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Mrs. Meir Sees War Not Imminent, Rejects 4 Power Solution To Middle East Conflict

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--Prime Minister Golda Meir said at a press conference yesterday that a renewed outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab states was not imminent and was impossible at this time because the Arabs were not prepared.

Mrs. Meir, meeting newsmen for the first time since assuming the Premiership on Monday, emphatically rejected a Four Power solution to the Middle East conflict or the stationing of a new United Nations peace-keeping force in the region. She said a UN force had failed twice before to prevent war and there was no reason to believe it would succeed a third time.

Mrs. Meir said the talk of renewed warfare by the Arabs was an attempt to pressure the Big Powers into taking action "so that the Arabs can sit back and let others solve their problems." The only road to peace, she insisted, was for the Arabs to sit down with Israel to discuss it. "This is not outlandish, it is the accepted way to end wars and no one else, no matter how good his intentions, can do the job for the Arabs and Israelis," she said.

Mrs. Meir implied that some disagreement had developed with the Nixon Administration over Israel's positions. "There is no doubt that President Nixon has the best of intentions regarding Israel," she said. She noted that his meeting with Foreign Minister Abba Eban last Friday was Israel's first contact on this level with the new Administration. "Therefore, it is too soon to expect that complete agreement could be reached on all matters, and the dialogue goes on." She said she had no plans at present to visit the U.S.

Mrs. Meir saw little likelihood that Washington and Moscow would come to an agreement on Middle East policy. She conceded that she did not relish such a prospect, however remote. She said Israel had "valid doubts" about the intentions of the Soviet Union and France in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister said the cabinet had not yet discussed the future of the occupied territories and such issue as the economic integration of the West Bank with Israel because, in the absence of peace talks with the Arabs, such discussions were academic. She said the cabinet had not set a time limit on the issue and would take up the problem in the future. She said, "There comes a time when a little people, whose very life depends on certain decisions it has to take, takes them because there is no alternative." She said when the time comes that a discussion of territorial questions is realistic--"when there is an Arab partner to discuss them with"--the cabinet will reach a decision--"and it will be quite able to do so."

Mrs. Meir said that Israel's "bitter experience makes it absolutely essential that in signing a peace settlement, we must see to it that our borders are such that if at any time the Arabs want to attack they will not be able to do it from a point of natural superiority." The Golan Heights and Sharm el-Sheikh, which commands the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, "cannot be left to the Arabs or to a UN force," she said. Asked what, in Israel's opinion, was not negotiable, the Prime Minister replied, "Israel does not want to be thrown into the sea nor would it accept Nasser's plan, outlined to a newspaper some time ago, the final consequence of which was, in Nasser's words, 'in a very short time there will be no Jewish State.'" Mrs. Meir said that Israel would never accept El Fatah as a party to peace talks because "they are terrorists bent on murder."

Asked how long she planned to continue in office, Mrs. Meir said she had not given the matter much thought because of the pressure of other problems. She added that she had never described herself as a "stop-gap" Premier. She said that when she had retired from the Foreign Ministry three years ago, she had hoped to be free to do things that she did not consider a duty. She said she thought there were others in Israel who would make good Prime Ministers.

Mrs. Meir said on a television interview last night that the vast majority of Israeli Arabs were loyal to the State and should not be bracketed with the few who participated in terrorist acts.

Cabinet Discusses U.S., Israel Differences on Peace Question

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--Differences between the Israel Government and the Nixon Administration over Four Power talks on the Mideast were considered at a cabinet meeting here yesterday. The cabinet met to discuss Foreign Minister Abba Eban's report on his talks in Washington last week with President Nixon and other top U.S. Government officials.

The cabinet believed that the U.S. was determined to go ahead with Four Power talks because even if they failed, the effort to find agreement among the Big Powers would be worth making. The consensus was that Israel should try to prevent the Middle East question from being passed on to the Four Powers in place of direct negotiations between the two sides. Israel believed that an attempt to find a Four Power solution would undermine the mission of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring which, as the Israelis saw it, was to try to bring Arabs and Israelis together for an agreed solution of their problems.

