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Warfare Comes To Eilat and Aqaba, As Guerrillas And Israeli Jets Exchange Bombardments

TEL AVIV, April 8 (JTA) -- The sun-drenched city of Eilat at the southernmost point of Israel was wrenched into the Arab-Israel war zone today along with its neighboring Jordanian port of Aqaba for the first time since the Six-Day War. Israeli jets rocket-bombed the sleepy port, Jordan's sole outlet to the sea, in retaliation for an early-morning Arab guerrilla Katyusha-rocket attack on Eilat that, Israel claimed, wounded 14 civilians, two seriously.

By common consent, Israel and Jordanian regular forces have kept their hands off each other's port cities on the northern tip of the Gulf of Eilat, their outlet to the Red Sea and worldwide shipping. Aqaba is Jordan's port of entry for materiel of key importance to its economy and military establishment, including food, oil and heavy weapons. Eilat is a major port for the unloading of oil for Israel and has boomed as a tourist center because of its dry heat, warm waters and beaches.

Aware of its vulnerability, King Hussein some months ago cracked down on Arab guerrillas in the area who fired rockets that fell near Eilat. Following their repression, which had political consequences involving government-guerrilla tensions in Amman, the guerrillas moved their sabotage activities northward. The El Fatah guerrilla organization announced in Amman that it was responsible for the Eilat attack.

(At the United Nations, Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah complained to the Security Council against what it termed the "wanton, unprovoked and barbaric" attack. "In self-defense, Israel took air action to stop the attack which originated from the area of the Jordanian city of Aqaba," his note said. Jordan also complained to the Council and called upon it to impose "more effective measures" against Israel. Ambassador Muhammad H. el-Farra was apparently referring to possible diplomatic, economic or military measures. While not calling for a Council meeting as it did recently in the case of the Israeli air attack on the Salt area, Jordan recalled the Council's April 1 resolution condemning Israel and warning that if attacks were repeated, the UN body "would have to meet to consider" additional steps "as envisaged by the Charter." Jordan claimed that a Belgian Catholic priest and his mother were severely wounded, his church badly damaged along with about a dozen homes, and that less damage was done to a girls' high school and a police station.)

Israelis, Egyptians Battle 5 Hours Along 70-Mile Suez Canal Stretch

Tensions escalated westward also as Israeli and Egyptian troops fought a pitched artillery battle for about five hours, the second in recent days, along a 70-mile stretch of the Suez Canal. An Israeli military spokesman said that four troops were wounded, two seriously, in the exchange. Egypt claimed it suffered five wounded, killed 40 Israelis and destroyed 11 tanks. Israel said that an Egyptian tank at Suez City was destroyed and that anti-tank weapons were hit in the Bitter Lakes and Ismailia areas. Egyptian bunkers were also said to have burned. The fighting subsided after United Nations observers arranged three cease-fires. Both sides blamed the other for initiating the exchanges.

Among the injured in Eilat was a four-month old baby who was flown to Tel Aviv for eye surgery. A number of buildings and cars were also damaged. In Amman, a Jordanian military spokesman said two Israeli jets killed eight civilians and wounded nine, in addition to damaging buildings.

An Israeli Foreign Minister spokesman said that Arab attacks on Eilat and across the canal were timed to "influence the Big Four talks" on the Middle East which resumed today in New York. The spokesman said that the Arabs were trying to convince the United States, Soviet Union, France and Britain that the Mideast was on the brink of a new war, a warning which King Hussein of Jordan delivered when he arrived yesterday in the U.S. for talks with President Richard M. Nixon. (The King said at the time that another Arab-Israel conflict threatened the "possibility of outside involvement and entanglement," and he welcomed the Big Four's "friendly intervention.")

While touring Eilat, Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar-Lev warned today that Aqaba, which is three miles away, was more vulnerable than Israel's port. Even if the Arab rocket attack was carried out by irregulars, he said, the Jordanian Army and authorities were responsible for preventing such assaults.

