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Christian Democrats' Stand May Help Defeat Abolition Of Statute Of Limitations

BONN, May 7 (JTA) -- A decision of the parliamentary group of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union to oppose total abolition of the statute of limitations on prosecution of Nazi war murderers raised the possibility today that the proposal, which was approved last month by the West German Cabinet, may fail to obtain a majority in the lower house, the Bundestag. Should that happen, no action would be taken and the statute would automatically take effect next Dec. 31.

The parliamentary group agreed at a meeting last night that there should be a distinction made between major and minor Nazi war criminals--those who committed crimes on their own volition and those who carried them out on orders. The Chancellor supported that position and told his fellow party members that this distinction should be the official attitude of the CDU, a stand which would mean a CDU vote in the Bundestag against total abolition.

The Chancellor, who a year ago had pledged to seek total abolition of the statute and who later changed his mind, failed to win his point at the Cabinet meeting which voted for complete abolition. The Cabinet agreed with the view of Justice Minister Horst Emhke that it was impossible to decide without trials which former Nazis had been guilty of wartime murders.

Meanwhile, new forecasts of electoral gains for the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party were made by chairman Adolf Von Thadden, who said that party morale had benefited from the "debacle" of the rejection by the West German Cabinet of a proposal by Interior Minister Ernst Benda that the NPD be banned. He said another factor had been the "positive response" to the first NPD election newspaper which he asserted had a distribution of more than 15 million copies. He predicted that the NPD had "good reason" to expect to win 40 seats in the September Bundestag elections. Such a gain, it was noted, could prevent formation of a coalition between the Social Democrats and the small Free Democratic Party while it would deny an overall majority to the CDU.

Britain Is Providing Jordan With Tigercat Missiles, Dayan Tells Knesset

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that Britain was providing Jordan with a considerable quantity of Tigercat ground-to-air missiles. But he did not specify how many of the rockets were involved in the transaction. Gen. Dayan also told Israeli legislators that Soviet experts and advisers were guiding the Egyptian Army in training, development and operational planning.

Replying to questions, he said Israel had no knowledge of alleged cooperation between the Cuban Army and Arab saboteurs. It was reported recently by an Israeli newspaper that the saboteurs were being trained in Cuba. Gen. Dayan also said that Havana denied news reports that the Cuban chief of staff was present with Arab guerrillas during a raid into Israel and that it is in any way connected with terrorists.

The Defense Minister also said that he had told British Conservative Party leader Edward Heath recently that it was impossible to free vessels stranded in the Suez Canal since the 1967 war so long as the Egyptians continued to violate the cease-fire.

The Tigercat missile maker, Short Brothers and Harland, a partially state-owned aircraft manufacturer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, said last January when the deal became known that the rockets could be operational by the time Israel gets American Phantom jets. The Tigercat, a land version of the British Navy's Seacat, is a small and highly maneuverable rocket that can be operated from mobile trailers, has a range of about 20,000 feet and is largely geared for airfield protection.

The reported \$14.4 million deal was said to have been concluded just prior to the Dec. 28 Israel raid on Beirut airport. The Tigercat is said to have a guidance system which works with considerable precision. Jordan was reported to have sought the missiles to guard airfields against the kind of lightning raid launched by Israel at the start of the 1967 war.

When the sale was given publicity last year, Emanuel Shinwell, the veteran British Labor Party leader, called the decision "incredible!" He added that the British Government "has gone mad--stark staring mad." Britain has been a strong advocate of a Mideast arms embargo but the unwillingness of the Soviet Union and United States to stop arms supplies has prompted her to keep her options open. The current policy is to determine each case on its merits.

It was reported last month that the United States had agreed to a \$30 million arms deal with Jordan, including the sale of a second squadron of 18 F-104 Starfighter jet interceptors. The first squadron is scheduled for delivery starting in June. Movement of the second squadron may not begin for many months.

Three Egyptian Commandos Reported Killed By Israelis While Trying To Ford Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) -- At least three Egyptian commandos were believed to have been killed last night while trying to cross the Suez Canal, Israeli officials reported. An Israeli patrol spotted the boat which the raiders were using in an apparent attempt to land on the canal's east bank. The patrol opened fire and later three bodies were seen floating in the water. The incident occurred at the northern shore of the Great Bitter Lake. The officials said that commandos are equipped with life jackets which keep them afloat when they land in the water. They reported also that commando boats are linked to shore by a rope which makes it possible to pull the boat back after it is hit. There were heavy exchanges of fire at the Suez Canal yesterday and today.

