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British Foreign Secretary Says Big Powers Have Made Progress On Mideast

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart of Britain said today that, contrary to the general impression, the Big Four had made progress in their quest for a Mideast peace. The progress he cited was the fact that there was agreement on the part of the Big Four to a statement they issued last Saturday that the Mideast states have the right to exist in security as independent states.

The statement, issued following a dinner given by Secretary-General U Thant for the Four, re-endorsed the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution and cited the aim of a "durable peace."

Mr. Stewart reiterated his view that, while progress is slow and "frustrating," the Big Four must continue their consultations with a view to halting the escalating warfare between the Arabs and Israel. He also noted that there had been progress in the Soviet-American bilateral talks. He said he did not believe that any solution reached by the Big Four could--or should--be imposed on the parties to the conflict.

Mr. Stewart said that it was probable that if the Big Two or Big Four could reach an agreement on a settlement, the parties would grumble and be disappointed to some extent. Arab and Israeli would hopefully see in such a case that while the solution was not 100 percent acceptable, it would be better than continuing the fighting, Mr. Stewart said.

In any case, he declared, the Mideast disputants would have to think seriously about rejecting any agreement reached by the major powers. Throughout the Big Four or Big Two talks, he said, it was important that the Arabs and Israel be kept informed of what was being said and done.

Mideast Issue Dominates General Assembly Debate

Meanwhile, the Middle East crisis continued to dominate debate in the 24th General Assembly. Most speakers held that the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution was the one way to peace in the area but they were no closer than a year ago to agreeing on its proper interpretation.

The Foreign Minister of Egypt told the United Nations General Assembly that withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory occupied in the Six-Day War was "an absolute necessity" and he asserted that the "fundamental contradiction between what he called Israel's policy of expansion and the provisions of the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution had brought the Jarring mission to a standstill.

Mahmoud Riad added a new element of vituperation to the debate when he assailed "racist Zionism" and ascribed to it guilt for the arson at El Aksa mosque.

In a long speech, he denounced Israeli "terror" measures against the Arabs in the occupied areas, accused Israel of sabotaging peace prospects opened by the Security Council resolution and said that Israel, by its policies of aggression and expansion was threatening world peace.

Mr. Riad also blasted the United States because, he said, it continued to support Israel in the military, political and financial spheres while Israel continued to occupy Arab territories. American Skyhawk and Phantom planes, he asserted, were being used every day to raid the Arab peoples and kill them. He accused the United States of violating the UN Charter and its previous commitments.

Egyptian Speech Shows No Desire For Peace, Israelis Say

An Israeli Mission spokesman said Mr. Riad's speech confirmed Egypt's "intransigence" and did not contain any expression of willingness to establish real peace with Israel, to negotiate peace with Israel, and to work out together with Israel secure and recognized boundaries."

He said that the speech "distorted" the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967 which called for a just and lasting peace, not a return to the armistice regime. Mr. Riad, the Israeli spokesman said, gave lip service to the resolution but, in fact, "rejects the essential elements of peace and a departure from the vulnerability and chaos of the armistice."

The spokesman stressed the Egyptian failure to take note of Foreign Minister Abba Eban's offer to enter into negotiations for a peaceful settlement without any conditions and his ignoring of Mr. Eban's statement that the word "non-negotiable" was not in the Israeli vocabulary.

Earlier, Youssef Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, accused Israel of "contempt for the United Nations" and said peaceful declarations by Israeli leaders were designed to lull international opinion. He asserted that Gen. Dayan, in a speech on July 8, 1968, had said Israel would go beyond the present cease-fire lines into Jordan, probably Lebanon and perhaps central Syria.

He charged that Israel had "unilaterally denounced" the Israel-Lebanon armistice agreement of March 23, 1949, but insisted Lebanon still considered this agreement valid. He expressed solidarity with Egypt and Jordan and called for immediate implementation of the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution.

Jordanian Accuses U.S. Of Frustrating Peace Efforts

A new, hard line by Jordan was indicated Monday by that country's representative, Foreign Minister Abdel Monem Rifai, who accused the U.S. of blocking peace efforts by backing Israel's interpretation that boundary agreements must precede any withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories.