(Members of King Hussein's entourage in Washington told the press informally that the Jordanian Government could not assure the security of Israelis from attack. The Eilat bombardment, they said, may have been launched by El Fatah guerrillas "whose activity is encouraged by continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories." The bombing of Aqaba for "guerrilla action for which the Jordanian Government and public were not responsible" was "deplorable," they said.) Observers in Israel said that the guerrillas apparently seized on King Hussein's absence from the country to renew their attacks in the area.

Eilat was back to normal within hours and many holiday-makers continued to arrive in the hot Negev city to lie on the beaches and cool themselves in the waters. Repair work began immediately. When the Katyusha attack began at 3:50 a.m., says JTA's Tel Aviv correspondent Itzhak Shargil, people in pajamas and carrying blankets dashed for shelters. Eilat was immediately blacked out but lights continued to shine in Aqaba.

"Every four or five minutes, a volley of three or four shells exploded," reported Mr. Shargil. "One exploded near a synagogue, another wrecked one flat where the baby was injured." Other shells whistled over the Queen of Sheba Hotel and exploded in the city's center near WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) institutions and a parking lot.

"Eilat is crowded with visitors who spent the night on the warm sand. Luckily, they were unhurt," said Mr. Shargil. "Eilat has a hippie and beatnik population. They were seen during the attack strolling the streets with their guitars. They simply did not know what to do."

Nixon, Hussein Confer At White House; Both Express Hope For A Mideast Peace

WASHINGTON, April 8 (JTA) -- President Richard M. Nixon and King Hussein of Jordan both voiced hope for Mideast peace today as they began White House talks opening the King's three-day official visit to the Capital. They conferred for about ninety minutes and press secretary Ronald Ziegler said later that Mr. Nixon was pleased to hear the King's views, noting that the latter had recently conferred with President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Saudi Arabia's King Faisal. They will meet again.

Greeting King Hussein, Mr. Nixon said he hoped that their talks might open "new avenues that could lead to permanent peace in that troubled part of the world, the Middle East." The Hashemite monarch said: "Within the very near future, we can either move toward our objective--a just and honorable peace--or we might lose the opportunity to establish peace. A situation as explosive as it is holds many dangers, not only to those involved in the area but to the world as a whole."

Full state honors were accorded King Hussein on the White House's south lawn, including a 21-gun salute. Mr. Nixon told the King that the "explosive situation" between Israel and the Arab states required a solution that must come from "leadership from within." Such leadership, he said, involved the qualities of "courage, wisdom and moderation." "We in this country," Mr. Nixon declared, "have seen in you those qualities." "I am proud of the fact that you are my friend," the King told the President. Mr. Nixon beamed. The King voiced hope that Arab-American relations would now "grow stronger than they ever were." King Hussein was the first official Arab state visitor since Mr. Nixon took office. The President conferred at the White House last month with Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel. The King also met today with Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

State Department officials said that today's meeting was a sign that the Nixon Administration was moving toward a more even-handed Mideast policy. They said U.S. policy-makers wanted to give national exposure to the Arab viewpoint on the Mideast dispute. In their view, there is a "saturation" of the U.S. information media by Israel and her supporters in this country.

The talks may lead to a speed-up in delivery of F-104 jet fighter aircraft promised to Jordan after the Six-Day War but not yet sent. Jordanian pilots have been trained in the U.S. Jordan has placed stress on improving its air defense capacity, citing Israeli strikes across the cease-fire lines. U.S. sources said that Lt. Gen. Amer Khammash, Jordanian Army Chief of Staff, who is accompanying the King, was here to press for early action on improving Jordan's radar net, anti-aircraft capacity, and aerial strength. Officials said the reason for delay in the delivery of F-104s was that Jordanian technical facilities and airfields were not yet equipped to handle the sophisticated jets. The planes were scheduled to have started moving to Jordan last December.

