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Report U.S. Not Worried By Increased Violence In Middle East; Peace Efforts Continue

WASHINGTON, July 23 (JTA) -- United States officials said today that there was little substance to the Israeli position that bilateral and Four Power negotiations encouraged Arab violations of the United Nations cease-fire. These officials said they did not think the level of violence had ascended over a period of weeks that included the recent American-Soviet bilateral talks in Moscow. In the U.S. view military activity in the Mideast has reached a plateau of being "constant," but it is not the official impression here that events are moving toward a climactic stage.

The bilateral talks were said to be at a point closer to "midstream" than near a "break-down" or "breakthrough." The 10 hours of talks of Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, with Soviet leaders in Moscow achieved "a bit of advance on some points." But some fundamental differences remained.

Washington's main concern now is not the daily violence but concentration on efforts to promote a settlement through UN envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. But regardless of whether there is a restoration of the Jarring mission, the superpower talks are vital and continue to be "an element of restraint." Mr. Sisco discussed with the Russians the latest events and risks. Officials said that Washington hoped to balance the risks against the benefits of what may be achieved in moves toward peace. The objective was described as a common document in writing. The officials wanted to convey no implication that the Russians have changed their philosophy although they hinted at a slight progress.

The U.S. presented Moscow with counter-proposals to its suggested peace plan of June 17. The counter-proposals are now being studied by the Kremlin. Moscow and Washington agreed to continue bilateral talks as a "continuing process." Mr. Sisco returned via Stockholm and gave Dr. Jarring a briefing on the Moscow talks. Mr. Sisco will go to New York this week to brief UN Secretary General U Thant before joining President Nixon on his world tour.

Mr. Sisco found Soviet leaders very serious, businesslike, and candid on the Middle East, according to officials. The Soviet attitude reflected the July 10 speech of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko welcomed by Washington to a considerable degree. In Moscow Mr. Sisco came to agreement on some points but disagreed on others, officials said. It was agreed that terms of settlement be exchanged in a specific way. The two powers are seeking a common document for transmission through the Big Four to Dr. Jarring. Instead of trying for a final blueprint, which Washington feels only the Israelis and Arabs can agree upon, Washington is seeking to create a framework of basic principles for the parties directly involved to deal with through Dr. Jarring.

U.S. officials feel that instead of reacting to existence of the talks, new violence reflects the absence of a settlement. Mr. Sisco did not return from Moscow with a feeling that the Russians thought the Middle East was on the brink of a new war. Officials said that the U.S. expected the present situation along the cease-fire lines to continue for some time. But they believed both sides were interested in arriving at a settlement. The U.S. is convinced that both the Arabs and Russians want the major power talks to continue.

The question of arms limitation involving curtailment of shipments from the U.S. and Soviet Union to the Middle East came up in Mr. Sisco's Moscow talks. U.S. officials disclosed that the Kremlin would require Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory prior to such agreement on restricting the arms flow. The U.S. is in constant touch with both sides on the military developments in the Middle East, officials said. They declined to discuss whether there were indications of concessions by Israel on evacuation of occupied territory. It was noted that there is avoidance here of any mention of the Soviet military personnel in Egypt. The problem is seen as not Russian military support of the Arabs but scrupulous adherence to the cease-fire by the Arabs and Israelis.

Officials disclosed that Dr. Jarring has no plans to convene the parties at this time and is still awaiting the superpowers' efforts. Mr. Sisco discussed U.S. views of the present Middle East situation with French leaders in Paris. The position of the Pompidou Government on resumption of arms supply to Israel was said to be basically the same as publicly stated by President Pompidou the day before Mr. Sisco visited Paris.

(The official Soviet news agency Tass reported from Moscow today that USSR has pledged support to Egypt and other Arab states "subjected to Israeli aggression." The message was contained in a telegram sent to President Nasser marking the anniversary of the fall of the Egyptian monarch.)

Nasser Declares Egypt Is Ready To Fight, Blasts United States And Britain

LONDON, July 23 (JTA) -- President Gamal Abdel Nasser declared today that the Arab world had recovered from weapons losses in the 1967 Six-Day War and now had the military strength to fight Israel to recover territories lost in that war. "We have to fight," he declared in a speech at

Cairo University marking the 17th anniversary of the revolutionary seizure of power from King Farouk. He accused the United States of boosting arms shipments to Israel to "force" an Arab surrender and denounced Britain as well as the U.S. for support to Israel. He charged that the U.S. had gone back on a pledge to defend the freedom of all Mideast countries. He said it was not only "our right but our duty to fight to regain the occupied land and evict the Israeli forces" and he asserted the Arab world was "determined to fight for liberation and we are able to fight for liberation."