Israeli Jets In New Attack On El Fatah Positions In Jordan--3rd Time Since Sunday

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA)--Israeli jets strafed and bombed El Fatah positions in Jordan today in the third air strike against that country since Sunday. Troops on both sides exchanged tank, artillery, machinegun and mortar fire during the day. Both countries accused each other of starting the fighting which took place in the northern Jordan Valley south of Lake Tiberias. The Israeli Air Force attacked following Jordanian mortar fire on Israeli settlements in the Beisan valley. No Israeli casualties were reported. In other action, four Israeli soldiers were slightly injured today when their patrol car hit a mine near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli artillery along the Suez Canal scored direct hits on a power station in Port Suez, on Egyptian mortar positions and other targets in yesterday's fighting, a military spokesman said. He said Israeli gunners pick out specific targets in contrast to Egyptian artillery massed on the West Bank of the canal which fires indiscriminately. The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahran claimed today that Israel was massing missiles deep in the Sinai Peninsula for an attack on Egyptian positions along the canal. The paper accused Israel of firing machineguns at a passenger train on the canal's West Bank yesterday and of shelling a freight train between Port Suez and Ismailia. Al Ahran did not indicate whether there were casualties but claimed that Egyptian gunners had inflicted "severe losses" on Israeli tanks and armored cars.

Iraqi Troops In Jordan Aggravate Mideast Crisis, Tekoah Tells Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 19 (JTA)--A warning that the recent stationing of 6,000 Iraqi troops in Syria "aggravates the situation in the area" was conveyed to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant yesterday in a letter from Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief Israeli representative to the UN. Mr. Tekoah asked the Secretary-General to obtain from the Baghdad Government "an affirmation that Iraq accepts the Security Council cease fire resolutions and that all Iraqi forces will respect the cease fire."

Mr. Tekoah noted that Iraq was an active participant in the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war and "has been evasive in respect of its acceptance of the cease fire." He said Iraq "is continuing to maintain an expeditionary force on Jordanian territory in proximity to the cease fire line, this force having taken part in aggressive breaches of the cease fire against Israel and actively supported terror warfare against Israel."

Iraq's treatment of its remaining Jewish population was the subject of another letter from Mr. Tekoah today to Karoly Csatorday of Hungary, this month's Security Council president. Mr. Tekoah charged that "what the Government of Iraq is trying to do is to assure itself a free hand to pursue its barbaric treatment of the Jews in Iraq by resisting international scrutiny of its gross misdeeds. It is understandable," the letter went on, "that the deep and natural concern which these persecutions arouse among the Jewish communities in the world, and notably in Israel, where the majority of Jews who fled from previous persecutions in Iraq have found refuge, should cause embarrassment to the Government of Iraq."

Mr. Tekoah said the treatment of Iraq's Jews reflected the Baghdad regime's attitude toward Israel, adding that "the Government of Israel cannot remain silent when political hostility toward itself becomes a pretext for cruelty against Jews simply as Jews." He rebutted Iraqi charges that Israel mistreated Arab civilian living in the occupied territories. "When the citizens of Iraq, Jews or non-Jews, begin to enjoy, even only partially, freedom of movement, freedom of thought and expression and personal security as they are enjoyed by those Arab inhabitants, Iraq will have made great progress toward democracy and the respect for human rights required by the UN" Mr. Tekoah wrote.

Knesset Visitors Urge West Germany To Help Israel Gain Associate Status In Market

BONN, March 19 (JTA)--The head of a visiting Knesset delegation appealed to West Germany today to help Israel overcome the effects of the 20-year Arab boycott by supporting its efforts to gain associate status with the European Common Market. David Hachoen, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Relations and Security Committee, speaking at a gathering attended by members of the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house, also urged the German legislators to try to abolish the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions which he called a moral, not a juridical issue. Mr. Hachoen was told later by Bundestag vice president Erwin Shoettler that Israel could be assured that "Germany will help her with respect to the European Common Market" and would also deal with the question of the statute which is due to go into effect at the end of the year.

Mr. Hachoen said that West Germany, perhaps more than any other nation could help Israel combat the boycott. Every boycott success only encourages the Arab "illusion" that Israel could be destroyed, he said. The statute of limitations could create an erroneous impression abroad that Germans wanted to gloss over the Nazi era, he noted. The Knesset delegation was received here by Herr Shoettler in the absence of Bundestag president Kaie-Uwe Von Hassel who was ill. The Israeli legislators were to meet with Bundestag members tomorrow and expected to meet on Friday with Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Willy Brandt.

Mr. Hachoen said the Arab states refused to make peace with Israel because they hoped the free world would abandon the Jewish State "as did Gen. de Gaulle who was once a friend and ally of our country." He said the French President was putting economic pressure on Israel and looked on passively while the Soviet Union and Communist China poured weapons into the Arab states. He said Israel was grateful to the German people for the positive attitude they displayed during the crisis of the June, 1967 Six-Day War.

French Resistance Veterans' Paper Assails Arab Terrorism As 'Nazi-Inspired'

BRUSSELS, March 19 (JTA)--A newspaper of veterans of the World War II French resistance movement published here has condemned Arab terrorist activities in the Middle East which it charged were "Nazi-inspired," and denounced Arab attempts to liken the terrorists to the French resistance fighters. The March edition of "La Voix Internationale De La Resistance" published the text of a statement adopted by the Action Committee of the Resistance, a body representing four French resistance groups. It met in Paris recently to debate the Middle East situation.