State Department officials pointed out that Secretary of State Rogers supported Jordan recently when he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Israel-Arab borders must not reflect the "weight of conquest." They said the U.S. would support Jordan against Israeli pressures for fortified outposts in demilitarized zones that may emerge if and when Israel withdraws from the West Bank of the Jordan River.

Big 4 Meet Again, Indicate That No Further Communiques Are Planned

As the White House meetings were under way, the second session of the Big Four Ambassadors was held in the New York residence of Soviet Ambassador Yakov A. Malik. They met for nearly three and one-half hours in their search for a solution to the Mideast conflict, and acting under self-imposed secrecy, said that there would be no more communiques. A communique issued last Thursday following the first meeting, at the home of France's Ambassador Armand Berard, set the stage for today's announcement. It said that the "active consultations...will be private and confidential." The next meeting will be held Monday at the residence of Lord Caradon, Britain's envoy.

Yesterday, Mahmoud Fawzi, foreign affairs adviser to President Nasser, conferred with the Big Four Ambassadors and Secretary-General U Thant at the UN. Some observers thought he amplified the Egyptian response to a questionnaire submitted to Israel and its Arab foes by UN Mideast peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. The Jordanian and Israeli replies were understood to have been given to the Big Four envoys. Mr. Fawzi was due to return tomorrow to Washington, where he conferred briefly last week with President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers. Despite the absence of diplomatic ties--Egypt broke them during the Six-Day War--Mr. Fawzi represented Col. Nasser at the Eisenhower funeral rites last week.

Arabs at the UN said that Mr. Fawzi's movement back and forth to the Capital and meetings with the President and Mr. Rogers was unusual treatment for a representative of a nation that has no diplomatic ties with Washington. Mr. Fawzi was understood to be discussing the possibility of renewing those connections. According to some UN sources, Mr. Fawzi yesterday urged the earliest possible implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution which laid out the principles for a Mideast settlement.

El Fatah Said To Be Smuggling Anti-Israel Propaganda Into Gaza Strip Camps

TEL AVIV, April 8 (JTA) -- The El Fatah guerrilla organization is apparently filling an anti-Israel propaganda vacuum in the Gaza Strip created by Israeli quashing of the Palestine Liberation Front which had operated in the area. El Fatah has sent its operatives to the Strip from Jordan via the Sinai. Its activities are carried on mainly in the Strip's southern section and are based in refugee camps.

The Arabs are smuggling in underground literature including books dealing with guerrilla warfare. Israeli security forces have discovered some 50 copies in Arabic of Herut Party leader Menahem Begin's book entitled "The Revolt" which tells the story of the Irgun Zvai Leumi's struggle against the British Mandatory authorities. The Gaza Strip is still tense. Some 11 schools remain closed and will reopen only after principals and teachers cooperate in preserving order, Israeli authorities said.

See Stiff Russian, Libyan Opposition At UN To Agencies Critical Of Internal Policies

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 8 (JTA) -- A committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council resumed hearings today on the status of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Council. The organizations generally have the right to make their views heard by the Council and its agencies and commissions without having the right to vote. Some of the organizations have been forthright in their presentations to the UN agencies and have offered testimony critical of the internal policies of member states.

Observers here forecast a determined attempt by the Soviet Union, strongly supported by Libya and other Arab states, to use the workings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for an attack on organizations which have been critical of Soviet policies with regard to the Jews in Russia. The Russians have accused the Jewish non-governmental organizations of conducting an anti-Soviet campaign and of falsely depicting the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The Arab states would like to see all the Jewish organizations deprived of their status at the UN. A particular Soviet target is the International Commission of Jurists which accused the Soviet Union of anti-Semitism in connection with alleged economic crimes in Russia. The jurists body is non-Jewish.

Appearing today before the committee was Dr. William Korey, UN observer of the B'nai B'rith International Council, to answer questions about the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (COJO). The board represents B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies before appropriate UN bodies. A number of Jewish organizations have received approval, subject to Economic and Social Council confirmation, to appear in a non-governmental capacity.

