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UN Secretary-General Says He Sees No Basis For Direct Arab-Israeli Talks At This Time

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 15, (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant said today that he sees no basis for direct Arab-Israeli talks at this time. He said that he favored them in principle but that psychological, emotional and political factors, among others, did not make such negotiations feasible at this time. He indicated direct talks should be held when the time was ripe.

In a press conference on the eve of the opening of the 24th General Assembly, Mr. Thant again endorsed the mission of his special Mideast representative, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, as an instrument for achieving peace. Dr. Jarring was due in New York tonight.

The Secretary-General cited the 1949 Rhodes negotiations that led to an armistice ending the 1948 war as a possible precedent for promoting Arab-Israeli talks. He recalled that UN mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche arranged indirect discussions between the contending parties. At that time direct talks were held and agreement reached "at last," he said, when there was a basis for them.

The Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution, he recalled, did not refer to direct talks but spoke of "promoting agreement." If Dr. Jarring is to succeed in bringing about mutuality of views, he must have ideas and suggestions -- in short a clear statement of positions -- from both sides, Mr. Thant said. "I am always for exposure, contact, and communication by all disputants in any crisis situation," he declared.

In answer to a question about the effect on the UN of member states' refusal to implement Security Council decisions, the Secretary-General, without naming any states, asserted that Council resolutions are mandatory and that when a measure is unanimous, it is necessary that all of its provisions should be implemented. The unanimity of the Big Powers and their willingness to make sure that a resolution is implemented is necessary for implementation, Mr. Thant said. He voiced hope that such cooperation would increase this year.

On the question of the suspended Big Four Mideast talks, Mr. Thant said that "if there is a basis for resumption, I believe the talks will be resumed immediately." The talks were suspended pending the outcome of the American-Soviet bilateral discussions, he said. The Soviet Union, he said, replied in August to the United States' proposals submitted in July. Mr. Thant said he hoped that the Big Four would begin their discussions anew during the General Assembly session when the foreign ministers of the Arab and Israel Governments are in New York.

Mr. Thant also said that he had been advised that the Four Powers believe that "the time is not congenial" for a Big Four summit-level meeting on the Mideast and other issues.

5 UN Council Members -- Including U.S., Britain -- Would Abstain On El Aksa Measure

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Five members of the Security Council let it be known in advance of this afternoon's meeting that they would abstain from voting on the Pakistan resolution which called for Israel to abrogate all measures and actions it had taken "to alter the status of Jerusalem" and reaffirmed "the established principle that acquisition of territory by military conquest is inadmissible." The resolution also condemned Israel for failure to comply with previous Security Council resolutions opposing the integration of East Jerusalem and called for a Security Council meeting to consider further action if Israel continued in its refusal to obey these resolutions.

The five countries who disclosed in advance that they would abstain from voting on this resolution were the United States, Great Britain, Finland, Paraguay and Colombia. France and China were reported to be undecided.

The American position was spelled out Monday morning by Ambassador Charles W. Yost. He stressed that "we have seen no shred of evidence to support the allegation that the act of suspected arson which occurred at the Haram-as-Sharif on Aug. 21 was other than an individual act, as demented as it was dastardly." He said it would be most unfortunate "if the international community, which itself shares a deep interest in Jerusalem's shrines, were diverted from formulating a positive response to the present situation by incitements or allegations in support of other objectives. This Council cannot lend itself to such incitements or allegations." Mr. Yost expressed approval of the Israeli measures to investigate the fire and its agreement to admit Moslem experts in connection with repairs.

Mr. Yost told the Council that "we do not consider that it is appropriate or desirable so soon again to reexamine and pronounce upon the status of Jerusalem or to link the deplorable fire in El Aksa to the whole tragic Arab-Israeli conflict." He said that the resolution before the Council should have concerned itself "directly and exclusively with measures for the maintenance, repair and protection of the Holy Places, including provision for adequate participation of Moslem representatives, but not one which again went over the ground covered during our debate last July."

Ambassador Tekoah Voices Hope For Action That Would Unify, Not Divide

Ambassador Yosef Tekoah of Israel appealed to members of the Council "not to end the deliberations" on a note that would add to the controversies of the Middle East. Our region has enough hostility. It does

not require another injection of acrimony. It pleads for voices of calm and understanding."

