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UN Truce Observer Reported Killed At Suez Canal By Israeli Artillery Shell

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 27 (JTA)--An officer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in the Mideast was killed today by an Israeli artillery shell near Port Tewfik, a UN spokesman said. He was identified as Major B. Roland Plane, 37, of Sweden.

The UN spokesman said that the officer was reported to have been killed while at "Observation Post Mike," the code name for his position on the western side of the Canal. Secretary-General U Thant was awaiting further information before making a statement, he said. The death was the first of a truce team observer, although injuries have been reported sustained by several during the ongoing fighting. Mr. Thant recently threatened to remove the observers because of the dangers they faced. There are 90-95 observers at the Canal from 15 countries including more than 30 from Sweden.

(An Egyptian Government spokesman said Maj. Plane was killed when an Israeli shell scored a direct hit on his post. He said several doctors attempted to save his life. His body was to be shipped to Cairo where his wife and two children are living.)

Suez Canal Air War Rages On, With Air Attacks By Both Sides

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA)--The Suez Canal air war, which entered a new phase a week ago with the Israeli occupation of Egyptian-held Green Island, continued to rage this weekend as Israeli pilots pressed their fourth and fifth bombing and strafing attacks on enemy ground positions. Egyptian planes today made their third strike in a week in the Israel-held Sinai, wounding seven soldiers, one seriously, in a bombing raid. Israel did not report any challenges in the air.

Israel warplanes delivered a 90-minute assault against Egyptian artillery emplacements Saturday, directing their bombs between Qantara and the areas around Port Tewfik and Ismailia. A day earlier, Israeli jets bombed and strafed artillery positions between Qantara and Port Said, a military spokesman said.

All planes returned safely to base in both operations, a military communique said. Egypt claimed it shot down a total of six planes, allegedly bringing to 34 the number of Israeli aircraft downed in the last month. Israel reports only two were lost in action earlier this week when its jets began bombing Egyptian positions at the Canal for the first time since the 1967 war.

Egypt has lost 12 fighters and bombers and has suffered heavy losses in casualties and equipment, Israel reports. Israel reported seven injuries and two deaths of soldiers as a result of battles on the ground this weekend. Egyptian fighter planes went aloft Saturday but did not engage Israeli aircraft, a military spokesman said here.

The Israelis are sending their jets against Egyptian positions as a tactical move to neutralize artillery and other positions and as a strategic effort to stymie any large scale operation, possibly a crossing of the Canal, that Egypt might be planning.

In other action, Israeli jets conducted air strikes against Jordanian Army positions on Friday and Saturday. Arab guerrillas blew up a power line at the Nahal Oz settlement which carried electricity to Gaza City. Israeli and Jordanian forces fought a tank and machinegun battle south of the Sea of Galilee. A number of Katyusha rockets were fired Friday at the Yardenia settlement in the Beisan Valley, slightly injuring a girl. Fire from a recoilless rifle was opened from a Syrian position against Israelis on the Golan Heights. There were no Israeli casualties reported.

An Arab saboteur was killed in a clash with an Israeli unit near Umm Sidra pass on the Jordan River. There were no casualties among the Israeli troops. A tractor driver was injured slightly when his tractor hit a mine near Neve Urr in the Beisan Valley. Officials also reported that a small bomb exploded this morning in the Jezreel Valley near a small airstrip used for farm-spraying planes. The bomb was hidden near the offices of the company which operates the planes. The blast caused neither damages nor casualties.

A military spokesman reports that the new "active defense" along the Canal has generated a number of problems for the Egyptian forces, among them growing desertions by soldiers. The latest Egyptian air attack was seen as a morale-boosting measure.

Lt. Gen. Haim Bar-Lev, the Army Chief of Staff, said in an interview on the Army radio station that the new tactics were aimed at teaching the Egyptians that they were far from ready for war and to increase pressure on them in order to bring about a reduction in tension. Last week's military operations, he said, were designed to show the Egyptians that "their activity was costing them dearly and would continue to cost them dearly." Despite the shooting down of two Israeli aircraft, there has been no improvement in the Egyptian Air Force, Gen. Bar-Lev said.

Foreign Ministry Explains Israel's Position On Canal Cease-Fire

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman told a press conference this weekend that Israel's position on observance of the Suez Canal cease-fire was based on full compliance by both sides with the cease-fire in its entirety and added that the deterioration along that sector was the result of Egypt's policy of rejecting the cease-fire--both de jure and de facto.

