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President Nasser Threatens To Strike Israeli Civilian Targets, Belittles Raid

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- President Gamal Abdel Nasser threatened today to hit civilian targets inside Israel. The Egyptian leader spoke at a May Day celebration in the Cairo industrial suburb of Helwan. His speech was broadcast by Cairo radio and monitored here.

Col. Nasser voiced his threat after claiming that yesterday's Israeli commando attack on installations in southern Egypt "failed completely" because Egyptian intelligence anticipated the attack and Egyptian defense forces drove off the raiders. "I am announcing today that, in view of Israel's aggression against our civilian targets, the whole world must know that we have the right to hit civilian targets inside Israel," Col. Nasser said.

President Nasser claimed in his speech that "60 percent of the fortifications" of the Bar-Lev Line which Israel erected on the Suez Canal had been destroyed in Egyptian artillery attacks which, he said, marked the first phase of an all-out effort to drive Israeli forces from the canal's east bank. The Israeli fortifications were named for Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces.

Col. Nasser said they were erected because "Israel wants to remain in these occupied regions for an unspecified time" and "we cannot accept this." He said the Egyptian battle plan went into operation at the beginning of March when almost daily artillery duels across the canal began. "After this period of battles along the canal, Lt. Gen. (Mahmoud) Fawzi, the Minister of War, informed me and the Cabinet last week that our armed forces had been able to destroy 60 percent of the fortifications... We informed Gen. Fawzi at the Council of Ministers that the armed forces will proceed with their plan until they complete the destruction of the remaining 40 percent of the Bar-Lev Line," Col. Nasser said.

Referring to yesterday's Israeli commando raid, he said, "Our armed forces predicted the Israeli action on Sunday and forecast that Israel would strike at the water sources. The planes came but were unable to achieve their purpose, and dropped their bombs far from the targets they were headed for."

President Nasser appeared to be taking advantage of foreign press reports that Israel had "backtracked" on its original statement that the raid did severe damage to the Haj Hammadi dam, the Idfu bridge and electric power lines near Isna. Israeli spokesmen said today that the intent of the strike deep into Egypt was more psychological than destructive and demonstrated the vulnerability of the Upper Nile Valley. Foreign news correspondents who were flown over the alleged target area said today that they saw no evidence of damage. But an Israeli military spokesman derided these reports and said "foreign correspondents in Cairo were taken for a real ride." He suggested that "correspondents have another look--25 kilometers due west of Luxor or 55 miles southwest of Kena where they will find what is left of six high tension pylons and the automatic control center of a 500 kilovolt line sprawling on the ground."

Congressmen See 'Credibility Gap' In Israeli Reports On Commando Raid

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA) -- Congressional quarters friendly to Israel said today that Israel's "first credibility gap" had developed in the handling of reports on yesterday's Israeli commando strike into southern Egypt. The Congressmen, who asked not to be quoted by name in order to avoid offending some of their constituents, said that official Israeli communiques first reported heavy damage done to an Egyptian dam, a bridge and electric power lines, but commentators later "backtracked" with a different story that the raid was aimed at inflicting psychological rather than physical damage.

The Congressmen put the blame on Premier Golda Meir's office, not the Israeli armed forces. One Congressman said in a cloakroom comment that Israeli politicians were getting involved "in the same kind of publicity game played by the El Fatah, involving exaggerated actions and phony raids." He said, "The politicians in Israel are taking over from the military men and we won't know what to believe."

The criticism emanated from legislators who have high respect for the efficiency and reliability of the Israeli military forces and who feel the commando raid was fully justified. But they were dismayed when Israeli announcements of a damaging strike were followed by dispatches from foreign correspondents who said they saw no evidence of the claimed damage when they flew over the target area.

Egypt complained to the Security Council yesterday over what it alleged was an aborted air raid attempt by Israel on civilian targets in southern Egypt. Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad said in a letter that "notwithstanding the failure of this Israeli attempt, the gravity of the matter lies in the Israeli persistence in its endeavors to destroy economic installations and attack civilian targets." It did not ask for a meeting.

The means by which the raid was carried out are still unclear. Israel stated officially that the raid was intended "to remind Egyptian authorities of their responsibilities for violating the cease-fire

agreements, and to make them aware that their acts of aggression cannot continue without being reacted to." When Israeli commentators appeared to be stressing the psychological effects of the raid rather than the physical damage done, observers were led to conclude that either the raid was not as successful as the Israelis had hoped, or else that its chief purpose was to demonstrate the vulnerability of southern Egypt with its complex of dams, power stations and high tension lines that feed electric current to the populated northern regions of the country. Israeli spokesmen stressed that the commandos did not have to fire a single shot despite Egypt's claims to have strengthened its civil defense and local gendarmerie after an attack on Naj Hammadi last Nov. 1.