He said that the draft resolution "is not conceived in that spirit. There is no reason whatever to reiterate at this stage known but strongly contested views. It is what unites we must seek and not that which separates us. The resolution would exacerbate the conflict without introducing a single constructive element, a single impulse toward understanding and cooperation this on a matter on which understanding is possible and cooperation sorely needed. The eyes of the world are again upon the Security Council, in hope, in expectation that perhaps this time it would find it possible to give encouragement to those who do not want to fan the flames."

Speaking for the Soviet Union, Ambassador Yakov A. Malik gave full support to the Pakistan draft resolution and demanded Israel's "unconditional and immediate compliance" with its terms. He said the Security Council must state that Israel had moral and political responsibility for the El Aksa fire. The Soviet Union, he said, would have preferred a stronger and even more direct resolution.

Link Golda Meir's Visit To U.S. With Pending Bilateral Talks At United Nations

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The visit of Israel's Premier Golda Meir beginning Sept. 25 is being linked with pending top level bilateral United States-Soviet talks at the United Nations on the Mideast, State Department sources said today. The presence of Mrs. Meir in the United States will be "exploited" in an effort to advance a settlement or at least to damp down hostilities, the source said. Secretary of State William P. Rogers will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko both before and after Mr. Rogers and President Nixon meet with Mrs. Meir.

State Department sources voiced hope today that the presence in the U.S. of Mrs. Meir and Mr. Gromyko simultaneously may create an indirect dialogue conducive to a better understanding between the Arabs and Israel and the U.S. and Soviet Union than now exists.

Preparatory to the Gromyko-Rogers meeting in New York, Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin is expected to meet in Washington with Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, within the next 24 hours.

Officials here hope that new momentum for the bilateral and Big Four initiatives may be achieved through discussions between President Nixon with Mrs. Meir. The State Department is deeply concerned about the possibility of an accidental escalation of the Israel-Arab confrontation in the Mideast. The Nixon-Rogers-Meir agenda will depend to a large extent on the Rogers-Gromyko talk, it was predicted.

5 New Security Council Members Are Not Expected To Change Stance On Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Five new nations are to be elected to two-year terms on the 15-member United Nations Security Council, beginning next January. From Israel's point of view, the make-up of that body, which it regards as demonstrably pro-Arab, will not change.

According to informed sources Syria, Poland, Burundi, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone are the leading candidates to replace Algeria, Paraguay, Hungary, Senegal and Pakistan, the Washington Post reported today. The election of Syria, Poland and Nicaragua by the General Assembly this fall is regarded as virtually certain because each has been endorsed by the requisite geographical groups. Tanzania and Togo are contesting the election of Burundi and Sierra Leone which have been endorsed by the foreign ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

The departure of Algeria will remove from the Council its African member most committed to the Arab cause. But the substitution of Syria for Pakistan will replace a Moslem state that has been inclined to compromise, albeit pro-Arab, by one of Israel's active Arab enemies. The replacement of Hungary by Poland will leave the anti-Israel East European representation intact but will bring into the Council a nation which has for the past year and a half waged an official "anti-Zionist" crusade at home.

Israeli Air Force Blasts Egyptian Military Positions On Gulf Of Suez Again

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Air Force jets blasted Egyptian military positions on the Gulf of Suez for the third successive day yesterday. The principal targets were Ras Ghareb and Ras Zafarana, the same ones hit by Israeli tanks and armored infantry in a 10-hour raid Sept. 9 and subsequently attacked again by air.

A military spokesman said the aim of the continuing air assaults was to prevent the Egyptians from repairing the radar and other military installations damaged by the first raid. Israeli military officials said over the week-end that the repeated strikes were intended to demonstrate to the Egyptians the vulnerability of important military targets on their soil.

According to an Israeli military spokesman, Egyptian violations of the cease-fire continued over the week-end in the Suez Canal zone. An Israeli officer, Lt. Joseph Shaham, was fatally wounded by a sniper's bullet near Kantara at the canal's northern end. (Cairo claimed today that Israeli planes attempted to raid positions on the Gulf of Suez but were driven off.)

An Arab saboteur was killed and an Israeli settler suffered an arm wound when guerrillas attacked Nahal Golan in the Golan Heights this morning with bazookas, small arms and mortar fire. The attacks came from Syrian territory. Another Arab guerrilla was killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded Sunday in a skirmish on the Golan Heights. The clash occurred when the guerrillas attacked Israeli soldiers dismantling a road mine. Another mine was found on the body of the dead saboteur.

Several 120 mm. mortar shells were fired at Kibbutz Gesher in the northern Beisan Valley Sunday from Jordanian territory. No casualties were reported.

