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Thant Aide Meets With Envoys From UN Observers' Nations In Wake Of Death At Canal

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 28 (JTA)--The most pressing question on the United Nations' Middle East agenda--will Secretary-General U Thant seek to withdraw his observer corps at the Suez Canal--went unanswered today. That question has been asked in the wake of the death yesterday of a Swedish observer who, the UN says, was killed by an Israeli shell.

The first action taken by the Secretary-General, a UN spokesman said, was an informal meeting between one of his high Secretariat political aides and representatives of the seven nations whose troops constitute the observer mission. They conferred with Brian E. Urquhart, director of Mr. Thant's office for political affairs, to discuss developments at the Canal following the death of Maj. B. Roland Plane.

The question of withdrawal of the 90-95 observers was not on today's agenda but may be considered at a formal meeting planned later this week by Mr. Thant and representatives of the seven nations. Mr. Thant, who has been recuperating at his home from an operation, hopes to be in his office later this week.

Today's session was also devoted to past suggestions made by the Secretary-General to insure the safety of the observers on both sides of the Canal. Mr. Thant warned July 7 that he might ask the Security Council to bring the observers home if they continued to come under fire from Israel and Egypt during cross-Canal fighting. Present at today's meeting were Argentina, Austria, Chile, France, Sweden, Finland and Ireland.

Sweden has not signified any desire to have its contingent withdrawn since Maj. B. Roland Plane was killed at his observation post on the Canal's west bank during an artillery duel near Port Tewfik, a UN spokesman said. It was also reported that an attempt has been made to strengthen the shelters housing the UN personnel on both sides of the 103-mile-long waterway, as requested by Mr. Thant. But another suggestion--that of establishing "safe perimeters"--has not been dealt with.

Mr. Thant sent condolences to the Swedish Government, and Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the observer team, has transmitted his condolences to the wife and two children of Maj. Plane who live in Cairo. Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, sent a brief note to Mr. Thant expressing "profound grief and condolences." He said that Maj. Plane died "in the cause of peace, in an endeavor devoted to the maintenance of the cease-fire essential for the establishment of lasting peace." Mr. Thant himself has expressed regrets. The death of Maj. Plane was still under investigation, Lt. Gen. Bull said, and further details were to be reported.

Last Observer Death Occurred In Syria Just After 1967 War

There are no UN observers on the Israel-Jordan or Israel-Syria cease-fire lines. A UN source recalled that another observer had been killed in Syria just after the Six-Day War in 1967. Maj. Plane's death was the first at the Canal, although at least three observers have sustained injuries while on duty. Their injuries came from land mines and artillery duels. Several of the 20 observation posts have been severely damaged by fire.

In warning recently that the observers might have to be withdrawn, Mr. Thant said that "they cannot be expected to serve as what amounts to defenseless targets in a shooting gallery." The military observers' job is to keep track of daily Israel-Egyptian fighting and to report on it, as well as to make efforts to halt it. In addition to the seven nations now represented, Burmese officers have also been members of the UN force.

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Carl Barth said the United States was prepared, along with other nations, to afford more protection to the observers.)

Israel Jets Strike Egyptian Targets Again, Deliver Blows To Jordanian Positions

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--Israeli jets today attacked Egyptian positions on the west bank of the Suez Canal for the sixth time since July 20 and all returned safely to base, a military spokesman said. On Israel's eastern front, its jets attacked Jordanian targets yesterday, the second such assault in four days, without sustaining any losses, the spokesman said.

The 45-minute bombing and strafing run against the Egyptians came on the heels of a Cairo Radio claim that Israel was moving a large number of planes into the occupied Sinai.

Meanwhile, Egyptians are taking advantage of nightfall to rebuild their destroyed and damaged positions. Israeli troops strung out in the Bar-Lev line of fortifications at the Canal report the sound of heavy equipment being used under cover of darkness. In a related development, Premier Golda Meir said yesterday after a Cabinet meeting that "any escalation in the Canal area has been caused purely

through Egyptian initiative" and that "all military operations recently undertaken by Israel along the Canal were solely the outcome of consideration for an effective response to Egyptian aggression."

Amman Radio asserted that yesterday's attack in Jordan was directed at Irbid and that three soldiers, including a major, were killed, in addition to 12 who were wounded. In other military action, an Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded in an Arab commando ambush on the occupied Golan Heights. Two commandos were killed and several others were believed wounded.