The implications of unopposed Israeli action several hundred miles beyond the Suez Canal cease-fire line appeared to have been lost on the Egyptians. Their shelling of Israeli positions on the canal's east bank yesterday and today was the most intensive in many days, the Israelis conceded. After last October's raid, the Israelis enjoyed a respite from artillery bombardment.

Israeli sources said however that the raid was necessary because a lack of reaction would be taken as a sign of weakness and encourage the Egyptians in their escalation of fighting along the canal. There were hints in the Israeli press today that more severe punishment awaited Egypt if it persisted in its shelling, sniping and commando forays across the canal.

(The New York Times said in an editorial today that the Israeli commando strike "points up the vulnerability of Egypt's long Nile River lifeline and the futility of Cairo's recent belligerence." It said, "The Egyptians can hardly expect sympathy from the international community after their open repudiation of the Suez Canal cease-fire line." The editorial observed that "for the moment, the greatest impact of Israeli commando raids inside Egypt is probably psychological."

Six Are Killed And 4 Injured By Egyptian Sniping And Shelling

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers and three civilians were killed by Egyptian sniping and shelling in the Suez Canal zone yesterday; four were injured today. Two elderly women were injured, one of them seriously, in the shelling of Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov in the Beisan Valley by Jordanian guerrillas last night. The shelling drew retaliatory fire from Israeli forces on Irbid village, long used as a guerrilla base in northwest Jordan. A military spokesman said the artillery duel lasted several hours and was broken off by the Jordanians when Israeli Air Force jets appeared. A military spokesman said a number of mortar shells were fired last night at the Timna copper mines in the Negev but caused no casualties or damage.

Ashdod Yaacov came under shell fire soon after sunset yesterday. Some of the settlers were still in the communal dining hall and others were watching a movie in the cultural center when shells started to explode among the buildings. Esther Yacobson, 77, was seriously injured and was flown to a hospital for surgery. Katya Lurie, 72, was hurt but was treated in the kibbutz infirmary. Settlers rushed children to bomb shelters when the shooting began.

Thant Warns Egyptians He May Withdraw Observers, 'Post' Reports

NEWYORK, May 1 (JTA) -- The New York Post said today that it had learned of a "secret letter" from United Nations Secretary-General U Thant to President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt "threatening" to pull UN cease-fire observers out of the Suez Canal zone if Egypt continued its practice of firing at UN observation posts on the Israeli side of the waterway. According to Post reporter Michael J. Berlin, "the Egyptians have drafted a letter to U Thant (not yet received at UN headquarters) in which they promise to cooperate completely with UN observers to limit the dangers to which they are exposed because of dangerous conditions resulting from the repeated Israeli aggression." Mr. Thant, who was in Geneva today, may report on the observers' status this weekend.

Mr. Berlin said that the Thant warning, which also went to Jerusalem, on April 21 said, "I do not feel that this operation can or should be maintained indefinitely under such conditions." But, Mr. Berlin noted, "in the 10 days since Thant cited the extensive damage to UN installations...UN observers themselves have reported at least 16 separate occasions in which Egyptians have fired rifles, machineguns and mortars at UN personnel and installations most of the time with no Israelis in the vicinity." In a letter to Mr. Thant last Thursday, Israel's UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah accused the Egyptians of intentionally firing at UN posts in order to force the UN to withdraw its observers. The withdrawal of the UN truce observer forces from the Israel-Egypt Sinai border and the Sharm el-Sheikh in May, 1967 is regarded as the main factor precipitating the Six-Day War.

Israelis See Dr. Jarring Returning To His Mideast Peace Mission

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- Informed diplomatic sources said here today that UN peace envoy Gunnar V. Jarring will resume his mission in the Middle East regardless of the outcome of the Four Power talks now going on in New York. (U Thant told Geneva reporters today that the Big Four had made a good start in their talks.)

The resumption of his peace mission could be a consequence of a deadlock or failure of the Four Power talks, in which case Dr. Jarring would return to the area under his previous terms of reference, based on the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution calling on him to promote agreement between the Arabs and Israelis, the sources said. If the talks between the U.S., Russia, Britain and France do result in some agreement, Dr. Jarring is considered likely to be entrusted with carrying out whatever is decided. Diplomats here noted that it has been the American point of view that the Four Power talks are designed to provide Dr. Jarring with a more detailed frame of reference in which to act.

