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State Department, Thant Voice Concern On Suez Situation; Near State Of War Seen

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- The State Department today associated the United States Government with a warning by United Nations Secretary General U Thant to the Security Council released several hours earlier that the cease-fire has virtually broken down in the Suez Canal zone and that an active state of war almost exists there.

The U.S. statement urged Israel and the Arabs to end violations of the cease-fire and to "avoid all actions which aggravate the tense situation" in the Middle East. The U.S. warned that mounting violence in the Mideast and a breakdown of the cease-fire would "delay and hinder" efforts by the Big Four to find a peaceful settlement. The statement, released by State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey, said the U.S. wanted to "associate ourselves with the spirit of concern" expressed by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Thant said in his message to the Security Council that he felt "it necessary to employ the unusual means of a special report to call most urgently to the attention of members of the Council the prevailing situation in the Suez Canal section which, in my view, is grave." He did not, however, explicitly ask for a meeting of the Security Council which he is empowered to do.

Mr. Thant said that "as of the date of this report there have been major breaches of the cease-fire daily for 12 successive days. In numerous instances the exchanges of fire have taken place along most of the length of the canal. The weapons employed range from small arms to heavy mortars, tank fire and heavy artillery. The United Nations military observers, who are now operating under great danger and difficulty, in each instance exert every effort to bring a quick end to the firing, with varying degrees of success, but no later than the following day, firing erupts again. In the circumstances," Mr. Thant said, "it seems to me that the only conclusion to be drawn is that the Security Council cease-fire has become almost totally ineffective in the Suez Canal sector and that a virtual state of active war now exists there, as indicated by the observers' reports."

(A report from Tel Aviv today said that a UN truce observer identified as a Capt. Young of the Irish Army, was wounded when a UN jeep struck a mine north of Qantara on the east bank of the Suez Canal. Another UN jeep was damaged by a road mine a short while later. The mines were presumably laid by Egyptian commandos who raided the Israeli side of the canal April 19 and 21.

The U.S. statement said, "We call urgently on those responsible for the firing and other violations of the cease-fire in the Suez Canal area to take effective measures to ensure the maintenance of the cease-fire." Mr. McCloskey made it clear that the statement applied to all border violations although its wording referred only to the Suez Canal zone. He said, "These violations of the cease-fire are particularly regrettable at a time when we and other permanent members of the Security Council are engaged in efforts to help Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring promote a peaceful settlement."

The U.S. statement was issued shortly after Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joseph Sisco, met with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to discuss the Middle East crisis. The Sisco-Dobrynin meeting was reportedly intended to help reconcile American and Soviet positions and to seek progress on a mutually agreed formula for a Big Four peace plan. Mr. Sisco was scheduled to meet later today with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin.

Egyptians Dispute Report That 2 Radar Posts In Jordan Were Knocked Out By Israelis

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- Officers at one of two Egyptian-operated radar bases deep in southern Jordan that were attacked today by Israeli jet fighter-bombers disputed an Israeli claim that the post, near Mazar, was knocked out. It was reported that the other post at Gebel Guwaissat was damaged. The Israel Government claimed that the attack had destroyed the installations which were sending to Cairo monitored information on Israeli flights southward from Tel Aviv to the Suez Canal.

In another operation, Israeli planes also raided Arab commando bases where there were "concentrations of saboteurs" in northwest Jordan near Irbid and Ajlun. (In a letter to the United Nations Security Council, Jordan's Ambassador Mohammed H. el-Farra claimed that five civilians were killed and 10 wounded in the north and that five soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in the south.)

An Israeli pilot, Capt. Naftali Porat, was killed when his plane was hit by ground fire and exploded in mid-air during the assault on the radar posts. The Mazar post was said to be 15 miles from the cease-fire line and 10 miles south of Karak village; the other one was 15 miles north of Maan, a road junction some 35 miles from Israel's Negev border.

The early-warning system posts were set up to replace Egyptian radar installations in the Sinai which were over-run by Israeli troops in the June, 1967 war. They were under the Egyptian Air Force's command. A senior Israeli officer said after the air strikes that Israel was capable of frustrating any Egyptian efforts to drive its forces out of the Sinai. He said that a drive onto the peninsula

was the principle aim of the stepped-up Egyptian attacks in the Suez zone. The air attack, he said, was one of the options used to reply to the Suez artillery bombardments.