In other military action, Israeli planes today attacked an El Fatah base in southern Jordan, and all returned to base safely, a military spokesman said. Five Arab saboteurs were killed and six captured in separate encounters with Israeli patrols in the Araba region in the south. A Druze was killed in one of the clashes.

On the Jordanian front, 20 81-millimeter mortar shells were fired this morning at an Israeli patrol near Ashdod Yaacov in the northern Beisan Valley. The attack came from a Jordanian position after the patrol fired at a saboteurs' unit across the Jordan River. Another patrol came under Jordanian fire near Beth Yosef. The patrol shot back. There were no casualties in either patrol.

Meanwhile, Arab fought Arab in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Army launched an all-out offensive against Syrian-supported guerrilla forces who rejected a Beirut high command ultimatum to get out of the sensitive border region. Israeli sources keeping a close watch on the hot northern border said the Lebanese troops apparently went into action when the al-Saiqa (Thunderbolt) organization responded the ultimatum by attacking an Army base with mortars and small arms. Several thousand guerrillas were said to be concentrated in the area.

Beirut told the guerrillas to get out after a series of clashes between commandos and Lebanese troops near Israel. Lebanon does not want guerrilla activity from its territory for fear of Israeli reprisals. It has sought to maintain a neutral stance in the Mideast conflict. The country's politics have been profoundly affected in the past two weeks by demands by Palestinian Arab refugees and students for a more aggressive anti-Israel policy. Street clashes last month led to the fall of the Government of Premier Rifaat al-Karami. It has not yet been replaced.

The Lebanese Army's action was the first time an Arab country has officially and publicly moved against guerrillas. Tensions have been rife between guerrillas and King Hussein's force in Jordan, and Israeli observers said that the Beirut move might lead other Arab governments to act against guerrillas. The pro-Egyptian Beirut newspaper Al-Shaab urged a Lebanon-Syria summit session to resolve the dispute.

In another development, a 33-year-old Nablus dentist, Feisal Kanaan, was deported to Jordan yesterday after repeated warnings to stop incitements to civil unrest as a member of a subversive organization. The dentist, a cousin of Mayor Hamdi Kanaan of Nablus, was taken to the Allenby Bridge of the Jordan River after consistently ignoring the warnings, officials said.

Third Israeli Outpost On West Bank Is Inaugurated, Named For 2 Dead Officers

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) -- The third Jordan Valley outpost manned by settlers serving in the Israeli armed forces was inaugurated yesterday in ceremonies attended by high-ranking army officers and representatives of the Jewish Agency. Nahal Argaman is named for two Israeli officers killed in the pursuit of Arab saboteurs in the area. The settlement, which is to receive during its first year a Jewish Agency investment of \$285,000, is located on the Beisan-Jericho road east of Nablus.

The settlement is expected to support itself by growing vegetables, particularly early winter produce, and 2,000 of its 6,000 dunams will be workable by the end of the year, officials said. Like the other two similar settlements, Nahal Argman is expected to make a major contribution toward converting the cease-fire lines into secure borders. Resolutions demanding urban and rural settlement by Israel of all occupied areas and flatly opposing any "re-division" of "Eretz Yisrael" were approved yesterday by a meeting of leaders of the Gahal (Liberal-Herut) alignment. The councils of the two participant parties held a festive joint meeting to mark the fourth anniversary of the formation of the alignment.

Pompidou Under Pressure From Independent Republicans On French Policy Toward Israel

PARIS, May 7 (JTA) -- Former Premier Georges Pompidou, leading candidate for the French Presidency, was under increasing pressure today on French policy towards Israel. M. Pompidou, who has Gaullist support, had been expected to pursue the general policies in the Middle East initiated by Gen. Charles de Gaulle, which included a pro-Arab orientation and an embargo on arms to Israel.

M. Pompidou is also counting strongly on the support of Independent Republicans. His candidacy has been endorsed by Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the Independent Republican leader, but M. Giscard d'Estaing said in a radio interview last night that his group did not see eye-to-eye with the Gaullists on several issues, including Israel, and that their views had been made known to M. Pompidou. He stressed that "I have never concealed my views on de Gaulle's policy toward Israel which we did not approve." It was understood that other Independent Republican leaders, including M. Giscard d'Estaing's deputy, Michel Poniatowsky, had also raised the Israel issue with the Gaullist leaders.