He said that this month marked "the beginning of a new stage," an apparent reference to a series of artillery duels and commando raids against Israeli positions on the east bank of the Suez Canal. He asserted that the Arab situation was "different" from that of 1967 or 1968. The Soviet Union has replaced most of the air and ground weapons Egypt lost in the Six-Day War.

President Nasser accused Israel of ignoring the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution by refusing to withdraw from the occupied territories, a refusal he charged was being "blessed" by the U.S. He repeatedly charged that the U.S. was giving Israel support to continue its "aggression" against Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Arab response, he said, will be to "stand our ground. We shall fight and sacrifice. Martyrs and heroes of ours will fall but our banners on the land will not be lowered." He said Israel could not "persist" unless it was certain that it had pledged to insure its supremacy--"supremacy in weapons."

One Killed, One Seriously Injured When Bomb Goes Off 1.5 Miles From Tel Aviv Center

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- One man was killed and a second seriously injured when a terrorist bomb hidden in an empty paint can exploded early this morning opposite a maternity hospital and near Government offices here. Sixty-one-year old Kalmann Unger of suburban Ramat Gan was killed when the bomb exploded about 6 a.m. near a kiosk where he sells bus tickets and newspapers. The other man, Zeev Ehrlich, 50, was seriously injured as he waited for a bus near the kiosk which is about one and a half miles from the center of Tel Aviv on the main road to Petach Tikva.

The terrorist bomb damaged the passenger shelter at the bus station and shattered windows in the area. There was very little movement in the area at the time, police said. The area was immediately cordoned off and some 30 Arab suspects were picked up in Tel Aviv and in other points around the country. Checkpoints were immediately established at entrances to Tel Aviv and a number of people were interrogated. Traffic was back to normal a short time afterward.

Municipal authorities said they planned to meet with Army officials to take steps to set up a civil defense organization in the city. On June 30, 11 persons were injured when a bomb planted by terrorists exploded near Dizengoff Street in the heart of Tel Aviv's busy commercial and cafe section.

Report Kibbutz Members Hit By Grenade Attack In Hebron Escaped Serious Injury

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- Officials reported today that none of the 11 kibbutz members who were the targets of a hand grenade explosion in the marketplace in Hebron in the occupied West Bank were injured seriously. They were flown to Hadassah hospital by helicopter after the blast yesterday. A number of suspects have been detained in Hebron in the search for the young Arab who threw the grenade into their passenger truck.

Six of the 11 members are new immigrants from Argentina, officials said, clarifying an earlier report that all 11 had emigrated from that country. The 11 are part of a group of 20 young men and women, between 18 and 24, most of whom are members of the Lamerhav Pioneer movement, who are staying one year at Neot Mordechai in the upper Galilee and who later will join a unit of Nahal, the para-military program combining agricultural and security functions in new border settlements. The Argentine newcomers were touring Israel with a group of kibbutz members and were just ending their visit to Hebron when the grenade hit their vehicle.

Officials also reported that not a single Arab came to the aid of the victims from the hundreds filling the market square when the grenade detonated. Instead, they closed their shops and disappeared in alleys, just as the young Arab suspect had done.

Israel-Arab Battlefronts Calm Down For A Day

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- Only minor incidents were reported today from the Suez Canal and Jordanian cease-fire lines, with neither casualties or damages on Israel's side. The Egyptians staged minor small arms and artillery duels on some points along the Suez Canal. Jordanians fired at workers at Kfar Ruppin in the Beisan Valley and the fire was returned.

A military official denied a Cairo claim that yesterday's Israeli air strikes on Egyptian ground installations along the Suez Canal, the second since Sunday, struck civilian concentrations in Suez City and Port Tewfik, wounding six civilians. Army officers denied they were escalating the conflict with Egypt, with this week's air attacks, the first since the 1967 war. The raids are "not a new phase, but a new tactic," one said.

UN Committee Probing Alleged Rights Violations In Territories Plans Agenda

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 23 (JTA) -- The ad hoc working group created by the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate charges of violations of human rights of Arabs in Israel-occupied territories met today to consider 19 communications received from Cairo, al-

leging specific instances of "harsh treatment" and "brutality" in the occupied areas. Members of the group decided to ask the writers of the letters to testify, if it can be arranged, when the group visits Cairo next month. The group also decided to hear one person, a resident of Haifa, at UN headquarters later this month, in addition to witnesses already listed to be heard at that session. The identity of the Haifa resident was not disclosed.