The statement formally condemned "the Nazi inspiration of the Arab extremists" and challenged the likening of the "terrorist and racist action of the Palestinian commandos to the French resistance." The group also denounced "anti-Semitism which is a striking reminder of Nazi propaganda" and which it said "is developing in the Eastern European countries, particularly in Poland." It charged that former Nazi SS officers who "promised themselves to further the Hitlerian genocide until the total destruction of Israel" held responsible positions in Egypt. The resistance group called on the French Government to do everything possible to reach a speedy agreement with the other Big Powers on a policy of general disarmament in the Middle East.

Vatican Will Publish Documents That Seek To Refute Thesis Of Hochhuth's 'Deputy'

ROME, March 19 (JTA)--The Vatican will publish its fifth volume next month in a series of documents concerning its peace efforts in World War II and its resistance to Nazi-Fascist attempts to use the Holy See for their own purposes. The new volume, due to appear at Easter, is also aimed in part at refuting the charges of West German playwright Rolf Hochhuth that the late Pope Pius XII appeased the Nazis and made no attempts to prevent the massacre of Jews. The charges were made in Mr. Hochhuth's controversial play, "The Deputy." According to Vatican sources, the documents will show that the Pope refused to back an "anti-Bolshevist crusade" by the Axis powers and refused to allow them to "turn the Vatican into an auxiliary." The new volume covers the period from July, 1941, to November, 1942.

Ambassador Evron Presents His Credentials To Governor General Of Canada

OTTAWA, March 19 (JTA)--Israel's new Ambassador to Canada, Ephraim Evron, presented his credentials at Government House yesterday and was warmly received by the Governor General of Canada, Roland E. Michener. Mr. Evron served previously as Israel's Ambassador to Sweden and as minister in the Israel embassies in the United States and Great Britain. Governor General Michener referred to the traditional friendship between Israel and Canada dating back to Canada's participation in the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine in 1947 which recommended the creation of a Jewish State. He also recalled the visit of President Zalman Shazar to the Canadian centennial celebrations in 1967 and his meeting with Mrs. Golda Meir, now Israel's Prime Minister, when he visited that country in 1950.

Rabin Addresses Brazilians On Israel's Security Problems, Leaves For Montevideo

SAO PAULO, March 19 (JTA)--Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, left today for Montevideo on his tour of South American countries after a series of public appearances here which included an address on Israel's security problems before a large crowd at the Hebraica Club. He attracted widespread press attention with a report on the talks last week between Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban and President Nixon in Washington. Leon Feffer, the Israel consul, gave a reception for Gen. Rabin and Israel's Ambassador Itzhak Harkavi.

Goldmann Felicitates Ceausescu On Re-Election As Head Of Rumanian State Council

PARIS, March 19 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, cabled congratulations today to Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Rumanian Communist Party, on his re-election to the presidency of the Rumanian State Council. Mr. Ceausescu is the acknowledged popular leader of Rumania.

Schedules Funeral Services For Elchanan Wogler, Yiddish Poet, Essayist, Critic

PARIS, March 19 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here Friday for Elchanan Wogler, a Yiddish poet, essayist and critic from Vilna who died today. Mr. Wogler was in his late fifties. A survivor of the Vilna ghetto, he came to Paris after World War II and was a member of the cultural commission of the French section of the World Jewish Congress. Prior to the outbreak of the war, he was a member of the Jewish literary group known as "Young Vilna."

Israel And Greece Conclude Agreement On Abolition Of Visas For Tourists

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--Greece and Israel have concluded an agreement abolishing the need for visitors visas by nationals of either country visiting the other. The measure, which goes into effect on March 28, is the latest step toward increasing tourism between the two countries. Two earlier agreements related to tourism and commercial relations.

Silone Given \$2,000 Jerusalem Prize As Jerusalem Book Fair Gets Under Way

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem officially opened the fourth International Book Fair here. The event was attended by President Zalman Shazar and more than 100 visiting publishers and members of the local book trade. The first item on the agenda was presentation of the \$2,000 Jerusalem Prize to the Italian author Ignazio Silone.

Tel Aviv U Adopts \$14 Million 1969-70 Budget; Asks More Government Aid

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA)--Tel Aviv University has adopted a \$14 million budget for fiscal 1969-70 and has asked the Israeli Government for increased aid. The budget for the present fiscal year amounts to \$13.6 million. Next year will see the establishment of a new school for social work which will offer a four-year course. The new school will be headed by Dr. Simon Spiro.