Acting President Alain Poher, who is being urged to declare his candidacy and who many believe to be the only candidate who would be able to defeat M. Pompidou, received Gen. Pierre Koenig, president of the France-Israel Alliance and a leader of the Centrist group. The President was reported to have expressed to Gen. Koenig his warm feelings of friendship and understanding for Israel. He also indicated that if he should decide to seek the Presidency, he would publicly clarify his position on Israel.

M. Poher, prior to his assumption of the Presidency, had been a sharp critic of Gen. de Gaulle's anti-Israel policies. He was one of the guests at the dinner tendered by the France-Israel Alliance in honor of Gen. Koenig's 75th birthday. The event was generally regarded as a protest against the embargo on arms to Israel imposed by former President de Gaulle.

French Academics, Intellectuals Will Study Conditions Of Jewry In Soviet Union

PARIS, May 7 (JTA) -- The Conference on Soviet Jewry announced today that a number of French personalities from the academic and intellectual world had agreed to serve on a mission to study the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. Preparations for the tour were being made by Jacques Madaule, secretary-general of the Conference, which had a widely-attended session here last week.

European anti-Israeli organizations, including some Jewish groups, concluded a three-day Paris parley today on how to combat "Israeli imperialism." One of the Jewish groups present described itself as the "Association of anti-Zionist German Jews." The other Jewish participants refused to identify themselves.

India's Jews Mourn Death Of President Husain In Message To Mrs. Gandhi

NEW DELHI, May 7 (JTA) -- The Jews of India are mourning the death of Dr. Zakir Husain, the President of India, who died over the weekend. The Central Jewish Board of India said in a message of condolence to Premier Indira Gandhi: "The death of Zakir Husain is an irreparable loss to the nation and humanity. An eminent scholar and educator, Dr. Husain symbolized India's secular democracy and great cultural heritage and unity of the nation. His whole life was dedicated to the service of his country and fulfillment of its peoples' dreams and aspirations. India's Jews will ever remember the President's visit to the Poona Synagogue last December and his attendance at memorial services for the late David Sassoon, which left a deep impression in the hearts of the Jewish community of India. India's Jews pay tribute to the President's memory and offer sympathy to his bereaved family."

FBI Asked To Probe Alleged Connections Between El Fatah And Extremists In U.S.

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The FBI has been asked by the Justice Department to investigate complaints that El Fatah, the Arab terrorist group, is involved with some student rebels and other elements in this country, according to Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley.

The Justice Department official's disclosure was made public by Rep. J. Herbert Burke, Florida Republican, who had written to the Department several weeks ago, urging action against Arab students having such ties. Mr. Yeagley also said that the Department would take "appropriate action" if the investigation indicated that any Federal laws were being violated. Rep. Burke sent to the department a B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League report which charged a connection between El Fatah and some extremist student groups in the United States. Mr. Yeagley said that the Department had been aware "for some time" of the El Fatah activities "as alleged in the report of the Anti-Defamation League."

More Congressmen Sign Declaration Urging Direct Arab-Israel Negotiations

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- The number of Congressmen signing a declaration urging direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations has risen to 233, and more endorsements were expected, sources said today. So far 59 Senators have signed the document which also urges Arab states to end terrorism. A typographical error in yesterday's JTA Bulletin erroneously conveyed the impression that Rep. Thomas E. Morgan, Pennsylvania Democrat and House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, was not a signatory.

Cabinet Told That Economy Is Booming But Steps Must Be Taken To Block Inflation

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) -- The Cabinet was told this week that Israel's economy is booming but that private consumption should be curbed and the rise in living standards slowed down if the country is to continue to hold the line against inflation. The Cabinet heard from Finance Minister Zeev Sharef and David Horowitz, governor of the Bank of Israel, who reported at a special session devoted to economic matters.

They said the gross national product would rise by 11 percent this year and that industrial output will increase by 16 to 18 percent. But Israel's foreign currency reserves will decrease by \$100 million to a \$550 million level. Price stability was maintained more or less during the past year even though wages and salaries rose by an average of three percent, but the rise was accompanied by an increase in productivity. The main task, according to the Finance Minister and Israel's chief banker, is to encourage private saving and curb public spending on non-essential projects. They said it was not possible to slow the pace of economic expansion because of defense needs and the need to absorb more immigrants.

