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Defense Ministry Calls Massive Air Strike Against Retaliation For Increased 'Aggression'

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- The massive Israeli air strike yesterday against military positions in Jordan was ordered in retaliation for a progressive increase in "Jordanian aggression" against Israel in which terrorist organizations and the Iraqi expeditionary force participate along with Jordanian Army regulars, the Defense Ministry said.

A communique issued by the Ministry said 600 "acts of aggression" were committed from Jordanian territory so far this year. The number of incidents rose sharply in the last two months during which there were 40 attacks by artillery, 107 by mortars, 17 by tanks, 17 by Soviet-made rockets and seven by anti-tank and recoilless guns, the communique stated. In addition, it said, there were 48 cases of mining during recent months and intensive small arms and bazooka attacks by guerrillas. The Israelis said they killed 66 guerrillas and took 20 prisoners during this period. The communique stressed that Jordanian attacks were aimed not only at military positions but at roads, bridges, settlements, factories, agricultural vehicles and farm workers.

Although the Israeli jets had bombed and strafed Jordanian military installations in the vicinity only a few hours before, traffic across the Allenby and Damiya bridges spanning the Jordan River was normal today.

Yesterday's air strike, described as one of the heaviest against Jordan since the 1967 war, involved an undisclosed number of aircraft of various types including twin-engine jet bombers. The strike lasted nearly six hours and was concentrated near the north shore of the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley for a distance of 38 miles north of the Dead Sea. An Israeli military spokesman identified some of the targets as Jordanian artillery batteries near el Zahadne and other positions near the Abdullah Bridge. The spokesman said the Jordanian guns there had shelled a Coptic monastery at Kasr el Yahud near the bridge. Another target further to the north was an artillery battery at el Wahadna which had shelled Israeli settlements and field workers in the southern Beisan Valley.

A military spokesman reported that eight Arab infiltrators were killed in two battles today in the Golan Heights and in the Gaza Strip. Those in the Heights were identified as Syrian intelligence officers apparently on a reconnaissance mission. They carried field glasses and Russian-made cameras. The group was apparently the second intelligence team sent by Syria in recent days. Last week five Syrian intelligence officers were captured by an Israeli patrol in the same region.

A military spokesman said several brief artillery exchanges took place yesterday across the Suez Canal. He said the shooting was relatively minor and no casualties were suffered on the Israeli side. Several shells were fired at Israeli farm units in the Beisan area last night from Jordanian territory.

Israeli officials said yesterday that the air attack on Jordanian positions was not linked directly to the artillery barrage that killed an American tourist, Shirley Louise Anderson, of Rochester, N.Y., at Kallia beach on the north shore of the Dead Sea on Tuesday. But a Government spokesman said that the incident in which an Israeli civilian was also killed and another American tourist wounded, "triggered" the air strike. Baghdad Radio claimed today that Iraqi gunners stationed in Jordan were responsible for the fatal barrage and quoted a Baghdad newspaper's allegation that Miss Anderson was an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Addressing a Labor Party rally in Haifa yesterday, Minister of Information Israel Galili said the air strike followed Israeli warnings to Jordan which apparently had no effect. He said, "We acted on firm knowledge that the recent attacks at Kallia, the Abdullah Bridge and the Beisan Valley are made by Arab guerrilla groups in close coordination with bases of the Jordanian Army." He said that the Amman Government has made no attempt to restrain El Fatah and other terrorist groups but rather allowed them freedom of movement and cooperated fully with them.

Israel, Britain Will Resume Contacts On Chieftain Sale, 'Yediot' Says

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- The newspaper Yediot Achronot reported today that Israel and Britain will resume contacts next fall over Israel's request to buy \$144 million worth of Chieftain tanks. The newspaper attributed its information to reliable sources and said this was one of the results of Premier Golda Meir's recent trip to Britain. Sale of the tanks to Israel was reportedly stymied by the British Foreign Office on grounds that it might compromise Britain's neutral position as a participant in the Big Four Mideast talks in New York. The proposed sale of Chieftain tanks to Libya, an Arab country, was debated this week in the British Parliament.

The Chieftains are regarded by Israeli military officials as critically important. Most of Israel's tanks--Pattons and Centurions--are outdated, rebuilt and second-hand. The only exceptions are several French made AMX-model light reconnaissance tanks. Two Chieftains were tested in Israel and generally stood up to trials. Britain recently concluded a deal to sell two Vickers tanks to Kuwait.