Two Israeli soldiers who were wounded in Egyptian attacks on Sinai positions died yesterday. One was injured last Friday by Egyptian shelling at Port Tewfik; the other was injured in an air raid yesterday. A military spokesman said that Egyptian planes swept over the coastal strip near Port Fuad yesterday in an attack that lasted five minutes. Seven soldiers were wounded. Israeli positions were struck by rockets before Israeli interceptors could reach the area and before anti-aircraft fire could be used effectively.

90 Egyptian Jews Remain In Prison, Rabbi Douek Wants To Emigrate, Correspondent Told

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA)--The number of Egyptian Jews still held in prison in that country has dwindled to about 90--less than half the number imprisoned without charges five months ago, the Washington Post reported from Cairo yesterday. Correspondent William Tuohy of the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post news service quoted an "official source at the Cairo rabbinate" as the source of his information.

The newsman said that five months ago Grand Rabbi Haim Douek said he believed 225 Jews were still incarcerated in Tourah Prison between Cairo and the suburb of Helwan to the north. During the Six-Day War, an estimated 600-700, mostly family heads, were rounded up and jailed on unspecified "security" charges, Mr. Tuohy said.

The rabbinate official interviewed said the 90 Jews still held are all Egyptian citizens. He was also reported as saying that there are still 1,000 to 1,200 Jews left in Egypt of the 80,000 who lived there 20 years ago. Most of them live in Cairo and environs and in Alexandria.

Rabbi Douek has applied for an exit permit, Mr. Tuohy reported, but has not yet received an answer from Egyptian authorities. "The Government decides who can leave. If they decide against you, you don't get a reply. As to what goes into their decision, I just can't answer," he was quoted as saying.

The correspondent also quoted Rabbi Douek as saying that the average Egyptian displays no animosity toward Egyptian Jews. "There are very, very few anti-Semitic fanatics," he was quoted as saying. Only some 25 persons attend Friday and Saturday services, Mr. Tuohy quoted his other "official source" as saying. "In the past the synagogue was crowded, but no longer. Most of the men of the families have gone abroad, and the people feel alone here."

Eighth Maccabiah Games Open In Israel Among Festivities, Memorial Observance

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--Athletes from 27 nations gathered at Modiin, in the West Bank village of Midya, to mark the opening yesterday of the eighth Maccabiah games. The site is the traditional burial place of the ancient Maccabees. The Maccabiah torch was lit by veteran Maccabi leader and Maccabiah games innovator Yossef Yekutieli as some 1,500 Jewish athletes assembled around the huge, grey tombstones overlooking the hills of Lydda. Present were Pierre Gildesgame, World Maccabi chairman, and heads of Maccabi branches throughout the world.

Runners brought the torch to the Ramat Gan Stadium near here today where President Zalman Shazar officially opened the games. The athletes marched in their colorful uniforms and a memorial observance was held for those who died in Israel's defenses. Also remembered were those who, captives in their own countries, could not be present. They were represented by Jews now living in Israel but originally from those countries. Egyptian Jewry was represented by Abraham Pessah, a basketball coach; Czech Jewry, by swimmer Ivonna Tobbis; Moroccan Jewry by Henry Ohayon, Polish Jewry by Tuvia Mayortchik, Hungarian Jewry by gymnastic champion Agnes Kelety and Russian Jewry by tennis player Ilana Pessacoff.

Flag bearer for the United States contingent was swimming star Mark Spitz. Following the swearing-in of the participants, a flock of pigeons symbolizing peace were released, followed by an evening of mass gymnastics, a parade of contingents, prayers and song. This year's games will constitute the largest Maccabiah in number of participants and categories of competition. The largest non-Israeli contingent is the 154-member American group. Britain has sent 84 competitors, South Africa 79, Mexico 61, Argentina 100, Brazil 96 and Canada 48. Presumably for political reasons, India and Iran barred their Jewish athletes from coming here.

Officials said the most crowded competition will be in swimming. Other major events will be in track and field, football, basketball, boxing, wrestling and golfing. Among the top American sportsmen are Mr. Spitz, who has a world record in swimming, and Steve Marcus, a shotput star. Two swimmers holding world records--South Africa's Karen Muir, in the backstroke, and Ada Kok, Dutch butterfly--will participate in a swim demonstration, which will be held outside the official competition.

Mr. Gildesgame said Maccabiah authorities are attempting to convince participants to settle in Israel. "For every soldier who is killed in the war," he said, "we hope 10 boys and girls will remain to replace them." He said the Maccabiah is different this year "because we are going to urge and educate the young people to come and settle in Israel."