The New York-based Action Committee on American-Arab relations has been granted its request to testify before the special working group. The group decided to hear a representative of the Committee in the near future. The Committee is headed by Dr. Mohammed T. Medhi, a veteran Arab propagandist, whose title is "secretary-general." He has led several anti-Israel demonstrations at its Mission to the UN here.

Israel Studying Report Of French Position On Preferential Euromart Affiliation

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) -- A report from Brussels that France had no objection to a preferential trade agreement for Israel with the European Common Market if the other five Euromart members would give similar favorable consideration to applications from Arab countries was under intensive study today in the Israel Foreign Ministry.

(French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann told his five colleagues at the Brussels meeting that preferential treatment for Israel would be a political decision and could be envisaged only within the framework of similar cooperation with other Mideast countries.)

Sources here said that the report marked the first time France had expressed readiness--even if conditional--for the principle of Euromart preferential treatment for Israel. They added that it was not clear to what extent the parallel approach to the Arab countries would bring about complications and delays in a specific agreement. They pointed out that Israel has never opposed applications from other Mideast countries seeking association with Euromart but has objected to this being made a condition for consideration of Israel's application.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban instructed Israeli representatives to pursue the matter further with representatives of those countries which support Israel's application. He met with senior officials at the Foreign Ministry to summarize results of a meeting he held last week in Zurich with Israel envoys in Western European countries. Extensive discussions took place on Israel's long-standing and hitherto fruitless efforts for a durable association with Euromart. It was noted with satisfaction, however, that the stand of the five countries in supporting Israel's bid had been stronger than previously. It was suggested that this might have a salutary effect on France's position.

War Orphans Group Urges World Pressure On Poland To Change Emigration Deadline

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) -- The Association for the Rehabilitation of War Orphans called today upon world opinion to demand that the Polish Government cancel or postpone its Sept. 1 deadline for curtailment of Jewish emigration from Poland. At a press conference here, Dr. Yedidiya Fraenkel, speaking for the organization, said that Polish Jews are fearful and hopeless and unable to request emigration within the time limit. Dr. Fraenkel said he was especially worried about Jewish war orphans who suffered at the hands of the Nazis and now face more suffering because they are again stigmatized as Jews. He said they are unable to emigrate because they have no families or relatives. He urged an increased effort to persuade Polish authorities to extend the time limit.

Meanwhile, in Haifa, a recent immigrant from Poland said that country's remaining Jews are in a state of panic, not knowing where to turn, and are gravely concerned about their future. Stephan Lutkiewicz, who arrived in Israel with his wife and two daughters, said the remaining Jews in Poland were suffering from anti-Semitism inspired by the Communist Party. According to Communist Party teaching, he said, a Jew is a Zionist and a Zionist is an imperialist. He said he did not know how many Jews remain in Poland. Mr. Lutkiewicz was director of the music department of the State-owned art export-import Ars Polonia company.

1,900th Anniversary Of Second Temple's Destruction Is Marked By Jerusalemites

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) -- The 1,900th anniversary of the destruction of the Second Temple was marked tonight on the eve of Tisha B'av by thousands of Jerusalem residents who came to the Western Wall, the remnant of the Temple, to pray and to mourn the destruction of the shrine.

The Jews, sitting on the ground, chanted the appropriate prayers and then arose to walk around the wall in accordance with instructions of Psalm 48:12. All places of entertainment in Israel were closed for the evening and street lights were dimmed. In accordance with Sephardic custom, all lights were put out in Sephardic synagogues while the cantor recited a remembrance of the Temple destruction and the choir sang "You should ask for the peace of your prisoners," by the Sephardic poet Yehuda Halevi.

Israel's Chief Rabbis had ruled that there should be no changes in the Tisha B'av services this year, despite demands from some Jews who argued that there should be alterations in recognition of the fact that Jerusalem has been re-united and was in Israeli hands.

National Committee Of ZOA Leaders Formed To Block Torczyner's Re-Election

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- A national committee of prominent Zionist Organization of America leaders has been formed to help combat a bid by Jacques Torczyner for re-election to a fifth and sixth terms as ZOA president. The committee, composed of prominent ZOA members from various sections of the United States, met yesterday to take steps to block Mr. Torczyner's re-election at the ZOA's Los Angeles national convention in August.