Observers here said that the air raids were possibly the first in a series of offensive operations to check the Egyptian attacks along the canal as well as Arab sabotage activities along the Jordanian frontier. The guerrilla bases hit, a military spokesman said, were used as staging areas for raids on Israel. (In Cairo, a military communique said that Egypt had sent commando patrols across the canal for the third consecutive night on Monday and that five Israelis were killed. The commandos, Cairo Radio said, were operating all along the waterway.)

One guerrilla concentration struck, just southwest of Irbid, was a base where members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were trained, Israelis said. The other was said to be an auxiliary base at Ashtafina, near Ajlun. Israeli and Jordanian forces have fought almost daily in the region for the past few weeks. Iraqi forces based in Jordan were said to have joined Jordanian regulars in recent days for the second time since December in shelling Israeli settlements south of Lake Tiberias.

The boiling situation on the borders and cease-fire lines are regarded in Jerusalem as a continuous effort by the Arabs to create the impression that a war is about to break out anew in order to convince the Big Four to impose a settlement on the region. The Ambassadors of the U.S, Soviet Union, Britain and France held their fifth meeting in New York on Monday and will convene again on April 29. No progress was reported.

Presidents Conference Chairman Voices 'Regret, Surprise' Over Washington Vexation

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) -- The chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today voiced "regret and surprise" over a report that high Nixon Administration officials were becoming vexed by Jewish criticism of United States participation in the Big Four talks. The same reaction was voiced by Rabbi Herschel Schacter to the report that Administration officials said President Richard M. Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers regard that criticism as impugning their asserted commitments to Israel.

The criticism stemmed from a meeting held with Secretary Rogers, at his invitation last week, and a delegation representing the Conference and headed by Rabbi Schacter. They also conferred with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco. They told Mr. Rogers that there was an "apparent drift in U.S. policy away from insistence on a negotiated peace" between the Arabs and Israel.

Rabbi Schacter said today that "we did not come to criticize the genuine efforts of the Administration to achieve a permanent peace. We surely did not come to question the sincerity of purpose nor to doubt the integrity of our Government's motivations. We came only to convey to our Government the deep concern of the American Jewish community over Israel's security."

He declared that he had conveyed to Secretary Rogers and Mr. Sisco the Conference's "true gratitude for the candor with which these substantive matters were discussed, which was both enlightening and encouraging." The Conference, Rabbi Schacter said, "welcomed the Administration's reiteration of its determination to help bring about an equitable peace in the Mideast based upon a contractually binding agreement among all the parties to the dispute."

At no time did any member of the delegation question the integrity of the Administration's commitment nor seek to "malign" U.S. leadership, he said. "On the contrary, we are deeply heartened and grateful for the repeated assertions of Mr. Nixon and Mr. Rogers that Israel will not be sold out by the U.S. at the Big Four conference, that no peace unfair to Israel would be imposed, and that consent to any settlement must come from the parties directly concerned." State Department officials have said that there was resentment over the delegation's general approach to Mr. Rogers and particularly by the attitude of two delegation members.

Big Four Are Discussing Ban On Arm Shipment To Mideast, 'Washington Star' Reports

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- The Washington Evening Star reported today that the Big Four are discussing a ban on arms shipments to the Middle East, a development that could lead to the suspension of the shipment of 50 F-4 Phantom jet supersonic fighter-bombers which the United States has agreed to sell Israel. The Star's UN correspondent, William R. Frye, said "Moscow's willingness to include arms control on the Big Four Mideast agenda was regarded by Western diplomats as a significant step forward." But "whether any progress has been made toward agreement on this point in the highly secret talks is not known," Mr. Frye wrote. He said that Soviet acceptance of an arms embargo as a talking point for the Big Four was welcomed by the U.S. and Britain and was regarded as a reason for optimism about the Four Power meeting.

Under consideration, he said, was a selective ban on "certain kinds of weapons." These would include nuclear weapons, long range missiles and combat planes with a specified performance capability. The "denial of such hardware would help keep any future Arab-Israel war from escalating out of control," he said. Big power "ability to loosen or tighten restraints on arms sales would give them considerable political leverage which they could use to bring about and influence peace negotiations," Mr. Frye said.

An arms restriction agreement would affect U.S. arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel. British and French sales would also be affected.

Solemn Memorial Day Observances In Israel Precede Independence Day Celebrations

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- Israel observed a solemn memorial day today for its fallen soldiers and the men and women who fought for independence in the pre-statehood era. The memorial period was ushered in by the wailing of sirens yesterday evening. When the sirens sound again tonight, they will mark the start of Israel's 21st Independence Day celebrations.