U.S. Civil Rights Commission Staff Member Quits, Calls It 'Jewish-Dominated'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Domingo Reyes, a staff member of the United States Civil Rights Commission, resigned last weekend from the Commission saying "the Jewish-dominated Commission is black-oriented to the almost total exclusion of the Chicano (Mexican-American) and the American Indian." Mr. Reyes said he had been harassed by the Commission and deprived of his civil rights. He had served in the capacity of assistant to the director of the Commission's Mexican-American Division. According to Mr. Reyes, Howard A. Glickstein, the Commission's director-designate, required that he quit unpaid positions with outside civil rights groups before being permitted to moderate a New York-based radio program. A Commission spokesman denied Mr. Reyes' charges.

Dropsie College Receives University Status, President Katsh Announces

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The 60-year-old Dropsie College of Hebrew and Cognate Learning has been elevated to university status, it was announced here today. Approval to change the status of the post-graduate institution devoted solely to Hebrew, Biblical and related subjects was granted by the Department of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, according to Dr. Abraham Katsh, president. Dropsie University will be accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Dr. Katsh said.

The institution, which is non-sectarian and non-theological, was founded by the late Moses Aaron Dropsie. In addition to Hebrew, Biblical and post-Biblical studies, it offers post-graduate work in ancient and modern Middle Eastern languages and culture and higher Jewish education. It will continue to award only graduate degrees with a Doctor of Philosophy offered in its various divisions, Dr. Katsh said. Additional graduate degrees are also offered through its department of education, including Doctor of Education and Master of Arts.

Egyptian Diplomat's Car In Bonn Kills Israeli Diplomat; No Political Motive Seen

BONN, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- An Israeli diplomat was killed Friday by a car driven by an Egyptian diplomat in the Afghanistan Embassy who represents Egypt's interests in West Germany, police said Sunday. Egypt has had no diplomatic relations with Bonn since West Germany recognized Israel in 1965.

Dead was Jacob Tal, 44, the Embassy's second secretary. Police said he was struck in the suburb of Bad Godesberg while crossing the street to his daughter's house. The impact of the car hurled him onto the sidewalk, injuring him fatally. He died en route to the hospital, police said. The driver of the car was third secretary Ali Maher el-Dali, who was slightly injured, police said. No political motive of the accident could be established, the authorities said.

A special guard had been set up around the Afghanistani Embassy last Friday following a telephoned bomb threat to its Egyptian department. A spokesman said he believed the threat was a follow-up to an attack earlier in the week against an Egyptian travel office in Frankfurt. But there was no connection between the bomb threat and the accident, the spokesman said.

Israelis Celebrate Rosh Hashanah, Send Messages To Pair In Damascus

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Israelis celebrated the Rosh Hashanah holiday under sunny skies and in relative quiet. The manner in which the New Year was ushered in varied among individuals, each celebrating according to his beliefs and inclinations.

Orthodox Jews gathered at river banks and on the sea-shore to perform the ancient rite of "tashlich," the casting away of sins on the waters. Nearby thousands of family groups swam, sun-bathed and picnicked, obviously grateful for the respite from hard work and daily tension. Prayer services were held at Army camps and outposts from the Golan Heights to Sharm el-Sheikh conducted by Army chaplains. But soldiers in many posts were surprised and delighted by unexpected entertainment by some of the country's top artists of stage and screen. The actress, Hanna Rovina, widely known as the First Lady of the Israeli theater, combined her thespian talents with piety when she recited Psalms to troops in front-line bunkers. "It's a wonderful Army," she said afterwards. "Where else could you read Psalms to soldiers and get applause?"

Two Israeli nationals held prisoner in Syria since their TWA airliner was hijacked to Damascus Aug. 29 were not forgotten. New Year greetings were sent through the International Red Cross to Prof. Shlomo Samueloff of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School and Salah Muallem, a travel agency employee. The message said, "The thoughts of all citizens of Israel are with you. We shall not tire in our efforts until you are released." Foreign Ministry sources would not elaborate on the action being taken to secure the release of the two men. They said only that contacts were continuing with many governments, including the United States, and with international organizations.

President Onganía Sends Holiday Message To Argentine Jews

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- President Juan Carlos Onganía of Argentina delivered greetings to the nation's Jewish community in a Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur message to the DAIA, the central body of Argentine Jews.

He also expressed satisfaction that "new generations of Israelites, while continuing to be closely linked with their community, have become integrated in Argentine society and are partaking of our customs and traditions as well as our problems and aspirations for advancement."

