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Mrs. Meir, Opening Knesset, Reiterates Israel's Demands For Direct Negotiations

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir today vehemently rejected any Middle East settlement that falls short of Israel's demands for a directly negotiated peace treaty with the Arab states. She scored the "maneuvers" of outside parties which, she said, put forth all sorts of schemes but did not demand of the Arab rulers "that they make peace with Israel peace pure and simple... such as exists between most nations of the world."

Mrs. Meir addressed the opening of the summer session of the sixth Knesset, its last before the general elections next fall. Her speech, in which she listed in some detail what Israel thinks a peace treaty with the Arabs must include, had prior approval of the Cabinet and represented a statement of policy of the coalition Government.

Mrs. Meir dismissed as "dust in the eyes of the world" the professions of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser that he accepted the Security Council's November, 1967 resolution as a basis for Middle East peace and the peace proposals enunciated by King Hussein of Jordan during his visit to Washington last month. She warned the Jordanian ruler to halt Arab guerrilla raids across the border or face reprisal. She told Egypt that Israel would continue to fortify the cease-fire lines on the Suez Canal because they are Israel's "best guarantees."

Mrs. Meir said, "We have been witnessing many types of maneuvers in the discussion of a solution to the conflict in the area. They were designed to find means of avoiding peace treaties. We have heard talk of so-called peaceful settlements. There are some who are content with every state declaring its peaceful intentions and others who will be satisfied with a declaration terminating the state of belligerency. There are reflections on demilitarized zones, on guarantees and on all types of arrangements and intentions--all this without demanding of the Arab rulers that they make peace with Israel," Mrs. Meir said.

"The statesmen and formulators of public opinion must not become accustomed to the Arab refusal of peace," Mrs. Meir continued. "Nor must they regard every unbinding statement by one Arab leader or another about a cessation of belligerency and so forth as a manifestation of moderation and acts of charity toward Israel."

Mrs. Meir said proposals were now being made that were unacceptable to Israel because they did not satisfy its demand for a full and genuine peace treaty. "It is possible that in our struggle for peace we shall face our most severe political test," she said, "but we shall not give our consent to illusory and ephemeral solutions." She spelled out Israel's interpretation of peace.

"Peace must be expressed in signed peace treaties between Israel and each of the neighboring states," she said. "The governments of the region and not external factors are responsible for working out and drafting peace treaties. The peace treaties must include agreement on secure and recognized boundaries. They must annul claims of belligerency, blockades, boycotts, interference with free navigation and the existence and activity of organizations or groups engaged in preparing or executing sabotage operations from bases and training camps on the territories of states signatory to the peace treaty. No state will sign a treaty with any other state aimed against a neighbor which is a co-signatory to the peace treaty." Mrs. Meir added that "within the framework of peace, we must strive for a system of relations based on wide regional cooperation for the development and prosperity of the Middle East."

Thant Sees Serious Deterioration In Mideast If Big 4 Do Not Reach Agreement

GENEVA, May 5 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant said here yesterday that he feared the situation in the Middle East "may get out of hand" if the U.S., Soviet Russia, Britain and France "do not agree on the substantive issues...in the next two months or so." Mr. Thant spoke to newsmen at the airport prior to his departure for Rome.

In reply to questions, he defined "substantive issues" as "the substance of the solutions within the framework of the Security Council resolution of November, 1967." The Secretary-General said that when he returned to New York he would be briefed by the Four Powers on the progress of their Mideast talks during his absence. "On the basis of my discussions with them, I shall have to decide on what initiatives I should take," he said. He said the re-activation of the peace mission of UN special envoy Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring also depended on what stage of progress the Four Powers reached in their talks.

Asked if he was optimistic that something could be done, Mr. Thant replied, "I must say that I agree with the assessment of the permanent members of the Security Council that the situation in the Middle East is serious and that it needs urgent attention." He said he did not know whether Israel and Egypt were prepared to agree to his latest proposals to increase the protection of UN cease-fire observers in the Suez Canal zone. "Up to this morning, no replies have come in," he said.

Israelis Report Relative Quiet Along Suez Canal Front; Clashes On Jordan

TEL AVIV, May 5 (JTA) -- Relative quiet has prevailed along the Suez Canal front for the past three days but a fierce artillery battle developed on the Israel-Jordan border near the southeastern shores of the Sea of Galilee yesterday, a military spokesman reported. He said relative quiet meant there were no sustained artillery barrages by the Egyptians. However, sniping continued across the canal and there were sporadic exchanges of small arms, tank and artillery fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces Sunday.

An Israeli civilian operating a tractor in the Suez Canal zone was injured today when Egyptian soldiers opened fire with anti-tank guns, a military spokesman reported.