Britain's Foreign Minister, Michael Stewart, in his opening address, called on the parties to the conflict to accept all provisions of the resolution as a package and to stop accepting some parts of it and rejecting others. Mr. Stewart declared that his Government stood solidly behind Big Power peace efforts, whether through Four Power talks, bilateral talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union or the two combined with the aid of U.S. special peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring. Mr. Stewart warned that the parties concerned "must not expect any nation, whether in Four Power or Two Power talks or any other forum, to act merely as advocates. They must act more constructively than that," he said.

Mr. Rifai assailed Israel's position that withdrawal was conditional on the establishment of so-called agreed boundaries. He declared that this violated the terms and spirit of the Security Council resolution and suggested that Israel was trying thereby to gain Arab territory beyond the boundaries that existed on June 4, 1967, the day before the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war. As long as Israel maintains this position, there is no hope for a peaceful settlement, he said.

Mr. Rifai charged that the attitude of the U.S., as far as it is known on this important point, has not made it possible for the Four Power talks to yield fruitful results. He said Israel's strategy was to confront the world with a fait accompli by absorbing the areas under occupation and opposing UN or Big Power intervention. In this connection, he said, the delivery to Israel of Phantom jets by the U.S. was unjustifiable. He said those deliveries, far from intimidating the Arabs, had "bred resentment and a revolutionary spirit" throughout the Arab world. He praised Arab guerrillas operating against Israel as "gallant young men" representing "the spirit of the young in all the Arab world."

Mr. Stewart deplored the deterioration of the Mideast situation since the Assembly convened last and the failure of diplomatic efforts by the Big Powers so far. He said in his Government's view "we should not be dogmatic as to the method of settlement. Consultations of Four Powers, or of Two Powers the work, in consultation with them, of Dr. Jarring, may all be helpful. . . In our view nobody ought to say, 'we insist on one method and one method alone.' If at any time one method proves impossible, we must all be prepared to try others . . . As to the form of the settlement, this must place inescapable obligations on all the parties to live at peace with each other and to respect each other's frontiers. . We must remember the importance of respecting Security Council resolutions. The content of the settlement must put into effect all the provisions of the November resolution. . . Withdrawal, just and lasting peace, and indeed everything in that resolution. The problem has been to fashion from the resolution a workable package or program of parallel actions to be performed by the parties. . . When any one any nation is attempting to frame such a package, he must say to himself, 'I will not reject any particular proposal merely because I think it would be distasteful to any party in the dispute to whom I may be favorably disposed. I will rather ask myself about any proposal these questions: Is it fair, is it workable, will it be durable, is it in conformity with the Security Council resolution?"

Israeli Jets Pound Egyptian Positions And Fortifications In Suez Canal Area

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23,(JTA) -- Israeli jets pounded Egyptian artillery positions and fortifications in the Suez Canal zone for an hour today following Egyptian shelling and a mining incident which wounded five Israeli soldiers. According to a military spokesman, the targets were in the Bitter Lake area near the canal's midpoint. He said direct hits were scored and that all Israeli planes returned to their bases safely. Two of the Israeli wounded were hit during a mortar duel this morning. Three others were hurt when their vehicle struck a mine on a dirt road near the Bitter Lake.

Five Arab guerrillas were killed last night in clashes in the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. A military spokesman said that a sixth guerrilla was killed in the Gaza Strip yesterday when a grenade he was about to throw exploded in his hand. The Gaza Strip encounter occurred near Beth Hanoun where two saboteurs were gunned down. Three others were killed in two skirmishes in the Golan Heights.

Israeli jets attacked Egyptian targets across the Gulf of Suez Sunday and also hit targets on the west bank of the Suez Canal. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded over the weekend in the Suez area. A small bridge was damaged at Al Shatt near the southern end of the canal by explosives planted by Egyptian commandos.