A memorial flame was kindled at the Western Wall last night by President Zalman Shazar and memorial lamps and candles were lighted simultaneously all over the country. At mid-morning today sirens signalled a halt in traffic. Vehicles stopped and pedestrians stood at attention to observe two minutes of silence for the war dead. A special memorial service was held at the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv where a guard of honor was formed by veterans of Haganah, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Sternists and other former underground groups. Memorial services were held at military cemeteries attended by thousands of members of bereaved families. Veterans and members of the Gadna youth brigades marched together in a memorial parade through Jerusalem's main thoroughfares.

With no military parade to serve as a focal point, tomorrow's Independence Day festivities will be held in various localities. Security forces were taking strict precautions to forestall possible terrorist attempts at violence. Police and civil defense guards have already taken up positions in strategic areas and the public has been urged to be on the alert for suspicious movements. Special sandbagged areas have been earmarked for the disposal of suspicious items.

The precautionary measures were prompted by increased attempts at infiltration by Arab saboteurs in recent days. Terrorists were expected to try to demonstrate their strength on the occasion of Independence Day, the second since the Six-Day War. Egyptian attacks across the Suez Canal and increased fighting along the Jordanian border were believed to be coordinated with terrorist movements in an attempt to impress the Four Powers who are meeting in New York on the Middle East dispute with the gravity of the Mideast situation.

But Prime Minister Golda Meir, in an Independence Day message taped for Jewish communities all over the world, declared that no trace of fear or panic could be found in Israel. She invited everyone to visit the restored campus of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus which had been isolated by Jordanian forces until the June, 1967 war. President Zalman Shazar said in a message over Kol Israel that Israel will continue to defend herself but will not pause in her building efforts or weaken her faith. He predicted that a time of cooperation and mutual understanding will come to the region.

Nixon Congratulates Israel, Expresses Sadness Over Mideast Conflict

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- President Richard M. Nixon said in an Independence Day message to President Shazar today that like "so many peace-loving men and women throughout the world," he was "deeply disturbed and saddened by the conflict that has marred the great success you have attained." President Nixon met President Shazar when the latter attended the funeral of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He said in his message: "My warmest congratulations go out to you and your people on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the State of Israel. As so many of my fellow Americans, I deeply admire the accomplishments your country has realized in the course of its young life. Adversity has been your challenge as you have pressed forward in the face of overwhelming odds toward progress and well-being for your citizens. But, as so many peace-loving men and women throughout the world, I too am deeply disturbed by the conflict that has marred the great success you have attained. So, on this anniversary of your nation, I also join with you--and with all men of good will--in the fervent hope that peace may soon accompany the prosperity you enjoy."

The letter was read by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, today at the Felt Forum of Madison Square Garden in New York at a celebration.

21st Anniversary Marked In Cities Across The Globe

(In Albany, N.Y., Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller proclaimed the week of April 20 "Israel Independence Week" in New York State. The Governor's proclamation hailed the people of Israel who "won their freedom in the face of obstacles which most people believed to be insurmountable." In a telephone call to Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York conveyed anniversary greetings and expressed the hope of New Yorkers for a strong and secure Israel that would live in peace and prosperity.

(In Philadelphia, Mayor James H.J. Tate yesterday proclaimed Israel Independence Day in that city at a ceremony in Independence Hall. He received from Consul-General Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov a golden medal struck at the Franklin Mint in honor of the occasion. It symbolized a sister-cities relationship with Tel Aviv. He said that Philadelphia would name a street or square in Tel Aviv's honor, and Mr. Ben-Yaacov announced that Tel Aviv would reciprocate.

(The Board of Deputies of British Jews held a special meeting in London to mark Israel's anniversary. One speaker, Sir Henry Davigor-Goldsmid, decried attempts to create a breach between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. He said, "Today anti-Semitism is a mark of shame, but to be anti-Israel is merely to express an opinion. Israel is no longer an underdog and we are proud that she can stand on her own feet.")

Humphrey Raps Nixon's Program But Praises His Decision To Join Big 4 Talks

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey sharply criticized the Nixon Administration yesterday in the areas of military expenditures, cutbacks of anti-poverty funds and the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. But he told an audience of B'nai B'rith members that he went along with the President's decision to join in Four Power talks on the Middle East even though he had doubts about what the conference might achieve.

