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See Poher's Decision To Seek Presidency Focusing Attention On Franco-Israeli Relations

PARIS, May 13 (JTA) -- The decision of Acting President Alain Poher to seek election to a seven-year Presidential term will make the question of Franco-Israeli relations one of the focal issues of the campaign. Political observers here largely agreed today the M. Poher's candidacy, in the light of his known desire for a "normalization of Franco-Israeli ties," will force former Premier Georges Pompidou, leading contestant, who is running with Gaullist support, to take a public position on Israel.

There is a strong belief here that former President de Gaulle's anti-Israel attitude, and especially his decision to impose an embargo on all military equipment and spare parts for Israel, greatly contributed to his downfall in a referendum last month which the General insisted on making a personal vote of confidence. Although there are less than 500,000 Jews in France and probably not more than 250,000 voters among them, some political analysts argue that Gen. de Gaulle's pro-Arab Middle East policies may have cost him anything up to a million votes. Many Frenchmen bitterly opposed Gen. de Gaulle's single-handed action in imposing the embargo and considered it a betrayal.

M. Pompidou was said today to be well aware of this situation. He has tried in the last few days to suggest that if elected he would seek to improve Franco-Israeli relations but his statements have been couched in vague terms. With M. Poher's entry in the field and the public opinion polls indicating that M. Poher would win the election runoffs, it would appear certain that M. Pompidou would now have to take a more definite stand on Gen. de Gaulle's Middle East policies and especially on the embargo issue.

All the candidates in the Presidential race will shortly have to put themselves on public record with regard to the Middle East and Israel, political observers said. The France-Israel Alliance, the head of which is Gen. Pierre Koenig, wartime hero and Centrist leader, is addressing a questionnaire to all candidates asking them to declare their stand on a number of questions involved in French Mideast policy, including the embargo.

Reports Berard Did Not Use Term 'Jewish Gold' In de Gaulle Discussion

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 13 (JTA) -- French Ambassador Armand Berard has been erroneously quoted as saying "Jewish gold" had contributed to the defeat of former French President Charles de Gaulle, a well-informed source said here today. But the envoy did use the phrase "pro-Israel circles" in the context of a discussion with several correspondents about M. de Gaulle's resignation on April 28, the day after his reform referendum was defeated, the source said.

M. Berard, in discussing Gen. de Gaulle's departure with correspondents in the main delegates lounge, said that "pro-Israel circles" had spent heavily in the hopes of defeating the referendum upon which the former President had staked his office, the source said. French Foreign Minister Michel Debre labeled as "lying" reports that M. Berard had said "Jewish gold." The denial was made to Pierre Bloch, president of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism. It followed publication of a Reuters UN dispatch attributing to an un-named French diplomat the words "pro-Israel circles" and "large sums." Despite the Debre denial, Reuters stuck by its story. The diplomat was later identified as M. Berard.

U.S. Proposal For Compromise On Formal Peace Treaty Demand Rejected, Says Beigin

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- The Israeli Government has firmly rejected an American proposal that Israel accept a compromise arrangement on its demand for a formal peace treaty with the Arab states, Menachem Beigin, Minister Without Portfolio and leader of the Gahal, right-wing alignment, disclosed today.

Mr. Beigin told a press luncheon that the American formula had been "a binding, juridical, reciprocal, contractual agreement." As a model, the Americans had offered, he said, the Soviet-Japanese treaty which was not called a peace treaty but laid down terms for mutual recognition, the exchange of ambassadors and economic relations. This agreement was signed by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The minister argued in support of the Israeli position that no Arab state would accept such an agreement since the Arabs' entire campaign since the Six-Day War had been waged with a view to avoiding de jure recognition of Israel. An exchange of ambassadors, he said, implied de jure recognition as the envoys submit letters of accreditation signed by the head of the state. Since, he added, there was no chance that Egypt would agree to this, there was no point in Israel making a futile gesture and declaring its acceptance.

Members of the Government were in agreement on two important principles, Mr. Beigin declared: There will be no return to the situation prevailing before June, 1967, and present positions on the cease-fire lines will be maintained in full until there is a peace treaty. On other points, he said, there were differences and "this is well-known." The Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) leader

said that he would favor continuation of a Government of national unity after the general elections this autumn. If Gahal should receive a majority in those elections, he said, he would invite the other parties to join the Government. If the Israel Labor Party should win and asked Gahal to remain in the coalition, he said, he would recommend such a course. In this case, however, the entire Government platform would have to be redrawn and Gahal ministers given their "due share in the burden of responsibilities," he said. Gahal, with 22 members in the 120-seat Knesset, has two Cabinet members, both without portfolio. Gahal joined the Government coalition two days before the outbreak of the Six-Day War. The original coalition partners have one minister for every four to five Knesset members.