Jordanian guns opened fire yesterday after an Israeli civilian car was attacked by guerrillas near El Hamma in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee. The Jordanian fire was apparently intended to cover the guerrillas who were being fired on by Israeli forces. Israeli gunners scored hits on the Jordanian village of Keiss overlooking the El Hamma road which was the source of the initial attack. Flames were seen in the area for a long time after the Jordanian guns were silenced, a military spokesman reported.

Israeli officials said today that April was one of the costliest months to Israel since the June, 1967 war. Twenty-five Israeli soldiers and four civilians were killed between March 30 and May 2. Sixty-one Israelis were injured and one is missing and one soldier was kidnapped by Egyptian commandos. Thirty-four Arab guerrillas were killed in the same period.

Israel Denies It Rejected Deal For Release Of 200 Imprisoned Jews

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry has denied the report that appeared in the Washington Post last week that Egypt had proposed freeing 200 imprisoned Jews in exchange for an Egyptian fighter pilot who had been shot down over Israeli territory last winter. Ministry officials said the report by syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak was "completely groundless." They said the pilot had been downed in a military action over Israel, that his treatment was governed by the Geneva Convention and that the International Red Cross was handling the question of his release.

Evans and Novak reported in a dispatch from Cairo that the pilot was the son of a high-ranking Egyptian intelligence officer and that Egypt wanted him back badly. However, they said, Israel hoped to extract information from him and had rejected the exchange deal. They said the Israeli Embassy in Washington had been approached on the matter by U.S. officials but had rebuffed them. The U.S. State Department denied that American officials had interceded in any way.

The Evans and Novak dispatch asserted that the 200 Jews were the last held in Egyptian jails and that Cairo had intended to release them until the pilot was shot down, when it proposed an exchange. The columnists said the Jews had been moved from a prison to a barracks in the Nile Delta where they remain.

The columnists alleged that Israel rejected an exchange deal because Egypt's claim to have cleared the way for the exit of all Jews who wished to leave would weaken the force of Israeli charges that Jews were mistreated in Arab countries and were forbidden to leave. The Foreign Ministry said today that the position of Jews in Arab countries remained tragic and that Israel would continue to do everything in its power to keep their plight before world public opinion. The ministry denied that there was any connection with the case of the Egyptian pilot.

American Pro-Arab Group Agitating For 'Palestinian State' On West Bank

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- A pro-Arab American group called the American Friends of the Middle East has been reportedly circulating a document among West Bank Arab leaders calling for the establishment of a Republic of Palestine in the Israel-occupied territories. But Arab notables have been wary of it and express no views on the future of the territories except to demand Israel's withdrawal. There are two factions among West Bank Arabs, one of which advocates a separate Palestinian state and the other re-unification with Jordan.

Israelis In Occupied Areas To Vote In General Elections In September

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Israelis who have settled in the occupied Arab territories will be permitted to vote in next fall's general elections, Deputy Minister of Interior Israel Benmeir said in a radio interview. He said the voters register includes Kfar Etzion in the Judaean hills south of Jerusalem and settlers in the Golan Heights and various Sinai outposts.

Report Celebrations Of Czech Jewry's Millenium Are Cancelled For Second Time

LONDON, May 5 (JTA) -- Celebrations to mark the 1,000th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Czechoslovakia have been cancelled for the second time in two years, it was reported here today. This time, however, the reported cancellation was said to have been at the initiative of Jewish groups in Prague and no reason for the action was given. The information was received here by the Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia which was preparing its own celebrations to coincide with the scheduled Jewish millenium celebrations to have taken place in Prague July 9-14.

According to the report, the decision was taken at a conference of Czech-Jewish religious groups in Prague on April 20. Originally, the millenium was to have been celebrated in the summer of 1968 but the Czech Government withdrew its sponsorship of the event in the aftermath of the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Pro-Government Afrikaans Daily Urges Closer South Africa-Israeli Relations

JOHANNESBERG, May 5 (JTA) -- A leading pro-Government Afrikaans daily has urged closer relations between South Africa and Israel and declared that "Israel's survival in the Middle East is a fundamental part of our own security." The editorial in "Die Vaderland" hailed the forthcoming visit of Israel's former Premier David Ben-Gurion who will open the 1969 Israel United Appeal Emergency and Solidarity campaign here this month. "If our fellow Jewish citizens would listen to what our important visitor has come to ask--help for the building of Israel--then their contribution is also a contribution to South Africa's security," the paper said.