Trudeau Discusses Jews In Arab Lands, Russia, In Exclusive Interview With JTA

MONTREAL, July 28 (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an exclusive interview that the Canadian Government "has shown its concern for the Jewish minorities living in several Arab countries and has on occasion been able to be of some assistance to them." The Prime Minister made this disclosure in prepared replies to a series of questions submitted to him by the JTA Montreal correspondent Michael M. Solomon.

He also declared that his Government had been "particularly disturbed" by recent reports on the plight of members of the Jewish community in Iraq "and is giving this matter serious consideration." He added that Minister of Manpower and Immigration Allan MacEachen and Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, had been studying means by which the Canadian Government "might assist in remedying this situation." He warned that questions on procedure were a "very delicate matter, since, if any action on the part of the Canadian Government were to be misinterpreted, it might lead to a worsening of the situation in which the Jewish community now finds itself." He added that "we hope to be able to take some positive steps through diplomatic channels in the near future" but he did not elaborate.

M. Trudeau was asked whether the Canadian Government might intervene "with the Soviet Government in respect of granting Soviet Jews elementary rights they are deprived of at present." He replied that his Government "follows closely developments" affecting the human rights of Soviet Jews. He said that the sufferings of Jews in Europe under the Nazis "have given us a sense of special moral responsibility to oppose anti-Semitism wherever it may occur."

He declared that the Soviet Union was "sensitive to public criticism about its treatment of Soviet Jewry, and Canada does not hesitate to make its views known." However, he told the JTA, whether those views should be expressed through direct representations, or other means, depended "on an assessment of what approach is likely to be the most effective." He declared that the Soviet Government "is aware that this question is a complicating factor in Soviet-Canadian relations."

Finds No Evidence Of Fraud By Nazi Criminals To Obtain Citizenship

The Prime Minister said his Government had found no evidence to support complaints from Canadian Jewish organizations that Nazi war criminals had taken refuge in Canada after World War II and through false statements obtained naturalization giving them equal rights with native Canadian citizens. The Prime Minister said, "We have investigated all the alleged cases which have been brought to our attention" and "we have not found any evidence that citizenships have been obtained on the basis of such false statements."

In another question, M. Trudeau was asked about a statement by Justice Minister John Turner that a measure to ban hate literature was not on the Government's priority legislation list. M. Trudeau replied that "unfortunately, because of a backlog of legislation, it will not be possible to deal with the bill before the House adjourns for the summer recess." The Canadian Parliament will be reconvened Oct. 25.

The Prime Minister reiterated his Government's position that real peace in the Middle East "requires agreement and consent on the part of Israel and the Arab states. It cannot be imposed." He added that Canada continued to give "its full support to the efforts of the United Nations, in particular the mission" of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, who was named as special peace envoy but whose mission has been suspended for several months while Big Four talks have been held. M. Trudeau added that his Government was "at all times prepared to consider means by which it may usefully act to help achieve this end."

The Prime Minister, in reply to another question, assured Canadian Jews that the language bill now before the House of Commons, embodying his Government's bi-lingualism policy, should not be a cause for any concern. Stressing that his goal was to assure "the rights and privileges" of Canadians whose language is French, as well as to those whose language is English, he told the JTA that it was not his Government's purpose "to discriminate against other languages or other cultural groups."

He added that his Government believed that "the special character of Canada is greatly enhanced by the contribution brought by Canadians of many different backgrounds, languages and racial extractions. Our hope is that these cultures will flourish and it is the policy of the present Government to assist them as best we can."

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Will Visit Greece Despite Political Opposition

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--The public council of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra said Sunday that the orchestra will make a visit to Greece next month despite the protests of New Left and other Israeli dissenters who oppose the visit because of the "dictatorial nature" of the present Greek regime. The council said it had decided that the orchestra should carry out its scheduled participation in a musical festival in Athens.

Hungarian Jewish Leader Dies In Budapest From Auto Mishap Injuries

LONDON, July 28 (JTA)--Andre Sos, former president of the Central Board of Jews in Hungary, died in Budapest of injuries received in an automobile accident. He was 64.

20 Teenagers Complete 6-Week Effort To Help Anti-Poverty Program In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, July 28 (JTA) -- Twenty Jewish teenagers, who have just completed a six-week effort to help anti-poverty programs in the black ghettos of Los Angeles as members of the third Los Angeles Eisendrath Mitzvah Corps, have learned that they cannot "change the world" but that "they are still challenged to plan for the betterment of their own communities," a Reform official said today.