In response to a question, Mr. Beigin said he was in favor of permitting Jews to say prayers on the Temple Mount in the Old City. The authorities have prohibited this so as not to cause disturbances among the Moslems but the ruling is being appealed and the case is pending in the Israel High Court of Justice.

Eban Says Israel Wants Sharm El-Sheikh Presence, Would Hold Jerusalem, Golan

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Knesset yesterday that there were three points on which Israel would never yield in any peace settlement with the Arabs. He said they were a permanent Israeli presence at Sharm el-Sheikh at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba; a unified Jerusalem, although with concessions to Jordan in Moslem Holy Places; and a Golan Heights forever out of Syrian hands.

Mr. Eban spoke in reply to parliamentary questions relating to foreign matters. Nearly 100 were submitted to him in writing in accordance with Knesset practice. He said there was no truth in reports that the United States was delaying the delivery of 50 supersonic F-4 Phantom jets to Israel. He said all clauses in the sales agreement were being carried out on schedule. Mr. Eban said there was no increased pressure from Washington on Israel to sign the nuclear non-proliferation draft treaty. Israel's signature has long been urged by the U.S. and, at one point, it was reportedly made a condition of the sale of the Phantoms.

Referring to Israeli relations with other nations, Mr. Eban said Britain's aim was still to protect Israel's security and that London agreed that there should be no Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories except under the terms of a peace agreement. He said Rumania's steadfast policy toward Israel had undergone no change and that it remained the only Communist country of Eastern Europe maintaining diplomatic and trade relations with Israel.

Dayan Warns That Israel May Be Forced To Take Military Offensive

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Israel's Arab neighbors were put on notice yesterday that Israel may be forced to take the military offensive if they continue what he called their war of attrition. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that Israel's armed forces, used to swift breakthroughs and fast maneuvers, had not experienced static warfare and added, "I'm not sure we can remain on the defensive." To do so in the face of continued Arab attacks and mounting casualties "calls for supreme efforts and a deep faith in our cause," Gen. Dayan declared. The Defense Minister spoke at a convention of B'nai B'rith chapters here.

Premier Golda Meir and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon addressed other groups. Mrs. Meir spoke at a reunion of veterans of Haganah, Israel's pre-statehood defense force, and Mr. Allon addressed students at Tel Aviv University.

The Premier said Israel's armed forces had changed the nation's image abroad and acknowledged that the change may have deprived Israel of some of the sympathy shown to the "underdog." "Our image may be in danger because we have single-handedly overcome the dangers we were facing," she said, "but what counts is that Israeli forces are strong and the world should know it."

Mr. Allon said that Israel was willing to negotiate permanent boundaries with its Arab neighbors but the borders had to reflect first the nation's security needs and secondly its historic ties with the land. He chided those on one extreme who demand that Israel retain every inch of occupied territory and those on the other who insist on a unilateral withdrawal.

Gen. Dayan's carefully worded speech was seen here as serving notice not only to the Arabs but to the entire world that Israel reserved the right to switch from defensive to offensive tactics if Arab armies and guerrillas kept up their border warfare. He said Israel could easily conquer Amman and Damascus--the capitals of Jordan and Syria--but Israel was not interested in new territory. The problem is holding the line, he said.

Gen. Dayan said Arab guerrillas had managed to break the cease-fire and implicate Arab governments in the border fighting but they have not managed to disrupt daily life in Israel or to generate an uprising in the occupied territories. He said infiltrators had killed 70 Israeli soldiers and civilians in the administered territories since the Six-Day War and had suffered 400 dead themselves. He said the Egyptians have violated the status of the cease-fire along the Suez Canal but not the cease-fire line itself. "They have used everything they've got except their Air Force," Gen. Dayan said, because Egypt's jets "are no match for ours." He said if Israel is to hold the line, it must fortify itself and establish settlements in the occupied areas and must have the patience and ability to make the economic efforts necessary to build roads, lay waterlines and establish airfields and communications. "Israel may be faced with yet another war, but we are not a nation that submits, but a fighting nation," Gen. Dayan said.