Mr. Humphrey, who opposed Mr. Nixon in last November's presidential elections, said at the 56th annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League that he thought the Middle East was a "cauldron" and that the need for peace there was of great importance to both the United States and the Soviet Union. He said that if the Big Powers insisted on an end to belligerency, they might promote a "climate of restraint" and that possibilities might develop for bilateral negotiations and settlement in other areas.

Mr. Humphrey, who was Vice President during the Administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, declared that "there has never been a friendly or even-handed (American) policy in the Middle East unless a President of the United States made it so." He said that without Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson "there would have been no even-handed policy" fair to Israel. Referring to President Nixon, he said "you had better make sure" that such a policy continues under the new Administration, though he indicated that he thought it would. Mr. Humphrey predicted a battle in public arena "for men's minds" on the Arab-Israeli issue.

Agriculture Department Announces \$1.3 Million In Food Assistance To Jordan

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- The Department of Agriculture yesterday announced that \$1.3 million worth of wheat or flour will be shipped to Jordan under the Food for Peace Program. This amounts to about 735,000 bushels of wheat or wheat flour. The sum of \$200,000 was designated to cover ocean transportation costs for delivery to the port of Aqaba.

Head Of Jewish Agency's Information Department Plans To Broaden Its Scope

LONDON, April 22 (JTA) -- The head of the Jewish Agency's information and organization department said here yesterday that one of the most important tasks facing the Zionist movement was to "find a way to the hearts and minds of the young generation of Jewish men and women." Avraham Schenker told JTA prior to his departure for the United States and Canada that that task had ideological and practical aspects. He said he planned to broaden the scope of his department's public relations and information services in Britain and elsewhere to meet changing times and conditions. Mr. Schenker thought the British Zionist movement, despite its "tradition of great achievements," did not play a sufficiently large role in the arena of world Zionism. He said there might have been reasons for this in the past "but there seems to be no reason now why British Zionism should not make a greater impact in the councils of the World Zionist Movement and world Jewry as a whole."

Ozar Hatorah Schools In Morocco And Iran Are Discussed At JDC Geneva Meeting

GENEVA, April 22 (JTA) -- Jewish schools operated by Ozar Hatorah in Morocco and Iran were discussed at a meeting here yesterday between officials of the Joint Distribution Committee headed by Louis D. Horowitz and directors of Ozar Hatorah which the JDC has subsidized for the past 20 years. The organization was founded in 1944 to provide religious education for Jewish communities in North Africa and the Middle East. The Ozar Hatorah reported that 4,000 Jewish children and youth attended its 15 schools in Iran and that its 19 schools in Morocco had an enrollment of 3,100.

Chair In European History Endowed In Amsterdam Rabbi's Name At Bar-Ilan University

AMSTERDAM, April 22 (JTA) -- A chair in the history of European Judaism has been established at Bar-Ilan University in Israel in honor of Chief Rabbi Abraham Schuster of Amsterdam. Rabbi Schuster has been chairman of the Mizrahi organization in Holland for a number of years.

Toronto Jew Is Arrested For Striking John Beattie, Self-Styled Canadian Neo-Nazi

TORONTO, April 22 (JTA) -- A 43-year-old Hungarian-Jewish refugee was arrested and charged with assault after he struck Canada's self-styled Nazi leader, John Beattie, when the latter started to march through the Allen Gardens here to mark the 80th anniversary of Hitler's birth. Beattie was hit on the head with a sign by Eugene Lawrence, a real estate salesman. He was unconscious for several minutes. The local Nazi had planned to picket the downtown offices of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association after he was refused a permit to hold a Hitler memorial meeting.

Bernard P. Kopkind Of New Haven Is Dead At 64; Was Community Leader

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 22 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here for Bernard P. Kopkind, an attorney, civic leader and a leader in Jewish community affairs, who died at the age of 64. Mr. Kopkind served as president of the Jewish Community Center and of the New Haven Jewish Community Council and was a board member and treasurer of the New England Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. He had also served as vice president of the New England section of the National Jewish Welfare Board and was a vice chairman and co-founder of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Israel's Largest Reservoir Is Renamed For Late Premier Levi Eshkol

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA) -- Israel's largest reservoir, at Beth Netoffa in Lower Galilee, was officially re-named the Levi Eshkol reservoir yesterday in honor of the late Prime Minister of Israel. A large stone monument was unveiled by Mr. Eshkol's widow at ceremonies attended by Prime Minister Golda Meir and Minister of Agriculture Chaim Gvati.