The young workers were selected from recommendations made by their rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the association of Reform congregations, and the UAHC Southern California branch. The Mitzvah Corps is a project of the National Federation of Temple Youth. During their stay here, the corpsmen lived in a fraternity house at the University of Southern California. They spent their days at anti-poverty project offices and attended evening lectures and discussion sessions.

Rabbi Erwin L. Herman, the UAHC regional director, said the teenagers volunteered because they wanted their religious ties to be relevant to the growing social problems in the United States. Lennard Thal, a rabbinical student at the Hebrew Union College, said the aim of the Mitzvah Corps was to give volunteers insight from their ghetto involvement. He said the teenagers had learned what could and could not be done and that it was hoped they would take those insights "back to their homes and congregations, to influence the adults who hold the potential for affecting change."

Jewish, Negro Congregations, 2 Of City's Oldest, Hold Joint Service

LOS ANGELES, July 28 (JTA) -- Two of the oldest congregations in Los Angeles, one Jewish and one Negro, held an interracial, interfaith joint service at the church yesterday. Members of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the city's oldest and largest Reform synagogue, came to the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, now in its 97th year, for the unique service.

Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin of the Reform congregation was guest speaker. He described some events in support of his topic that "history is a great teacher." Rev. H. Hartford Brookings, the host clergyman and former president of the United Civil Rights Council here, told his black Christian and white Jewish audience that the services were intended to "bring together people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds at a point of equality." He said one objective was the hope that "we can minimize the emphasis being placed on anti-Semitism" among Negroes.

San Francisco Ships Bookmobile To Jerusalem, Aimed Primarily At Arab Population

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28 (JTA) -- A travelling library has been shipped to Jerusalem to promote peaceful relationships between Jews and Arabs. The bookmobile was purchased by a public subscription in San Francisco under the sponsorship of Book Bank USA at the request of Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. The library will be used by Jerusalem's Society of Arts and Humanities to serve primarily East Jerusalem's large Arab population. The bookmobile was dedicated by San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto. The 1,500 volume library is inscribed in English, Hebrew and Arabic, and will carry books in all three languages.

St. Louis Chapel Stained Glass Window Depicts Apollo Moon, Earth Views

ST. LOUIS, July 28 (JTA) -- A stained glass window for a new memorial chapel built under auspices of the four Reform synagogues of St. Louis, which was designed by artist Sol Nodel of New York, contains views of the earth and of the moon as seen and photographed by Apollo astronauts. The memorial chapel for the new Mount Sinai Cemetery Association will be dedicated on Sept. 7.

The stained glass window, entitled "the Window of Truth," is 22 feet wide and 17 feet high and is composed of 30 panels, containing about 4,000 individual pieces of glass. The Jewish artist said the window has an infinity section on which he painted the Apollo views of earth and moon, believed to be the first representations in stained glass.

Policy Studies Institute Aide Arrested Protesting Soviet Anti-Semitism At Embassy

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- Arthur I. Waskow, author and a fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies here, was arrested last weekend during a demonstration protesting Soviet anti-Semitism at the Soviet Embassy here. He was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and "depositing trash in a public place" after he gave Embassy employes placards assailing the treatment of Jews in Russia. Mr. Waskow and other members of an organization known as Jews for Urban Justice picketed the Embassy. Police halted him as he entered the grounds. An Embassy spokesman declined to comment, saying, "We know nothing of this matter." Jews for Urban Justice joined the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, which is conducting a two-week vigil here to protest the treatment given to Boris Kochubievsky, a young Soviet engineer who was convicted and imprisoned for allegedly slandering the Soviet State.

New Hotel Dedicated Near Dead Sea At Lowest Point Of Earth

SODOM, July 28 (JTA) -- A new hotel on the lowest point on earth has been dedicated by Tourism Minister Moshe Kol at Ein Bokek, site of Dead Sea mineral water springs and known from biblical times as having a healing character. Sulphur baths were established at Ein Bokek as soon as Israel became a State in 1948. The new building is the Galei Zohar Hotel. Plans were reported to make possible 1,000 mineral spring treatments a day. The minister also said his office was preparing special tourist facilities for the Dead Sea and Eilat regions. He added that special grants of up to 20 percent of the required outlays would be given by his office to hotels and other facilities in the areas for the new facilities.