UN Cease-Fire Observers Move From Qantara Because Of Artillery Fire From Egyptians

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- The United Nations cease-fire observation group has abandoned its headquarters at Qantara on the Israeli-held east bank of the Suez Canal because it came under Egyptian artillery fire almost daily and has established a new control center 30 miles back from the canal, beyond the range of the Egyptian gunners. The UN cease-fire observers have also given up two observation posts along the narrow embankment on the east side of the canal north of Qantara because Egyptian firing had made them virtually untenable.

(A spokesman at the United Nations in New York said today that the Qantara control center had been struck so often by Egyptian fire that it was "uninhabitable." He said that the control center at Ismailia, on the Egyptian held west bank of the canal, which has been struck by Israeli fire, was also being relocated.)

The UN observers will apparently retain their West Bank posts along the northern end of the canal. These posts are illuminated at night, by Israeli request, so that Israeli gunners replying to Egyptian fire may avoid hitting them.

Israel Pays Further Compensation For Attack On 'Liberty', Latest Receipt \$3,566,457

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that United States Government has just received \$3,566,457 from Israel in settlement of claims arising from the attack by Israeli jets and torpedo boats on the electronic intelligence ship USS Liberty on June 8, 1967 at the height of the Six-Day War. The sum of \$3,323,500 was paid by Israel to the U.S. on May 31, 1968 on behalf of the families of 34 men killed in the attack some 13.6 miles off the Sinai coast.

The new compensation represents mainly payments to the members of the crew who were wounded. The amount, received by the U.S., paid on April 28, 1969, covered the following U.S. claims: \$3,452,275 for 164 claims on behalf of the 75 injured crewmen; \$92,437 for expenses incurred by the U.S. Government in providing medical treatment to the wounded; and \$21,745 for expenses incurred by the U.S. for personal property damaged or destroyed for which crewmen were compensated.

Distribution of the money received from Israel to the injured sailors is now in progress, the State Department said. The only unsettled claims arising from the attack on the Liberty are for damages to the vessel itself. They remain under discussion. The ship was so badly damaged that a decision was made to deactivate it, officials said. Israel apologized for the attack which it called accidental. A U.S. Navy board of inquiry claimed that Israel had had ample time to identify the ship correctly. According to testimony given before the House Defense Appropriations sub-committee, a Joint Chiefs of Staff message ordering naval vessels to avoid the battle area was sent from the Pentagon before the Liberty was attacked, but through a series of misrouting errors, it never reached the Liberty.

WJCongress Unit Hits USSR For Propaganda Which Is Seen Hurting Russian Jews

ANTWERP, May 13 (JTA) -- The European Executive of the World Jewish Congress condemned the Soviet Union yesterday for its anti-Zionist propaganda campaign which it said had overtones of anti-Semitism that created a "climate of hostility" for the Jews in the Soviet Union. Winding up its session, the Executive also protested the failure of the Soviet Government to remove the disabilities suffered by Jewish citizens who are not given the same opportunities to develop their religious and cultural rights that other national minorities enjoy. The resolution also urged that Soviet Jews be given the right to leave the Soviet Union if they so desired.

The WJCongress Executive also issued a declaration on the Middle East in which it proclaimed its complete solidarity with Israel and, in another declaration, urged the West German Parliament to abolish the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes.

In a report to the session, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president, said that no improvement could be expected in the situation of the Soviet Jews so long as present Soviet Middle East policy remained unchanged. He said the officially inspired anti-Jewish campaign in Poland had abated and that Jewish emigration from Poland had decreased. Recent developments in Czechoslovakia, he said, had not affected the Jewish position there and the Jewish communities still received Government aid despite the new regime's closer ties with Moscow.

Knesset's Religious Faction Attacks Cabinet Decision On 7-Day Television

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- A Cabinet decision, reached Monday night after sharp debate, to institute television broadcasting seven days a week came under bitter attack today from the National Religious Party's parliamentary faction. A spokesman for the faction said that "only our duty to national unity" in a time of stress had prevented the NRP from walking out of the Government coalition in protest against the Cabinet decision.

A statement by the group pledged public protest and efforts to secure a reversal of the decision which was described as "hasty, a provocation to Orthodox Israelis and an undermining of the Sabbath." The statement asserted that extending the hours of television broadcasting was unnecessary when the three days of programing now in effect were, in any case, below standard. The Cabinet decision, taken over the opposition of the religious bloc, the spokesman asserted, "undermines the trust between the NRP and the coalition majority."