Called the "National Committee to Safeguard the Integrity of the ZOA," the organization hopes to defeat a proposed amendment to the ZOA's constitution that would make Mr. Torczyner's re-election possible. Carol Pickel of New York, national ZOA finance chairman, was elected chairman of the ad hoc group which adopted a declaration that viewed "with alarm the progressive decline in the membership of the ZOA and its serious shortcomings in the spheres of public relations, counteracting of Arab propaganda on the campuses and mass media, as well as its lack of achievements in aliyah, youth and Hebrew education."

The declaration called upon "all conscientious and dedicated members and leaders of the ZOA to prevail upon the incumbent president to withdraw the proposed amendment...which would provide for his entrenchment in office..." The document termed the proposed change in the constitution "a violation of the principles of democracy in our organization, particularly in view of the vital need in these critical days to infuse new leadership capable of leading the ZOA on the road to its former glory and greater achievements."

Elected co-chairman of the committee were Sol Dann of Detroit, Fred Diamond of New York City, Charles Rosengarten of Hartford and Paul Safro of Long Island, N.Y. Other members are Lewis Caplan, Louis Dince, Dr. Charles Kramer, Sam Klein and Sam Miller, all of New York; Samuel Rose of Long Island; and Henry Silverman of Boston.

The legal basis of the effort apparently by pro-Torczyner forces to win his re-election was a decision taken earlier this year by the ZOA's national executive committee, during the Pan American Zionist conference in Miami Beach, to seek the constitutional change. The constitution presently reads that a president who has served for four consecutive terms shall not be eligible to succeed himself further without the lapse of at least one full term. A term is one year. The committee voted in Miami Beach to recommend that the Aug. 28 convention change the basic law so that while the four-term restriction still exists, "the incumbent president shall be eligible to succeed himself for not more than two further consecutive one-year terms."

A constitutional amendment which enabled Mr. Torczyner of New York to have a fourth term was approved by last year's convention. A two-thirds vote is necessary to pass an amendment. There are at present two candidates for the office besides the incumbent, Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum of Kew Garden Hills, N.Y. and Rabbi Joseph Shubow of Boston. Mr. Torczyner could not be reached for comment.

Philadelphia's Har Zion Temple Vandalized Twice Following Months Of Harrassment

PHILADELPHIA, July 23 (JTA) -- Har Zion Temple, one of this city's largest Conservative congregations, was vandalized July 13 and 14, the Jewish Exponent reports. A 14-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with the July 14 incident and charged with vandalism.

Jerome Heilweil, synagogue vice president, and Juvenile Aid Division investigators, said "they really turned the place upside down." Mr. Heilweil said the synagogue had been the victim of vandalism and petty thievery for six months but the latest incidents were the most severe. He said no religious articles were disturbed and attached "no religious significance" to the recent incidents.

The July 14 damage was done to the nursery school. Approximately 100 windows were broken, play equipment was broken and scattered and books were torn and strewn about. The nursery was open to all children in the neighborhood, "black and white alike," Mr. Heilweil said. The July 13 vandals broke some of the Temple's stained glass windows and broke dishes. "The place was pretty much a shambles," Mr. Heilweil said. He said police promised more surveillance of the synagogue and that he was considering the employment of additional guards. There was no official estimate of the amount of damage.

Abe Kasle Dies In Detroit At 74, Was Former National Chairman Of United Jewish Appeal

DETROIT, July 23 (JTA) -- Michigan Jewry is mourning the death last Friday of Abe Kasle, a former national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, former chairman of Detroit's Allied Jewish Campaign and former chairman of the Detroit Israel Bond Committee. He was 74.

As president for 15 years of the United Hebrew Schools, he succeeded in raising the school's educational standards and in acquiring priority status for Jewish education in Detroit. As president of the Hillel Day School, he directed plans for the new building for the school which is expected to be completed for the opening of the 1969-70 academic year in September. He established the Kasle Judaica section in the Wayne State University library. In 1958 he was named winner of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation's Fred M. Butzel award.

Dr. George Lowen Dead At South Africa, A Barrister Who Escaped From Germany

JOHANNESBURG, July 23 (JTA) -- Dr. George Lowen, 72, who fled Germany in 1935 after a brilliant legal career, and who became a leading barrister in South Africa, died here recently. In Germany, he appeared against Nazi Party members and was preparing the defense of those charged with setting the Reichstag fire of 1933, when on advice of friends, he fled.