"Die Vaderland" observed that "small as it is, Israel controls to an important degree the passage of Russian Communism to the east of our continent of Africa and to our strategic oceans." The editorial said that as a result of Israel's control over the Suez Canal, South Africa has gained "a large material as well as strategic advantage." The reference was to the great number of ships which by-pass the shut-down Suez Canal and call at South African ports en route to and from the Indian Ocean. "Die Vaderland" referred to "past differences" between South Africa and Israel which arose mainly from Israel's opposition at the United Nations to the policy of apartheid. But the editorial said South Africa understood the situation and traced parallels in the difficult international situations confronting both Israel and South Africa.

The Jewish community here was preparing a gala welcome for Mr. Ben-Gurion who will be accompanied by Gen. Chaim Herzog, one of Israel's top military commentators and a former chief of military intelligence.

'Nasser, Kosygin And de Gaulle' Go Up In L'ag B'Omer Smoke, Right Near Miniskirts

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Gamal Abdel Nasser, Alexei Kosygin and Charles de Gaulle were burned in effigy tonight as Israeli youngsters danced around bonfires in celebration of Lag B'Omer. Festivities took place at Meron, near Safad, at the grave of Shimon Bar Yohai; in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other cities. Some teachers reportedly frowned on the symbolic burning of foreign political figures as a form of diversion but the "straw men" of Russia, Egypt and France went up in smoke nevertheless. An admonition by Orthodox rabbis against wearing miniskirts was equally ineffective.

According to legend, an outbreak of plague among the pupils of Rabbi Akiba in the Second Century ended on Iyar 18. The holiday is known thus as the "scholars' feast." Rabbi Ben Yohai, a mystic, was said to have died on this day.

Israel Devotes A 'Week' To The Immigrant, Allong Urges Warm Welcome

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigal Allon has appealed to Israelis to extend a warm welcome and a helping hand to new immigrants. Mr. Allon, who is Minister of Immigrant Absorption, said at a meeting of the Journalists Club that only cultural and social absorption would make it possible for the newcomers to strike roots, even with the material help they receive from the Government and from Diaspora communities.

Mr. Allon announced that "Absorption Week" was being observed in Israel this week. He said 10,562 immigrants arrived during the first four months of 1969 compared to 7,765 in the corresponding period last year. He said Absorption Week would feature meetings between veteran Israelis and newcomers and entertainment programs in 12 immigrant absorption centers. A public opinion poll taken last month showed that some Israelis were resentful of new immigrants and believed that those from Western countries in particular do not need or deserve Government assistance.

Mr. Allon explained exactly what the newcomer received from the Government and where the rest of society must lend a hand to help him become an integrated citizen. He invited journalists aboard the Israeli motorship Moledet, at Haifa port, a vessel built in 1961 to transport immigrants and low budget tourists. He told them that the immigrant's transportation to Israel is paid for and the Government sees to it that he has a place to live and a job after he arrives. But it is up to his fellow citizens to see to it that he feels like "an equal among equals and a Jew among Jews," Mr. Allon said. "Aliya requires money, but it also requires good will," he added.

Mrs. Meir Denies Responding Favorably To Goldmann Proposal On Diaspora Consultations

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- A report attributed to Dr. Nahum Goldmann saying that Premier Golda Meir had responded favorably to a proposal to create a permanent framework for consultations between Israel Government leaders and leaders of Diaspora Jewry was denied by the Prime Minister's office. A spokesman said the report was based on a misunderstanding. He said the subject of a permanent consultative body was not raised during Mrs. Meir's recent talks with Dr. Goldmann and that consequently the Premier could not have commented on it. Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organization, said in Tel Aviv that he hoped Mrs. Meir would follow the policy of the late Premier Levi Eshkol in consulting from time to time with world Jewish leaders.

Koor Converts $5.1 Million Loss In 1967 To $2.5 Million Profit In 1968

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Koor Ltd., the industrial holding company of Histadrut, converted a $5.1 million loss in 1967 to a $2.5 million profit in 1968 and expects to have a surplus by the end of this year, according to its managing director, Maj. Gen. Meir Amit. There are 94 companies in Israel wholly owned or partially owned by Koor. Among them are Solel Boneh, the building cooperative, and the Mekorot Water Co., both giants by Israeli standards. The total turn-over last year was $160 million.

Nine Former Gestapo Officials Labeled 'Desk Killers' As Trial Opens In West Berlin

BONN, May 5 (JTA) -- The trial of nine former Gestapo officials whom the prosecution has labeled "desk killers" opened in West Berlin today. The chief defendant, former SS (Elite Corps) Captain Fritz Woehren, 64, is accused of issuing the orders under which thousands of Jews were taken into so-called "protective custody" and shipped to concentration camps to be killed. The eight other defendants are charged with complicity in murder for carrying out Woehren's orders.