New Jersey Senate Approves 'Silent Prayer' Bill, Governor's Veto Expected

TRENTON, N.J., May 13 (JTA) -- The New Jersey Senate approved 30-4 yesterday a controversial "silent prayer" bill following a hot debate. The State Assembly had previously passed the measure. It went to Gov. Richard J. Hughes who was expected to veto it. He had vetoed similar legislation in 1968.

The measure, which would require all public school pupils to participate in a daily period of silent prayer, was opposed by Jewish community councils and national Jewish community relations agencies in the state. They held that the law would create a serious conflict for many pupils who, because of pressure from teachers and classmates, might feel obligated to act in violation of personal beliefs.

Opponents said that measure was a "dodge to get around the United States Supreme Court decision" which prohibits public school prayer. The sponsor, Sen. Frank S. Farley, a Republican, said "prayer is needed in our country. This country could use more of God today. By our example, we can show our children we respect God." Jewish opponents of the bill said that the place for religious worship was in the home, synagogue or church but not school.

Lubavitcher Rebbe Urges Hasidim To Stay In Neighborhoods Threatened By Militants

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who has more than 300,000 Hasidic followers around the world and a large following in Brooklyn, said today that Jews in all urban centers in this country should "hold tight" and not abandon Jewish neighborhoods threatened by Negro militants. "It is a matter that concerns many sections in many cities," Rabbi Schneerson declared. "It involves a whole trend and attitude." He said that Jews must not feel "insecure or have an inferiority complex." The world headquarters of the Lubavitcher movement will remain in its present location in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn adjoining the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district, site of a Jewish-black militant confrontation on the school decentralization issue, the rabbi said.

Finds From Masada And Bar-Kochba Caves Will Go On Exhibit At Smithsonian

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA) -- An exhibition of finds from excavations at Masada and the Bar-Kochba caves will open Sunday at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Visitors to the museum will be able to see it through July 20. On exhibit will be mosaic floors from Herod's palaces, priceless scrolls, jewelry, coins, lamps, cooking utensils, clothing and Roman catapult balls fired at the Jews of Masada by Roman legions.

The Israel Exploration Society in Israel and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York combined to bring the exhibit here. United States Chief Justice Earl Warren will be honored at a preview reception for the exhibit on Saturday and will be presented with a stone carving representing the theme of Masada. The reception will be sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation and the regents and secretary of the Smithsonian, with Foundation president Charles E. Smith making the presentation to Mr. Warren.

For about 100 years, the lonely, 1,300-foot high rock of Masada, in the Judean desert on the western shore of the Dead Sea, was a focal point of history. In 36 BCE, King Herod, fearing an uprising by the Jews and an attack by Antony and Cleopatra, built a fortress-palace atop the rock. And, in 73 CE, three years after the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem, 960 Zealot defenders held the rock, finally killing themselves rather than surrender to the Romans, who besieged them.

George H. Heyman, Jr. Is Elected President Of Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- George H. Heyman, Jr., a Wall Street stock broker, has been elected president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the organization's board of trustees has announced. He succeeds Samuel J. Silberman, who served three years. The Federation supports 130 medical, welfare, recreational and vocational agencies that serve annually some 1.5 million New Yorkers of all religions and races. Total expenditures of the agencies for all services amount to almost \$250 million a year.

Hebrew U. Plans Documentation Center On Soviet, East European Affairs

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- The Hebrew University announced today that it will establish a documentation center on Soviet and East European affairs during the next academic year. The center will sort and file all printed and documentary material presently available in the country, which is concentrated for the most part in private collections. It will coordinate the acquisition of such material for the benefit of scholars and will set up a library for use by researchers including those not associated with the University.

Guidelines for the new center were drafted by a committee appointed by the university senate. It was directed by Prof. E. Michael Confino, head of the department of Russian studies. There are presently some 15 scholars working at the Hebrew University in Russian studies and in political science, economy and sociology whose research touches on topics related to the Soviet Union and East Europe.

News In Brief

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Students of the Bnei Akiva religious high school in Netanya successfully launched a home-made rocket last Friday. It soared nearly 10 miles and disappeared, presumably falling into the sea. The four-and-a-half foot rocket was built by the youngsters with the aid of technicians from the Haifa Technion. They christened it "de Gaulle" and invited guests to a launching two weeks ago. But the rocket misfired and did not leave the launching pad. The second and successful attempt was made last Friday but no guests were invited and the name "de Gaulle" was rubbed off. "We didn't want an evil eye," said an Orthodox student.