According to authoritative sources here, the almost daily aerial assaults on the west shores of the Gulf of Suez are intended to keep the Egyptians from repairing the damage done to their fortifications and radar installations by Israel's 10-hour amphibious raid of Sept. 9. The sources spoke of "keeping open" a corridor to Egypt's interior, implying that Israeli ground forces may strike again deep into Egypt should circumstances warrant such an attack. A military spokesman said the planes involved in Sunday's assault returned to their basis safely.

An Israeli spokesman hinted that a new assault might be in the offing if Egyptian authorities continued to hold two downed Israeli pilots incommunicado. The pilots, shot down over Egyptian territory recently, have not been permitted visits by representatives of the International Red Cross as stipulated by the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war. The pilots were reportedly injured when they bailed out of their aircraft but Israel has been deprived of any information about their condition. A spokesman hinted today that if the Egyptian's persisted in their attitude, Israel might take "certain actions" to compel Cairo to release the men or to allow the Red Cross to visit them.

Wealthy Jews Held In Libya As 'Precautionary Measure' Since Revolution

ROME, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A number of wealthy Jews in Tripoli have been interned by Libyan authorities since the revolution which unseated King Idris. But their detention is purely a "precautionary measure taken to protect them from possible attacks," the newspaper La Stampa reported.

According to the newspaper's correspondent in Tripoli, Giorgio Fattori, Libyan officials made it clear to him that the detention was protective. He said there are about 300 Jews in Tripoli who appear quite free and are reachable by telephone calls from friends and associates in Rome and Naples. Mr. Fattori reported that only one anti-Jewish incident occurred during the military coup when a Jewish youth was attacked in a public square. He was rescued by soldiers. The new regime is genuinely anxious to prevent anti-Jewish incidents, Mr. Fattori wrote.

Amnesty International Will Testify At UN On Treatment Of Arabs In Territories

LONDON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Amnesty International, a private organization active on behalf of political prisoners, has agreed to testify before a special committee of the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the treatment of Arab civilians in the Israel-occupied territories. An investigation by Amnesty has reportedly found no evidence of the alleged mistreatment of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. But Israel nevertheless asked it not to appear before the UN group which Jerusalem has refused to recognize.

The UN body has already heard testimony in four Arab capitals, entirely from Arab or pro-Arab sources who have charged Israel with torturing prisoners and inhumane treatment of Arab civilians. Israel has refused to admit the committee to its territory unless a similar investi gation is made of the condition of Jews in Arab countries. Israel has not replied to the Arab charges but has pointed out that the occupied territories are open to the press and tourists who can determine for themselves the validity of Arab allegations.

Amnesty International has reportedly urged Israel to counteract the Arab charges by setting up its own inquiry in conjunction with the International Red Cross and representatives of Amnesty. Israel so far has refused and Amnesty International has accepted the UN committee's invitation to appear. The group's governing council has approved a resolution asking Iraq to permit its representatives to visit Iraqi jails and attend future trials of political prisoners and alleged spies in that country.

British Sympathy For Israel Stronger Than For Arabs, But Gallup Reports Decline

LONDON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- British sympathy for Israel is still stronger than for the Arabs. But it has declined to 41 percent from 59 percent in 1967, according to the latest Gallup Poll reported today by the Daily Telegraph. Only 21 percent of the British public believes that Britain should supply arms to Israel, the poll showed. Five percent of the public favored the Arab cause compared to four percent in 1967. But 35 percent said it favored neither side compared to 22 percent two years ago and 19 percent had no opinion compared to 15 percent in 1967.

Foreign Office Dismisses Reports Of Malta Base For Israel

LONDON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Reports from Cairo that Israel was to be granted use of a British military airport on the Mediterranean island of Malta as a training base was dismissed as "absolute rubbish" by the Foreign Office today. Malta, which is independent within the British Commonwealth, has also denied that facilities would be made available to Israeli armed forces for training purposes.

Italian High Court Awards Son To Father Separated From Catholic Wife

ROME, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A Jewish father legally separated from his Catholic wife has been given custody of their son who is to be brought up as a Jew, according to a ruling by the Italian High Court. The case was the first of its kind to come before the court. The court ruled that when a couple of different faiths is legally separated, the children assume the religion of their father and must be raised accordingly.