(Fearing that Arab terrorists might strike Israeli offices and buildings during the Rosh Hashanah holiday, British police and security officials tightened up their watch this weekend. The entire police and security establishment took seriously the warning last week by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group, that it planned full-scale warfare against Israeli and Zionist interests around the world.)

4 Airlines Bow To Requests Not To Participate In Opening Of Syrian Jetport

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- In response to "urgent requests" by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, four international airlines rejected invitations to send delegations to the official opening today of the new \$45 million jetport in Damascus, Syria, the largest in the Mideast.

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, said that Air France, Alitalia, BOAC and Lufthansa had agreed not to send missions to take part in the ceremonies. In urging the airlines to refuse invitations to attend the event in Damascus, the Presidents Conference had charged the Syrian Government with being "an active accomplice to air piracy."

Any airline that participated in the ceremonies would be "condoning" the Syrian Government's action in refusing to release two Israeli passengers from a TWA plane hijacked to Damascus by Arab terrorists last month, the Presidents Conference told the airlines.

An Alitalia spokesman, in explaining why his company would not send a delegation to the ceremonies, said, "Alitalia along with the entire air transport industry is on record in the strongest possible terms deploring any interference with lawful air commerce. Because of unique and fortuitous diplomatic circumstances, Alitalia has been able to complement the Italian Foreign Office in effecting the release of persons and property victimized by the hijacking of an El Al aircraft to Algeria, and more recently the TWA plane. Alitalia will continue to cooperate to the fullest with all governments and international bodies working toward a means of preventing interference with the free transport of persons and property between all nations of the world. At the same time, we pledge our resources in assisting any sister company, regardless of nationality, in the release of aircraft or passengers illegally diverted or held in restraint."

The Alitalia statement said "We fervently hope that channels of communication can be kept open so that we may be of further assistance in returning the persons from Syria."

Alitalia officials disclosed that they had received more than 300 messages here from Jewish organizations in all parts of the country urging the airline to shun the Damascus ceremonies. They said the line would handle the situation "entirely as a local matter," meaning that a delegation would not be sent to Damascus from Rome but that the Damascus Alitalia staff would attend.

One of the messages protesting the planned participation of the airlines in the jetport ceremonies had been sent to each of them by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, signed by its chairman Jordan C. Band of Cleveland.

The airport, begun in 1965, has been handling international jet traffic for several weeks. American and British planes have not used Syrian airspace since the 1967 war, but aviation authorities in Damascus recently invited Western airlines to route their flights through the Syrian capital. The new jetport, together with related facilities, is expected to lead to a campaign for tourism.

NAACP Raps Nixon's Failure To Nominate Jew To Fill Supreme Court Vacancies

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said today that its opposition to the appointment of Federal Judge Clement F. Haynesworth, Jr. to the United States Supreme Court was based in part on President Nixon's apparent break with the tradition of naming at least one American Jew to the highest court in the land.

The NAACP board of directors said in a resolution released here that it objected to Judge Haynesworth not only on the basis of his "lamentable record in civil rights matters" and his generally anti-labor rulings in the past. In addition to those considerations is the "refusal of the President of the United States to follow the tradition of his eminent predecessors, beginning with the late Woodrow Wilson, of recognizing the vast political and social contributions, particularly with respect to our legal institutions, made by Jewish Americans," the NAACP said.

"To recite the names of Justices Brandeis, Cardozo, Frankfurter, Goldberg and Fortas is to recount major developments and contributions to the legal and political structure of the United States over the past half century," the resolution continued. "Equally able Jewish lawyers, judges and professors are among us."

"It was a sad blow to the aspirations of all Americans for full participation of all of our people in the affairs of Government when the President of the United States failed to appoint a Jewish American as he filled not only one but two vacancies in the last three months," the NAACP said. "We fear, or at least we suspect, that this cavalier treatment of a group of persons who have been in the forefront of the fight for protection of the rights of all Americans is thought to be justified because, after too long a denial, a Negro American has been appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. If this be the political reasoning, we refuse to accept it. We refuse to permit such cynical politics to require us to compete with our fellow defenders of the rights of all people for a place on the Supreme Court of the United States."

Monetary Fund Agrees To Israel Purchase Of \$22.5 In Foreign Currencies

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The International Monetary Fund has agreed to an Israel Government purchase of the equivalent of \$22.5 million in foreign currencies. The purchase will be used to lessen the impact on Israel's reserves of a deterioration in the country's balance of payments and in support of measures designed to correct it over a period of adjustment. Israel's quota in the fund is \$90 million and its outstanding purchases total \$22.5 million.