The Russians were described as challenging the concept that the non-governmental agencies had the right to criticize member states. As a result of Soviet pressure, the questionnaires which all accredited organizations have to complete asks them to answer whether in the past 10 years they have published criticism of any country in which the organization in question had no membership. None of the Jewish organizations has any membership in the Soviet Union.

Orthodox Jews Defy Military Government, Continue Hebron Resettlement Celebrations

JERUSALEM, April 8 (JTA) -- Orthodox Jews who defied Israel Military Government orders a year ago and established the first Jewish settlement in Hebron since members of the ancient Jewish community there were driven from their homes in the 1936 Arab riots continued today their clandestine celebrations of the first anniversary of the resettlement. Hebron is one of the five holy cities of Palestine and Jews had lived there uninterruptedly from Biblical days until the 1936 riots. It is the site of the Tomb of the Patriarchs. A number of youngsters defied Defense Ministry orders forbidding celebrations in the occupied areas and slipped into Hebron to join the Orthodox group. They held an anniversary celebration in an abandoned building.

The steering committee of the Land of Israel movement--an organization seeking the incorporation into Israel of all the territory occupied in the Six-Day War--held a meeting in the settlers' compound today and voted to establish a development corporation to function in what they called the liberated areas. At Kfar Etzion, in the West Bank area, where there is now a Nahal settlement on the site of the Jewish settlement complex that fell to the Arabs on the eve of the 1948 liberation war, two conventions were held, one of youths from the various political parties, and the second of youths representing the Jewish settlements in the Israeli-held areas. The latter group voted to set up an organization to recruit and screen candidates for settlement in the occupied areas.

Ultra-Orthodox Claim Responsibility For Attack On Dr. Maier's Home In Autopsy Dispute

JERUSALEM, April 8 (JTA) -- The "Eidat Charedit," an organization composed of ultra-Orthodox Jews here, most of whom do not recognize the State of Israel, claimed responsibility today for an attack on the apartment of Dr. David Maier, director of Shaare Tsedek Hospital, in a protest against his refusal to prohibit autopsies in the hospital. Dr. Maier was not at home when a band of about 80, most of them youngsters, broke into his apartment, manhandled his aged mother and smashed furniture and other property. Police rounded up 79 suspected of taking part in the incident, but they were released on parole yesterday because of the Passover holiday and will be brought to trial later.

Rabbi Joseph Sheinberger, spokesman for the group, which regards the Satmar Rebbe in New York as its spiritual leader, said it would continue the fight against Dr. Maier. The organization has conducted several demonstrations against the pathologist, protesting his designation as director of the most Orthodox hospital in Jerusalem. Dr. Maier came here from New York. The ultra-Orthodox group objects to his policy on autopsies which, like his predecessor's, has been to let the hospital rabbi rule in each case whether an autopsy was permissible under Jewish religious law. The attending rabbi is not considered sufficiently Orthodox by the protesting elements.

Survey Finds Occupation, Education Influenced N.Y. Jewish Review Board Voting

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- A scientifically selected random sampling of 374 white registered voters in Brooklyn, commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, on their support of, or opposition to, the establishment of a police civilian review board in New York in 1966 showed that occupation and education were frequently decisive factors as to the position taken by Jewish voters. Only 22 percent of the Jews polled, as compared to 54 percent of the Catholics, had ties with the police. "Highly educated professionals among the Jews overwhelmingly supported the board," the study disclosed, "while poorly educated low-income Jewish voters strongly opposed it."

In a foreword to the report, Daniel P. Moynihan, special adviser to President Richard M. Nixon on urban problems, pointed out that liberals consistently overlook the "reality" that class, rather than race or religion, frequently influences attitudes on crime, the police and related matters. He said that opposition to the review board was not significantly attributable to race hatred but to concern over crime. The report, "Police, Politics and Race," was published today by the AJCommittee and the Joint Center for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. The study was conducted by Dr. David W. Abbott of Brooklyn College, assisted by 50 Brooklyn College students.