He added that there was still a possibility of avoiding further aggravation of the situation if Egypt would adhere unconditionally to the agreement in line with its commitments of June, 1967, when the Security Council ordered the cease-fire. Egyptian President Gamel Abdel Nasser said in a speech in Cairo last week that Egypt considered the cease-fire invalid on grounds that Israel had refused to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Premier Golda Meir said in a speech that President Nasser was afraid to tell his people the truth and instead of reporting Egypt's drawbacks, he was "feeding them lies" and inciting them to war.

Boy Finds Explosive At Circus, Search Turns Up More, Averting Major Catastrophe

HAIFA, July 27 (JTA)--A 14-year-old Israeli boy's curiosity was credited by police today with frustrating saboteurs' plans for a major blast in a circus here which was timed to maim and kill hundreds of the circus-goers.

Benjamin Peretz and a youthful friend had been looking at the Tokyo Fair from the street but apparently did not intend to watch the performance. They wandered over to one of the numerous watermelon stands looking for "spare" melons. Benjamin opened a melon and observed a pencil-like object embedded in the opening. He removed it and playfully threw it at his friend. It exploded, injuring the boy slightly.

Police were called to the melon stand and began a search. They found the suspected melon and inside of it a kilogram of explosives. A second melon was found with three times that much explosive. An old coat, to which no one had paid any attention, was found to have ~~25~~ sticks of gelegnite sewn into its lining. The circus performance was halted immediately and the audience followed instructions to leave by the tent through its back entrance while the search for more explosives continued. No more were found.

The police said that the pencil-like object was a timing device which had been set to detonate the explosives as the circus audience was leaving the performance. They said a major catastrophe in damages, injuries and death could have occurred.

Police immediately rounded up some 300 local Arabs, with 28 kept in custody for more questioning. Some hot-headed Jewish youths tried to attack Arabs in the vicinity but police moved quickly and stopped the threat. The injured boy was released from the hospital. The suspects were brought before a magistrate and remanded for further investigation.

Nixon Aide Confers With Mrs. Meir; See Connection With Her Planned Visit To U.S.

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA)--Leonard Garment, one of President Richard M. Nixon's aides, left Israel this weekend after a five-day visit during which he met with Premier Golda Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

At his departure at Lydda Airport, he described his visit as a good will trip but refused to elaborate or to answer newsmen's questions. Foreign Ministry officials also treated the visit casually but political sources suggested that the visit was connected with preparations for Mrs. Meir's visit to Washington on Sept. 25-26. It was assumed that Mr. Garment, a member of President Nixon's inner circle, would report to the President on his visit here.

Rabbi Schacter Says Most Americans Still Favor Israel's Case

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA)--The favorable image of Israel among Americans generally has not changed and most Americans feel that Israel's case is righteous, Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said here today. But, he added, because of the increased anti-Israel propaganda from Arab sources, the Presidents' Conference had set up a committee to fight the Arab propaganda.

He also said that Mrs. Meir's visit to the U.S. in September would contribute greatly to Israel's cause and that American Jewry was awaiting her arrival. He also told a press conference that Mrs. Meir would attend a session of the Presidents' Conference. He reported also that after it held meetings with President Nixon and talks with other members of the Nixon Administration, there was a belief among members of the Conference that the Administration was favorable to Israel's needs and was continuing the Israel policy of the Johnson Administration.

Soviet Underground Article Suggests That Kochubievsky Was Victim Of Frameup

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA)--An article in an underground publication of Soviet intellectuals suggests that an official frameup was the basis of the imprisonment of Boris Kochubievsky, the 33-year-old Kiev Jewish engineer now serving a three-year term in a labor camp on charges of slandering the Soviet society and Government, according to a report today in the Washington Post. Its United Nations

correspondent Robert H. Estabrook cited material assembled by the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry which had appealed to Soviet Communist Party Leader Leonid Brezhnev to allow the engineer and his wife to go to Israel before news became known in New York of the engineer's trial and conviction. He was arrested last December after he and his non-Jewish wife had been promised permits to go to Israel. He was sentenced last May 26.

The indication that a Government provocateur trapped the Jewish engineer appeared in Khronika, the underground publication, the Post correspondent reported. Some of the publication's sponsors are among the 55 persons who signed a petition to the United Nations last May about human rights violations in the Soviet Union which specifically mentioned the engineer's trial.