Israel has complained to the UN that Kuwaiti troops participated in a breach of the Suez Canal cease-fire recently.

Socialist International Says Settlement Must Take Israel's Existence Into Account

EASTBOURNE, England, June 19 (JTA) -- The Socialist International declared here today any settlement of the Middle East conflict must "take account of the absolute right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state." The declaration was part of a resolution on the Middle East adopted at the closing session of the 11th Congress of the International attended by the leaders of Socialist Parties in 33 nations.

The resolution stated that a Mideast settlement must also "guarantee Israel free passage through international waterways; establish a policy of reasonable disarmament; provide for a solution of the refugee problem on a humanitarian and constructive basis with international aid and the cooperation of all parties concerned; and establish effective guarantees of peace and security with mutually agreed frontiers."

Among the Jewish delegates at the parley were Dr. S. Levenberg and Sidney Goldberg, representing the World Union of Zionist Socialist Parties, and Emmanuel Scherer, representing the Bund.

Leon Dultzin Tells Human Needs Parley Of Jewish Agency's Budgetary Problems

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- The treasurer of the Jewish Agency told representatives of major Jewish fund-raising bodies here today that the Agency would not be able to maintain its present level of services over the next few years if it had to continue operating at the present budgetary level of \$350 million a year. Leon Dultzin addressed the International Conference on Human Needs in Israel, attended by 204 delegates from the United States and 23 other countries.

He said the budgetary problem stemmed from an annual three percent rise in prices brought about not by inflation but by "a healthy expanding economy." Mr. Dultzin provided details of the Jewish Agency's budget and the sums allotted to each of its main fields of activity. He said Israelis cannot carry the burden of immigrant absorption because they already pay so much in taxes, mainly for defense, that there is little left over for personal use.

Mr. Dultzin said that Israel lives in a state of "continuing emergency" and noted that events since the Six-Day War permitted fund-raisers to think in terms of an "emergency" although that word has changed in meaning for Israel since 1967. What it means now, he said, is "continuing responsibility."

UN Assembly Officers Set Unprecedented Session On Mideast Investigating Unit Problems

UNITED NATIONS, June 19 (JTA) -- The 17 vice presidents of the United Nations General Assembly will meet next Monday, at the request of Secretary-General U Thant, to tackle the problem of naming a three-nation committee "to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights" of Arabs in occupied territories.

Sixty-seven of 94 nations queried last month by Mr. Thant on the best method of solving the problem agreed to this procedure, which UN observers called unprecedented. The vice presidents will name one of their number to carry out the task.

Mr. Thant questioned all the member states about their views on several proposed methods of creation of the committee which was left undone by the late Assembly president Emilio Arenales at the time of his death earlier this year.

The Assembly voted last Dec. 19 to establish the special unit. Israel opposes any investigation of the Arabs' condition unless the status of Jew in Arab lands is similarly probed. One of the proposals offered by Mr. Thant was a special Assembly session, which, he noted, would involve "considerable time, effort and expense." He said in his memorandum at the time that UN rules of procedure did not contain any provision covering the current situation.

UN Receives 54 Russian's Petition On Alleged Rights Repression, Cites Jews' Cases

UNITED NATIONS, June 19 (JTA) -- The United Nations has received a Russian-language petition by 56 Russian citizens protesting political trials which cites, among others, cases involving Jews. The document was transmitted to the UN, which has turned it over to its Economic and Social Council, from London offices of Amnesty International.

The petition calling for an investigation of "the repression of basic civil rights in the Soviet Union" mentions the trial of Soviet-Jewish writer Yuli Daniel and Andrei Sinyavsky for publishing artistic works critical of the USSR. It also mentions the imprisonment of Jewish engineer Boris Kochubiyevsky, sentenced to three years in a prison camp for allegedly slandering the USSR and its social system.

The document, sources here said, has been registered and will be turned over to the Human Rights Commission, where other such material is traditionally sent. It will also be sent to Moscow, without the signatories' names, for comment. The New York Times reported today from Moscow that two copies of the appeal were refused in Moscow by Soviet personnel who staff two UN offices there. The petitioners were told that their appeal could not be accepted because the officers were not empowered to accept such documents from individuals, the newspaper reported.