Dr. Jarring's mission was temporarily suspended when the Four Power Mideast talks began last month and he returned for the time being to his post as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow. He has not given up his mission. At his last meeting with Foreign Minister Abba Eban, he said he would return to the Mideast.

In another development, Premier Golda Meir warned yesterday that Israel may soon face "a bitter discussion" with friendly nations "which is more serious than a discussion with enemies." Mrs. Meir mentioned no nations by name but appeared to be alluding to the U.S. She has said on previous occasions that while there were no basic differences in principle between Israel and Washington on Mideast peace, the two nations held divergent views on how to approach that goal. Israel has bitterly opposed the Four Power Mideast talks.

Mrs. Meir criticized Secretary-General U Thant for doing nothing despite repeated reports by the head of the UN truce observers corps, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, that Egypt was violating the Suez cease-fire. "It may be that the UN does nothing because it fears that Jordan or Egypt may have to face condemnation," she said.

Allon Joins Israelis In Digging Security Trenches On May Day

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, joined by leaders of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, spent the day digging security trenches at Kiryat Shemona in Upper Galilee along with hundreds of other volunteers from all walks of life. The scene was repeated in border settlements in the Golan Heights, the Beisan and Jordan Valleys on the occasion of May Day, the traditional labor holiday which is usually observed in Israel as a day without toil.

But this year May Day was declared a day of solidarity with the border settlers who come under constant gunfire from Arab guerrillas. Hundreds of Israelis, white and blue collar workers alike, volunteered to help build and extend the settlements' fortifications and bomb shelters. Virtually every Israeli wage earner worked a half day and donated his pay to a security fund for the border villages. The decision was taken by Histadrut and there were few dissenters.

West German Trade Union Leaders Demand Abolition Of Statute Of Limitations

BONN, May 1 (JTA) -- Demands for the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecutions were voiced by West German trade union leaders in speeches on May Day. The Cabinet has decided to press for legislation to abolish the statute which is supposed to go into effect next Dec. 31. Many speakers criticized the Government for not seeking a Constitutional ban on the ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD).

A local leader of the NPD who quit the party charging it with adopting "dictatorial methods," says that it poses no danger to West Germany "because the NPD is destroying itself." Heinz Biemann, of Kiel, who was NPD area manager for the State of Schleswig-Holstein, quit because he could "no longer associate with people who treat their members as stupid and useless idiots and handle anything their chairman does not like in a dictatorial manner under the table."

Sophia Seiton Hailed In 'Sovietish Heimland', Seen As Nechama Lifshitz' Successor

LONDON, May 1 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry, or that segment of it that still responds to the artistry of Yiddish performers in a traditional vein, has apparently found a successor to Nechama Lifshitz, the popular Yiddish actress and folk singer who has migrated to Israel. The new star is Sophia Seiton, a laureate of the Soviet Committee for World Peace. Her performances and readings of Yiddish and Russian poetry were hailed in the April edition of Sovietish Heimland, the USSR's only Yiddish magazine. Critic Moshe Goldblatt wrote that Miss Seiton's repertoire includes the works of 40 Yiddish poets and writers. He said that some of her appearances are billed as "An Evening Of Yiddish Poetry" and her readings have captivated her audiences.

The magazine also reported that it was trying to encourage Soviet Jewish painters and sculptors who feel somehow left out of the mainstream of Soviet art. A group of them gathered at Sovietish Heimland's editorial offices recently to elect an "artists committee" that will work with the periodical. Only a few Jewish artists have been acknowledged in the Soviet Union and none of them attended the meeting, according to the report. Sovietish Heimland reported that Leib Jampolski, the Soviet-Jewish composer, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

Mother Of Reportedly Self-Immolated Student Says She Has Not Seen Him Since April 13

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- The mother of a Latvian student who on April 12 reportedly immolated himself in Riga in protest against Soviet anti-Semitism has not seen him since April 13 and does not know whether he is alive, it was reported today. According to the International League for Repatriation of Russian Jews, Mr. Rippis' mother, whose name was not given, called Riga police on the evening of April 13 when she had not seen him for over a day and was told that her son deserved a spanking because he was a trouble-maker. Eyewitness reports reaching the League's office in Geneva and attributed to New Jersey tourists, who still have not been located by the New York headquarters, said the 21-year-old Riga University mathematics student tried to burn himself in downtown Riga.

He was said to have shouted to Russian marines, who put out the fire, to let him die or be given freedom to emigrate to Israel. The incident was said to have taken place in front of a freedom statue. The League's Geneva office described him as a gifted young man who had entered Riga University with outstanding marks and was preparing for his doctorate in mathematics.