The reported entrapment occurred at a memorial ceremony last September at Babi Yar, the ravine outside Kiev where the Nazis killed 100,000 Jews. The official speakers did not mention the fact that virtually all the victims of the Babi Yar massacre were Jews but did denounce Israel. According to the underground publication, the engineer was approached by an acquaintance who reported overhearing a conversation in which a woman remarked that the Nazis had killed 100,000 Jews and a man nearby had replied "not enough."

The angered engineer was said to have told his acquaintance that Russians would naturally talk in that way when official speeches denounced Israeli "aggression" and ignored the fact that most of the Babi Yar victims had been Jews. In an argument with the purported provocateur, according to the Khronika report, the engineer asserted that the Jews had been killed for being Jews.

According to Mr. Estabrook, Mr. Kochubievsky's troubles with the Government began in June, 1967 when he arose at a meeting at the radio factory where he worked to defend Israel which had been charged with "aggression" by a lecturer. Censured by his union, he quit his job in May, 1968 and applied to go to Israel with his new wife. Permits were initially refused on grounds that the Soviet Union had no diplomatic relations with Israel and that his wife would be leaving her "old parents," the Post reported. On Nov. 28, the engineer was informed that exit permits for him and his wife had been approved but on the same day their apartment was searched and on Dec. 7, he was arrested on charges of slandering the Soviet State.

The Khronika article said that one of the principal witnesses at Mr. Kochubievsky's trial was the unnamed person who approached him at the Babi Yar ceremony and provoked the argument. The publication also reported that an assistant dean at a teachers college had sought to persuade the engineer's wife to divorce him, telling her that she had "a girl friend who is married to a Jew and she says all Jews smell bad. You are in love with him, you don't mind but once you get" to Israel, "the whole country smells bad," she reportedly said.

The engineer's remark at the Babi Yar service that "here lies a part of the Jewish people" was cited by the prosecutor at his trial as "Zionist propaganda." The trial judge reprimanded the engineer's pregnant wife for preferring her husband to membership in the Communist Youth organization from which she had been expelled for "Zionism." That information, Mr. Estabrook reported, was based on documents provided to the Academic Committee, some of which were based on eyewitness accounts of the trial. Twelve Kiev residents wrote to the prosecuting attorney, complaining they had been excluded from the nominally open trial on instructions of the Soviet secret police. The engineer's brother also was barred from attending, the Post reported.

Carlos L. Israels Is Dead At 64; Was President Of United Hias Service

NEW YORK, July 27 (JTA)--Carlos L. Israels, former president of the United Hias Service, the Jewish migration agency, died Thursday of a heart attack at New York Hospital. He had been chairman of the Hias National Council at his death. He was 64.

Active in philanthropy for more than 30 years, Mr. Israels was an author and lecturer on corporate and financial law and had served as adjunct professor of law at Columbia University. He had been a director of the Joint Distribution Committee and of the United Jewish Appeal and had served as secretary-treasurer of the United Service for New Americans. He had been treasurer and a member of the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. He also had been a member of the editorial board of the Uniform Commercial Code of the American Law Institute. Funeral services will be private. A memorial service will be held Wednesday at Temple Emanu-El in New York City.

Simon Belkin Dead At 80; Was A Pioneer In Organized Jewish Life In Canada

TORONTO, July 27 (JTA)--The death of Simon Belkin in retirement in California at the age of 80 has been reported here. He was a pioneer here in organized Jewish life in Canada. Emigrating from Kiev at 20, he settled in Montreal and helped establish the Canadian Jewish Congress. He was executive director of the Jewish Colonization Association of Canada for almost 30 years, helping to bring and settle Jews on Canadian farms. He retired to San Leandro, Calif. in 1954.

Committee For Peace In Middle East Is Formed By Leading Chilean Leftist Intellectuals

SANTIAGO, July 27 (JTA)--Announcement of formation of a committee for peace in the Middle East, comprised of leading leftists among Chilean intellectuals, was published today in El Mercurio, a leading Santiago daily newspaper. The proclamation asserted that a just and stable peace in the Middle East required Arab acknowledgement of the right of existence for Israel and national self-determination for the "Arab peoples." The statement also proposed direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states without intervention of any third powers. The signatories included the noted Communist writer, Manuel Rojas, and many Marxist Socialists, some of Arab origin and some Jews.

Kuwait Embassy Sends Packets Of Anti-Israel Propaganda To Officials In Washington

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA)--Packets containing anti-Israel propaganda have been sent to members of Congress, the State Department and some Senators, among them four members of the Foreign Relations Committee, by the Embassy of Kuwait here. The materials, printed in Beirut, Lebanon, were handsomely packaged in a black plastic wrapper containing a Beirut post office box number.