Reform, Conservative Rabbis Invite Orthodox To Join Opposition To Growing Secularism

HOUSTON, Tex. June 19 (JTA) -- The leaders of Reform and Conservative Judaism in America called on their Orthodox colleagues today to join them in a combined effort to challenge the growing forces of secularism in the country and particularly the spreading indifference of American Jewish youth toward religion. But Rabbi Levi A. Olan, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinic arm of Reform Judaism, and Rabbi Ralph Simon, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, its Conservative counterpart, said they doubted that the Orthodox rabbinate would heed their call.

The two rabbis spoke at the 80th annual convention of the CCAR. It was the first occasion at which the head of the rabbinic branch of Conservative Judaism addressed an assembly of Reform rabbis. Rabbi Olan spoke at the Conservative group's convention last March.

They said that despite concern over the rise of secularism shared by the three branches of Judaism, they did not believe the Orthodox would join in their proposed joint action program. They cited the theological and interpretive differences in their practices of observing Jewish law and festivals, the divisions between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Judaism in Israel and a generally "cool" attitude on the part of the Orthodox establishment toward their Reform and Conservative colleagues.

Rabbis Olan and Simon agreed that continued unified action between their respective bodies was desirable but stressed that this in no way represented a move toward the merger of the two movements. Rabbi Simon said he felt that both groups were "too deeply committed to volunteerism, experimentation and intellectual independence to be regimented into one pattern of religious expression."

In another development here, the CCAR convention voted 123-108 to end its requirement that newly ordained rabbis serve as military chaplains for two years. In place of the self-imposed draft, a voluntary system of chaplaincy was adopted. The vote, coming after a three hour debate, reflected the growing objection among rabbinic students to serving in the military during the Vietnam war and to the Government's policy on Vietnam generally. The move to volunteerism put the Reform body in line with the Conservative and Orthodox movements on this issue. The Rabbinical Assembly, and Yeshiva University in New York, the major Orthodox institution of higher learning, both ended their self-imposed chaplaincy draft last year in favor of a voluntary system.

The convention vote in effect rejected the recommendation of the CCAR's executive board that would have continued the draft system. Abandonment of the draft was urged in a report submitted by the CCAR's chaplaincy committee. If insufficient volunteers responded, an amendment said, the issue will be taken up again at the 1971 convention.

Eisenstein Says Women Will Qualify As Students At Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

PORT JERVIS, N.Y., June 19 (JTA) -- Women will qualify as full-fledged students at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, its president, Rabbi Ira Eisenstein said today. He spoke at the opening session of a three-day conference of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation here. Rabbi Eisenstein said the college, which opened a year ago for the purpose of training rabbis and other Jewish leaders, was "well on its way to becoming one of America's major institutions for post-graduate study.

"We are educating new leaders for a new time," Rabbi Eisenstein said. "For the first time, the Ph.D. degree from a major university is a prerequisite for the title rabbi. This is our answer to the demands of the ecumenical age."

Wexler Denounces Proposed Legislation Aimed At Curbing Student Protests

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., June 19 (JTA) -- The president of B'nai B'rith has denounced proposed legislation before Congress to curb student protests as a measure more likely to aggravate turmoil than ease it. Dr. William A. Wexler addressed 2,000 delegates at the 117th annual session of B'nai B'rith's district three, one of the oldest and largest B'nai B'rith districts, covering New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia.

He chided "ambitious politicians" who rush "to offer bills like lollipops to appease the frustrations of an adult society that appears unwilling to make the hard effort to understand its youth and wants only to quiet them, by crude force if necessary." Dr. Wexler said, "The rash of punitive proposals" in Congress and state legislatures "would accomplish little except threaten academic freedom, encourage conformity and punish more of the innocent students than the guilty." He stressed that no more than two-percent of the student enrollment are radical extremists. "We need to be more conscious that the vast majority of our youth are telling us some hard truths and to ignore them is an even more dangerous game," he said.

Rabbi Norman Lamm Named Chairman Of New York Conference On Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- Rabbi Norman Lamm, associate rabbi of the Jewish Center (Orthodox) here, was elected chairman of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, a group that coordinates the work of several New York based agencies concerned with the plight of Soviet Jews, including education and public information projects. He is professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University.

