks by its clergy, it cannot help becoming aroused."

Rabbi Hecht said that Negro clergymen should tell the truth to their people and focus on the real issues," starting with the fact that "the Jew is hardly responsible" for the plight of the Negro now. He added that if Negro clergy, who "have the power to redirect their people into constructive channels," did not act to stop anti-Semitism, the gap between black and white "will never be bridged."

Reform Rabbis Urge Federal, State Governments To Combat Hunger, Poverty

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Federal and state governments were called upon today by the Association of Reform Rabbis of New York to increase present programs to alleviate growing conditions of hunger and poverty in the United States. The organization, representing 250 Reform rabbis, urged in a statement "immediate action to relieve the tragic plight of all Americans who are suffering from extreme poverty, to the point of starvation." The association also said that, in the New York area, "we are especially conscious of unfair pressure put on welfare systems, here and elsewhere, by poor people, driven by hunger from their native communities." The Reform rabbis declared that "only national action can relieve this problem." They termed poverty and hunger in America "a moral and political failure in today's affluent society." Copies of the statement were sent to Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert Finch, and to New York Senators Jacob K. Javits and Charles Goodell.

Jewish And Catholics Attend Reception For Bishop Held In Rego Park Synagogue

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Some 700 Jewish and Catholic residents of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens met at the Rego Park Jewish Center today for an interfaith reception in honor of the new Bishop of Brooklyn, the Most Rev. Francis J. Mugavero. The reception, sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee of the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, was the first occasion in this city that a formal welcome was extended here to a Catholic Bishop in a synagogue. Rabbi Josiah Deroy of the Rego Park Jewish Center and Msgr. Vincent O. Genova, pastor of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Brooklyn, are co-chairmen of the committee which was formed in 1966. It has engaged in several programs to foster cooperation between the Jewish and Catholic communities of New York's two largest boroughs.

Edwin Rosenberg Dead At 78; Was A Philanthropist, Officer Of Leading Organizations

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Edwin Rosenberg, a nationally known Jewish leader and philanthropist, died here yesterday at the age of 78 after a long illness. Recognized for his "unique ability to reconcile differences and build cooperation," Mr. Rosenberg has been regarded as the prime mover in the merger of organizations that led to the creation of the present United Hias service. He held high offices in the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; the Greater New York and national United Jewish Appeal organizations; Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; Joint Distribution Committee; New York Association for New Americans; and United Hias. The CJFWF had named a national award for him.