Rabbi Whose Temple Had Rock Music At Service Says Drama, Dance Is Contemplated

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- The rabbi of a Reform synagogue which staged an unprecedented rock music program at its Friday night services last week said today that the response had been so favorable that consideration is being given to use of drama and dance during regular services. Rabbi Martin Zion of Temple Israel of New York said the matter would be presented to the synagogue's regular meeting this month for consideration in general terms. He said he had no plans at the moment for any further innovations in the synagogue's regular services.

More than 1,500 persons crowded the synagogue sanctuary for the rock oratorio, "Prayers for Friday Night," which was composed by 19-year-old Gary Friedman. Rabbi Zion said more than 400 would-be worshippers were turned away. He said the unique service had attracted many young congregants and also some older ones who did not usually attend the services regularly.

The oratorio was performed by a quartet of professional musicians, playing three guitars, bass and violin. The musicians were provided by the composer, who paid them for their performance, Rabbi Zion said. He added that no payment was made to the young composer whom he described as deeply interested in the idea of adapting ancient religious worship forms to the conditions of the contemporary world, as is the rabbi. Rabbi Zion said criticism was almost non-existent. He said one or two critics among the congregants felt that the music was a departure from the traditional Jewish musical heritage. He also said a few letters had been received from persons who had read news reports on the service and who were critical about it.

Secretary Of Labor Shultz Praises B'nai B'rith For Services To Youth

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz had words of praise yesterday for B'nai B'rith and its far-flung services on American campuses and communities all over the country. Mr. Shultz was the principal speaker at the B'nai B'rith Supreme Lodge award dinner in honor of Moses L. Kove, a former magistrate and former Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York who served as a prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

"For a century and a quarter, B'nai B'rith has demonstrated time and again what happens when men of conviction and compassion band together to improve the lot of the less fortunate," Mr. Shultz said. "They get results." He said that "B'nai B'rith's 50,000-member Youth Organization and Hillel Foundation on 273 campuses in the United States and Canada are getting results. They play an important part in our overall efforts to provide young people with the opportunity to participate more fully in our society... They and B'nai B'rith are performing the kind of private, volunteer service which is so vital to our common efforts to achieve social and economic justice in America."

Baron Edmond De Rothschild Is Honored By New York Financial Community At UJA Event

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- Baron Edmond de Rothschild, president of the French Jewish Consistory, was honored by 300 members of New York's financial community today "for notable leadership of the Jewish people." Baron de Rothschild and Gen. Avraham Yoffe, director of Israel's Authority for Natural Reserves, were guests of honor at a dinner sponsored by the Wall Street banking division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. Gustav L. Levy, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange Board of Governors and of the UJA's Wall Street division, presented Baron de Rothschild with a silver ceremonial wine cup as a memento of the occasion which was part of the New York UJA's drive to raise a record sum for Israel's 1969 Emergency Fund.

Pope Tells AJCommittee Delegation More Work Is Necessary In Interfaith Understanding

ROME, May 1 (JTA) -- "Much remains to be done in the furthering of interfaith understanding," Pope Paul VI said in an exchange of greetings yesterday with three American Jewish Committee leaders during a special audience at St. Peter's Cathedral. "I know the work of your organization very well," the Pope told the three visitors--Howard I. Friedman of Encino, Calif., Sam Rubenstein of Seattle and Richard Unger of Cincinnati--who met with the Pope on behalf of a delegation of 25 AJCommittee leaders who had just come to Italy from Israel.

Earlier the group met with Angelo Cardinal Dell'Acqua, Vicar of Rome, who expressed his enthusiasm for the style of American private voluntary organizations like the AJCommittee. He lauded the agency's cooperation with Pro Deo University in Rome in the scientific study of prejudice. The AJCommittee also met with leaders of the Rome Jewish community and discussed current refugee problems with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Hias Service in Rome.

Oldest Jewish Cemetery Of California Gold Rush Era Will Be Rededicated

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 1 (JTA) -- The oldest Jewish cemetery of the California Gold Rush era will be rededicated at public ceremonies on May 18 in the Gold Rush town of Sonora. The deed to the burial ground has been acquired by the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks of San Jose. The commission holds title to five other Jewish cemeteries in California and Nevada dating from the 1850s but the Sonora cemetery is the oldest. The earliest known burial there dates from Aug. 17, 1853.

According to Dr. Robert E. Levinson, Jews came to the Gold Rush in the early 1850s and sold food, clothing and mining equipment to prospectors. They became leaders of local government and prominent among them was Emanuel Linoberg, a member of the first town council of Sonora who was buried in the Sonora Hebrew Cemetery. The cemetery was previously the property of the Hebrew Benevolent Society composed of descendants of Sonora's Jewish pioneers.