Recipients of the literature have included Sen. J. W. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, Foreign Relations Committee chairman; George D. Aiken, Vermont Republican; Stuart Symington, Missouri Democrat; and Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, known for his ardent pro-Israel position.

The packet contains a large brochure entitled "The Arabs Under Israeli Occupation" and is attributed to the Arab Women's International Committee and was said to have been delivered to the Regional Conference on Human Rights in Beirut last December.

The enclosed documents charge that Israeli officials were guilty of mistreating prisoners of war, of torture, forcible deportation of Arab residents, and mistreatment of refugees. The packet also contains a number of booklets and pamphlets with the general theme that the founding and continued existence of Israel have been illegal.

Several booklets were published by the Institute of Palestine Studies, which is headed by Lebanon's President, Charles Helou. Other pamphlets contain the imprint of the University Christian Center Forum, Beirut. They include: "Is the Old Testament Zionist?" and "Some Historical Aspects of the Clash Between Zionism and Arab Nationalism." There is also a question-answer booklet distributed by the Palestine Liberation Organization Research Center in Beirut, which accuses Israel of aggression, political assassination and harassment of United Nations truce observers. There is also a reprint of an article by I. F. Stone, the American journalist, which appeared in August, 1967, in the New York Review of Books, discussing approaches to Arab-Israeli problems.

A spokesman for the Kuwaiti Embassy said that his Government had sent the material for distribution here. "One point of view has been put forward (in the United States) for the last 20 years. This material we are distributing gives the Arab point of view," he said. The protocol office of the State Department said that foreign embassies are not permitted to lobby in Congress if their efforts are directed at specific legislation. But when there is an attempt to get a general viewpoint across, it is allowed unless the material is scurrilous or highly offensive to U.S. legislators.

"If (the literature) was terribly objectionable or obnoxious, or if it was so bad the other side objected, we would talk to the Embassy and try to get them to stop or to tone (it) down," the official said.

Jewish Theological Seminary Reports Progress In Restoring Library Hit By Fire

NEW YORK, July 27 (JTA)--Three years after a fire in the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary destroyed or damaged 70,000 volumes, efforts to re-establish the library--which are expected to continue for at least another 10 years--have been highly successful, officials reported today. They said that the Seminary again could report a collection of Hebraica and Judaica "unique in scope and distinction" and an "on-going program of restoration, preservation and modernization."

Water to end the blaze made 150,000 volumes a soggy pulp and restoration began almost immediately to dry out the books, which involved Seminary faculty, students and staff and hundreds of volunteers who placed a paper towel between each page of every book, requiring an estimated 2.5 million operations.

By September, some six months after the 1966 disaster, 150,000 dried out and restored books had to be classified, while the Seminary resorted to a nucleus library from usable volumes and thousands of gift books from individuals and duplicate collections of the New York Library, Hebrew Union College, the Brooklyn Jewish Center and other sources.

Officials of the Conservative Seminary decided to reclassify all its books by the Library of Congress method, which requires classification by title, author and subject matter -- all told, seven cards for one classification. For the 200,000 volumes in the Seminary library, about 1.5 million cards must be prepared. A team of six experts has catalogued about 25,000 books to date. Although the rare book and manuscript room was not affected by the fire, it was decided to microfilm all manuscripts and the rarest books. The films have been stored in vaults. A special alarm system has been installed as well as carbon dioxide extinguishing equipment.

See Religion Shaping Up As Issue In Maryland Democratic Party Primary In 1970

ANNAPOLIS, Md. July 27 (JTA)--Religion seems to be shaping up as an issue in Maryland's Democratic Party primary election scheduled for 1970. Gov. Marvin Mandel and State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein, both of Baltimore, are Jews, and Mr. Mandel has indicated to his advisers and close associates that he will not risk the election by having two of the three major statewide candidates Jewish, the Associated Press reported.

Mr. Goldstein told a reporter that "the people of Maryland don't care what religion you are. They are interested in your ability to do the job." Mr. Mandel was elected by the legislature to succeed Spiro T. Agnew after Mr. Agnew was elected Vice-President on President Nixon's ticket last November. Political sources said that they expected a party battle because Mr. Goldstein "is incensed that Mr. Mandel would even consider replacing him on the Democratic ticket."