Detroit Jewish Community Council Asks Support For California Grape Workers

DETROIT, June 19 (JTA) -- The Detroit Jewish Community Council has asked its affiliated organizations to back agricultural workers in their attempt to open collective bargaining sessions with California table grape growers, the Detroit Jewish News reported. The action endorses the activities of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC) headed by Cesar Chavez. The Council has urged its member organizations to boycott California grapes and voice support to their Congressman of a plan to extend to agricultural workers the National Labor Relations Act.

Several Jewish Organizations Plan To Oppose Supreme Court Appeal On Tax Exemptions

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA) -- Several national Jewish bodies are making plans to oppose an appeal that will come before the United States Supreme Court next fall that challenges the constitutionality of state laws that exempt church property from real estate taxes, JTA learned today.

The High Court agreed Monday to hear a complaint brought by Frederick Walz of New York City against the City's Tax Commission. Mr. Walz, a lawyer who is acting as his own attorney and who owns property on Staten Island, claims he is being forced to support churches because their tax exemptions increased his own property taxes.

He attacked the constitutionality of elements of the state constitution and real estate law that exempt church-owned property used exclusively for religious purposes. He claimed that these exemptions violated his rights of religious freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Jewish groups opposing him indicated that they plan to fight the appeal on constitutional grounds.

The Synagogue Council of America, the national coordinating body of the lay and rabbinic arms of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewry, is considering action. Its president, Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, has instructed the issue and to recommend what form its action should take. The six-member committee is headed by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman.

According to Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice president, the Council "has been grappling with this issue for some time" as a result of earlier taxpayers' suits against exemptions for non-religious affiliated church property. Rabbi Siegman said he thought that whatever action is taken should be an expression of the Synagogue Council as a collective entity rather than by its constituent groups as individuals.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative rabbis, told JTA that it normally does not involve itself in such issues and if it did in this case it would be in association with other agencies. But the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform congregational body, may inject itself into the case. Albert Vorspan, director of UAHC's committee on social action said that while no formal stand has been taken on the Walz case, a position paper on the subject was developed a year ago by the Union's counsel in anticipation of just such an attack on the tax-exempt status of religious institutions. Mr. Vorspan said that if the paper is adopted, the UAHC would argue that the denial of tax exemption to religious institutions violated the First Amendment which forbids the Government to establish a religion. He said the core of the argument would be that "the power to tax is the power to control." According to Mr. Vorspan, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinic wing of Reform Judaism, formally adopted the position paper at its last convention.

The most vehement opposition to the challenge was voiced by Orthodox groups. Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, issued a statement claiming that Mr. Walz' suit represented a "secularist" attack on religious institutions and announced that his group would file a brief of "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) so that its views can be presented to the Supreme Court.

Marvin Schick, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, an Orthodox lay group, told JTA that it would submit a brief based on the First Amendment. Mr. Schick remarked that his organization supported the removal of tax exempt status from non-religious affiliated church property and businesses. He observed that no Jewish denomination that he knows of owns property or business not affiliated with its religious functions. A spokesman for the American Jewish Congress said the organization was "considering what it might do, if anything." The American Jewish Committee told JTA it had never been involved in such issues and "had no intention" of getting involved.

The Supreme Court is expected to schedule arguments on the Walz appeal next fall or winter and follow with a written opinion. The outcome, according to some observers here, could produce the most far-reaching church-state decision in the Court's history.

New York Judge Orders Brooklyn Man To Support Child On Basis Of Jewish Law

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- A New York State Supreme Court Justice, relying on Jewish rather than secular law, has ordered a Brooklyn man to pay support for a child he helped to raise although never legally adopted. The couple, now divorced, brought the new-born girl into the home in 1958 with the intention of adopting her, but the couple separated in 1959. Justice Multer noted that the couple was not the natural, adoptive or foster parents of the youngster, and therefore, the man, Murray Wener, had no obligation under secular law to support it.

But, "under the Laws of Moses and Israel," Justice Abraham J. Multer said, "the head of every household who takes a child into his household puts himself in loco parentis and is as liable for the support of such infant as though it were his own." The husband, when living with his wife, behaved in all ways like a father, Justice Multer said. Shortly after the arrival of the child, in Jewish tradition, he went to his synagogue and named the child after his maternal grandfather; he also claimed the child as a dependent on his income tax returns, the judge said.

Justice Multer cited several passages from the Talmud, Old Testament and a textbook on Jewish law, including a passage from the Midrash Rabbah, which reads "He who raises a child is called the father, not the one who had begotten the child." The husband has been ordered to pay \$35 a week in child support.