St. Louis Community Executive Offers Views On Why U.S. Negroes Are Not Like Jews

NEW YORK, April 8 (JTA) -- When American Jews cite their struggles against poverty and discrimination and ask, "Why can't the blacks be like us?", they are asking a "pseudo-question," says William Kahn, executive director of the St. Louis Jewish Community Centers Association. Writing in the spring issue of the "Journal of Jewish Communal Service," Mr. Kahn says the answer to this query is: racism, de-culturization through enslavement by white men for 200 years and oppression for another 100, and the late arrival of Negroes on the industrial scene.

"Even though the American frontier days were over by the time Jews began streaming to this country in large numbers in the 1890s and 1900s, economic frontiers were first beginning to expand, and Jews, blessed with a culture that was not ruthlessly expunged, were able to take full advantage of this expansion," Mr. Kahn writes. Noting that "we are the fortunate children and grandchildren of those who have toiled in sweatshops," he says that for blacks "economic opportunity did not really begin until World War II and has not yet been fully realized." The Journal is published by the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service, a professional organization for the exchange of experiences in all fields of Jewish communal work.

Harvard Prof. Says Anti-Zionists Demand New Leftists Surrender Jewish Identity

BOSTON, April 8 (JTA) -- A Harvard professor of government said that anti-Zionist pressure on the New Left, whose membership he termed "disproportionately Jewish," from black militants at home and Third World revolutionaries abroad constitutes a demand for "a surrender of their Jewish identity."

Dr. Michael Walzer also told a Boston audience that "the same mental rigidity which turned the civil war in Vietnam into an international struggle is turning the Middle East struggle into an international incident." He said that "New Leftists who are against the war in Vietnam and other examples of American intervention find it easy to assimilate any ally of the United States into the camp of imperialism." The relative ease of the Israeli victory in the Six-Day War, Dr. Walzer said, "brought a sudden picture of 'imperialistic' Israel ruling over a conquered people." This, he said, intensified the pressure on Jewish leftists who could now "support the Arab Palestine guerrilla whom they identified as part of the world revolution they admired."

In discussing the pressure from black militants, Dr. Walzer discounted talk of Negro-anti-Semitism, asserting "it is not the majority of blacks but the militant leftists who resent Jewish leadership." Black anti-Zionism, he said "is far more an assertion of black leadership and black nationalism than a principle position on the State of Israel." The professor, a contributing editor to Dissent magazine, said that "the New Left significantly underestimates the importance and value of national feelings. These pressures demand from liberal Jews a surrender of Jewish identification which, unfortunately, today is easy for Jews to make. The result is a generation of young people both without a nation and without self-respect."

Scholar Says Holocaust Remembrance Should Be Included In Daily Prayers

PHILADELPHIA, April 8 (JTA) -- A Jewish scholar urged today that remembrance of the six million Jews destroyed by the Nazis in World War II should be incorporated into the daily prayers "just as the memory of the Exodus from Egypt is repeated three times every day in our prayers." Dr. Abraham Katsh, president of Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning here, said: "Jews the world over observe the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day but the Holocaust must be a part of our daily awareness and that of our children who, fortunately, knew it not." The Holocaust, he said "should also be accorded unflagging repetition in our worship."

Dr. Katsh is co-chairman of a city-wide memorial committee for the Six Million Jewish Martyrs which will sponsor the 1969 Memorial Service in Philadelphia April 20. He said perpetuation of the memory of the Jewish martyrs from generation to generation would "help prevent a recurrence of a Holocaust whether it be directed at the Jewish people or any other group."

Latin American Jewish Congress Plenary Session Scheduled For 3 Days In May

BUENOS AIRES, April 8 (JTA) -- A plenary session of the Latin American Jewish Congress, branch of the World Jewish Congress, will be held here from May 17-19. A decision to convene the assembly was taken here at a meeting of representatives of the organization from Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.