Captain Woehran was an official of the Jewish Affairs Section of the Gestapo in Berlin during World War II. The prosecution, in presenting a 720-page indictment against him and his subordinates said, "These men were desk killers. They killed scientifically by word and deed." The trial is expected to last a year. More than 200 witnesses will testify, many of them from abroad.

India's Support Of Arab States Against Israel Is Seen As Contradicting Non-Alignment

NEW DELHI, May 5 (JTA) -- India's support of the Arab states against Israel was criticized by a group of Indian parliamentarians at a symposium here organized by an international study group of the UNESCO Club. J.B. Kripalani, a Socialist leader, said non-aligned countries should refrain from taking sides in international disputes but India, which professes non-alignment, has consistently favored the Arabs in their dispute with Israel.

Mr. Kripalani said India had gone out of its way to support Egypt even after it had been established that Egypt began hostilities in the spring of 1967 by blockading the Gulf of Aqaba. Prof. Balraj Madhok, another MP, said that by taking sides in the Mideast conflict, India had spoiled chances for peace. "When so many countries have diplomatic relations both with Cairo and Tel Aviv, why can't we?" he asked. He said Israel could well be "a second string to our bow" in the Middle East.

Arab Lawyers Urge Demonstrations On Behalf Of Palestinians Held In Switzerland

LONDON, May 5 (JTA) -- An organization of Arab lawyers has called for massive demonstrations throughout the Arab world next Saturday to demand "Swiss neutrality" in the case of three Palestinian terrorists arrested after their fatal attack on an El Al airliner at Zurich Airport last Dec. 26. The Arab Lawyers Federation called for "silent protest marches" against Swiss embassies in all Arab capitals. They said the terrorists, two men and a woman, were in the 14th day of a hunger strike in the Zurich jail. They face a charge of murder as a result of the death of El Al pilot trainee Yoram Peres who died in a Swiss hospital of wounds he received in the attack. A fourth Arab terrorist was gunned down by an El Al guard.

Communist Bloc Representatives Walk Out Of Mexican Forum When Anti-Semitism Is Cited

MEXICO CITY, May 5 (JTA) -- Diplomatic representatives of Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia walked out of a United Nations forum here when a letter protesting anti-Semitism in Eastern European countries was read from the platform. The reader was Dr. Luis Garrido, president emeritus of the Mexican Committee for the UN, a body made up of non-governmental organizations that cooperate with the UN. The letter objecting to anti-Semitic policies in some Communist countries carried the signatures of major Mexican organizations including the Committee for Human Rights, the Trade Union Federation, the Confederation of Mexican Workers and the Academy for International Rights.

Leaflets In Mexico City Show Star Of David And Swastika, Liken Israelis And Nazis

MEXICO CITY, May 5 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic leaflets likening Israel to Nazi Germany have appeared on walls and posts here recently, chiefly in Jewish neighborhoods. The leaflets show a Star of David and a swastika over an inscription reading, "These signs are related. Both repudiate the Mexican people. Now the victims are the Arabs. Who will be next?"

Mapai-Achdut Avodah Alignment Faction Wins 40 Seats In Buenos Aires Council

BUENOS AIRES, May 5 (JTA) -- The Buenos Aires Jewish Community Council held its triennial elections with results that were a close approximation of the distribution of political power in Israel. A total of 13,183 voters cast ballots for the candidates of parties which share the names and ideologies of political factions in Israel. In the last community elections in 1966, 12,700 votes were cast.

The local Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment won 40 of a total of 90 seats in the council compared to 44 seats in 1966. The General Zionists, aligned with Herut, won 17 seats, compared to 19 three years ago. Mapam won six seats in contrast to 10 in 1966 and the Orthodox Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrach got six seats, a loss of one since the previous election. The losses registered by all the traditional factions was attributed in part to the inroads made by a new independent party that drew 919 votes and won six seats on the council. Gregorio Fainguersch was elected president of the Council. He had served on that post from 1963-1966.

Honor S. J. Goldsmith, JTA's European Editor, On Publication Of New Book

LONDON, May 5 (JTA) -- A gathering of Anglo-Jewish artists, writers and community leaders was held at the Ben Uri Art Gallery to mark the publication of "Jews in Transition," a new book by S. J. Goldsmith, European editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The reception was sponsored by the Ben Uri Art Society. Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said Mr. Goldsmith's book of essays reflected the achievements of British Jews as "all the Jews that live, work and create here, even if they are not born in the British Isles."

Pavel Kollman Is Re-Elected President Of Jewish Community In Prague

LONDON, May 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Prague has re-elected Pavel Kollmann as its chairman. Dr. Arno Steiner was elected deputy chairman.