Israel's Aid To African Countries Has Had Mixed Results, 'Washington Post' Reports

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) -- Israel's long range program of aid to African countries has had mixed results and caused some disillusionment among Israelis, the Washington Post reported today in a dispatch from Nairobi. Correspondent Stanley Meisler wrote that Israel may be small and poor but most black African countries see it as powerful and influential "and ever present."

The correspondent cited the example of the Central African Republic where the Israeli assistance program is larger than the American one. The Israelis have built a small industrial center, organized a movement for 3,000 boys and developed six farm settlements. Since 1958, Israel has sent more than 1,700 technicians to Africa, mainly specialists in farming, youth work and medicine--two-thirds of all technicians Israel has sent to the developing world in the past decade, the correspondent reported.

In the same period, more than 5,000 Africans were brought to Israel for training, mainly in farming, cooperatives and community development. Half of the foreign trainees in Israel during that period have been Africans. Israel keeps an embassy in every independent black African nation, except the Moslem countries of Mauritania, Sudan and the Somali Republic. Only the United States, France and Britain are more active in those countries diplomatically.

According to Philip Ndegwa, the permanent secretary of the Kenya Economic Development Ministry, "Israel is a poor country. She cannot give us capital but in the field of technical assistance she can do a lot." Israel was reported to have other programs to increase its influence in black Africa. The correspondent declared that Israel has trained or helped arm the military forces of nine African countries, particularly Uganda and the Congo, and has increased its small trade from \$13 million in 1964 to \$24 million in 1967. Solel Boneh, a construction arm of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, and Water Resources Development International, an engineering firm, have won numerous contracts.

Recently Israel changed its approach partly because of shortages of funds stemming from the June, 1967 war, with more emphasis on trade. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, looking for other areas to influence, such as Latin America, were reported to have cut almost in half the number of technicians assigned to African countries while increasing the number elsewhere.

Many Israelis, examining the record, were reported to feel that African support after the Six-Day War was half-hearted and that a lot of money "went down the drain." The correspondent said that Israeli African specialists dispute this and cited the voting records of the Organization of African Unity and support at the United Nations. In two key UN General Assembly votes after the Six-Day War, the votes by African members leaned toward Israel, and the specialists said that without African support, the voting would have been lopsidedly against Israel.

AJCommittee Urges French Government To Abandon Exhumation Plans At Bergen-Belsen

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee yesterday urged the French Government to abandon its plans to exhume the mass grave at the site of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in West Germany in order to remove the remains of French citizens for reburial in France. Richard Maas, chairman of the AJCommittee's foreign affairs committee, said in a telegram to French Ambassador Charles Lucet that "efforts to disinter the remains of these martyrs will jeopardize the religious and ethical sensitivities of many persons." The message said further that it would be impossible to distinguish the remains of French citizens "due to the ravages of time and the confusion created by hurried mass burials."

Funeral Services Held For Gustav Stern, Orthodox Leader And Philanthropist

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Gustav Stern, Orthodox Jewish lay leader and philanthropist, who died Monday at the age of 65. Born in Fulda, Germany, he came to the United States in the late 1920s and with his brother, Max Stern, established the Hartz Mountain Food Co. Max Stern also is a leading Orthodox leader and philanthropist.

Mr. Stern had been chairman of the board of the Rabbinical Court of America, a tribunal he founded in 1960 to help resolve family problems. He was chairman of the executive committee of the World Academy in Jerusalem and, with Sir Isaac Wolfson of London, built a home for the chief rabinate of Jerusalem. He and his brother helped found the Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University

News In Brief

JOHANNESBURG, May 7 (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben-Gurion arrived here today to begin a tour of three continents as guest of the Jewish communities of South Africa, Latin America, and Europe. He plans to stay here until the middle of this month. He will talk to his hosts about the importance of Hebrew education for children and adults and about settlement in Israel.

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA) -- The Labor Council reported that membership in Histadrut in East Jerusalem has tripled in the past year. According to the report, East Jerusalem membership in Israel's labor federation was 1,800 last April and is now approaching 5,000.