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee Abandons Plans To Visit Mideast Countries

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA)--A House foreign affairs subcommittee has abandoned a plan to visit Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Israel in pursuit of Arab-Israel peace, it was learned today. The Subcommittee on Near Eastern Affairs includes two Jewish members, Rep. Leonard Farbstein and Lester Wolff, both New York Democrats. The trip was scheduled for April. Concern grew about the personal security of the Jewish members of the subcommittee, especially in view of the Arab terrorist activities and possible dangers in the projected visit to Cairo where the U.S. lacks diplomatic relations.

The subcommittee wished to assess the situation for themselves because of the growing emphasis here on the gravity of the Mideast crisis and the need for a Four Power solution. It appeared that Tunisia was on the agenda because of hopes that the Tunisian government could serve as an intermediary or moderating influence in the Arab-Israel impasse. The Executive Department, in response to the subcommittee's request, had drawn up initial plans for the trip. No formal announcement nor even confirmation of either the visit or its cancellation were available here. But it was learned on the best authority that the trip had opened a "pandora's box" of concern within the Executive Department. It was believed that when the trip was first scheduled, there was reason to believe that diplomatic relations with Egypt would be restored before the legislators arrived in Cairo. Such a prospect was now questionable.

Orthodox Leader Threatens 'Excommunication' Over Conservative Holiday Proposal

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA)--An Orthodox leader threatened today that acceptance by Conservative Jews of a proposal to change from a compulsory two-day observance of three Biblical festivals to one day as practiced in Israel "might lead to formal action of excommunication of the deviationists." The plan assailed by Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, was proposed by Rabbi Ralph Simon, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinic body of Conservative Judaism, at its 69th annual convention. It was attacked yesterday by two other Orthodox leaders, Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. Rabbi Weinberger denounced the plan as a "shockingly insidious encroachment upon hallowed Jewish tradition" and said that if it were adopted, the Orthodox community would "totally divorce itself from any contact with Conservative and Reform Jews."

Rabbi Ginzberg Warns Against Seeing Negro's Upward Thrust As A 'Racial Issue'

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., March 19 (JTA)--Prof. Eli Ginzberg of Columbia University cautioned 500 rabbis yesterday not to see the Negro's quest for power and full equality as a "racial issue." The noted economist and manpower specialist, speaking at the 69th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), warned that the upward thrust of the Negro community will create inevitable conflict with Jews.

"When Jewish shopkeepers are forced to sell their stores in the ghetto, when large numbers of Negroes move into Jewish neighborhoods, when Negroes seek preferential treatment in the school system or elsewhere in municipal government," he said, "many will feel threatened." However, Dr. Ginzberg asserted, it is "wrong and dangerous for Jewish leaders to raise the cry of anti-Semitism when such conflicts occur."

As an example, he cited the recent teachers' strikes in New York City, which he described as "a confrontation between black power advocates seeking local control of schools and union teachers determined to protect their economic and seniority rights. "Although many of the teachers happened to be Jewish," said Dr. Ginzberg, "the strike should be seen as a Negro-labor union conflict, not as a racial-ethnic confrontation."

See Lindsay Facing Problems In Relations With Jews As He Seeks Re-Election

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay, who announced yesterday that he will run for re-election in November, faces an up hill fight and not the least of his problems is his relations with New York's Jewish community which largely supported him when he ran for Mayor in 1965, the Wall Street Journal reported today.

Journal reporter Alan Adelson found bitterness against Mr. Lindsay among two groups--the white working class and the Jews. "Both groups blame the Mayor for the city's big increases in crime," Mr. Adelson wrote. "Anger among the Jews is also fueled by charges that Mr. Lindsay encouraged anti-Semitism in the city's school system by backing efforts to decentralize school administration. It's claimed that black militants used a decentralization experiment in the largely Negro Ocean Hill Brownsville section of Brooklyn to harass Jewish teachers."

Mr. Adelson said that last Sunday, Mayor Lindsay spoke to a Jewish gathering at a new gymnasium on the lower East side. "The audience appeared to be friendly, but in the middle of the mayor's speech a voice boomed out from the back of the hall interrupting him: 'What's happening with all the violence in the schools, Mr. Lindsay? Mr. Quisling? You gave the city to them, Quisling Lindsay.'"

Schedule Funeral Services For Mrs. Sidney E. Pollack Of Jewish Guild For Blind

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here Friday for Mrs. Sidney E. Pollack, administrative director of the Jewish Guild for the Blind, who died yesterday after a lengthy illness. She was 62. In her 35 years with the organization, she advanced from a secretarial post as she helped develop the agency from a small organization mainly for the Jewish blind to a non-sectarian agency serving more than 2,000 persons annually. She had a leading role in construction of the agency's \$6 million dollar headquarters which will be completed next year near the Lincoln Center in Manhattan.