The youngster in the case was already baptized and received communion at the mother's request. The court decision will effect a number of Jews separated from non-Jewish wives. However, it amounts to a reversal of Jewish religious law which hold that a child's religious identitiy is determined by its mother.

French-Speaking Jewish Day School Opens For Sephardim In Montreal Catholic Institution

MONTREAL, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A French-speaking Jewish day school has opened here to serve Sephardic (Oriental) Jewish children whose mother-tongue is French. The Maimonides school will function in a wing of the St. Antonin Catholic school but will have complete autonomy in educational and religious matters. The school was established after extended negotiations between the Catholic Educational Committee of Greater Montreal and the Sephardic Association. It is the first time the Catholic body opened one of its schools to children of another faith. The director of the Maimonides school will be responsible to the principal of the Catholic school only with respect to the official school program in force throughout Quebec Province. Jewish teachers will be paid the same salaries as their Catholic colleagues.

5 Polish Criminals Sentenced For Collaborating With Nazis On Murders

GENEVA, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Five Polish war criminals were sentenced to 15 years at hard labor by a court in Lwow for collaborating with the Germans in the extermination of Jews and Poles in that city during World War II, it was reported here today. According to reports, Soviet authorities are searching for a man identified as W. Woczoko who headed the Gestapo in Jonava, near Kaunas, Lithuania, and directed the murder of local Jews during the war.

Scholars Agree To Establish Association Of University Teachers Of Judaica

WALTHAM, Mass. Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A conference of 50 scholars at Brandeis University has agreed to establish a permanent association of university teachers of Judaica. According to Prof. Joseph Blau, of Columbia University, who proposed the resolution, the association would be formed to "promote, maintain, and improve the teaching of Jewish studies in American colleges and universities."

He said the association would hold national and regional meetings, publish a newsletter, aid the establishment of library sections in Jewish studies and set minimal standards for Jewish studies program A steering committee headed by Dr. Leon Jick of Brandeis was assigned to determine the structure of the association and report its findings to a second conference to be held here next year.

Small Baltimore Area Congregation May Be Forced To Vacate New Premises

BALTIMORE, Md., Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A small Jewish congregation in suburban Laurel may be forced to vacate its new premises because of zoning restrictions. According to the Baltimore Jewish Times, the Prince Georges County board of commissioners has ordered the Jewish Congregation of Laurel out of its recently purchased $33,000, ranch-style dwelling within 90 days. The congregation was informed of the order at Rosh Hashanah services, the first service to be held in its new synagogue.

The congregation, headed by Harry Rosenbluh, has been meeting in a community hall for the past three years. It purchased the former residence in order to have space for Sunday school classes. But neighbors complained that the synagogue's garage has space for only two cars whereas zoning ordinances require synagogues to provide parking space for at least 20 cars. Mr. Rosenbluh said that ample parking space could be provided if a power company agreed to make available adjacent land that it owns for that purpose. The land is used for power lines and is not intended to be built on. The power company has refused so far and Mr. Rosenbluh said the congregation may appeal the county commissioners' ruling to the circuit court.

200 Hasidism -- About 10 Percent Women -- Apply For Bank Posts At 'Jobmobile' Visit

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Some 200 Hasidic Jews, about 10 percent of them women, filled out applications for bank jobs in a "jobmobile" stationed in front of the Williamsburg YM and YWHA last Thursday, an official of the Y reported today. The Mobile Employment Center of the First National City Bank of New York interviewed applicants for 12 hours.

Arrangements for the visit of the unit were worked out through Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, religious consultant for the Williamsburg Y, Sol Levy, its executive director, and Harold Braverman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Rabbi Weinberger, who reported on the results of the visit of the unit, said it was the first to a poverty area. The project was started by the bank, one of the nation's largest, in an effort to cope with severe personnel shortages.

Rabbi Weinberger, who initiated the visit of the mobile unit, said that five Hasidic Jews had been hired for positions in the bank previously on the basis of individual referrals through the Y. He said about six Negroes also filled out applications during the all-day visit of the unit.

Applications were made available for entry level clerical jobs. Women applicants are seeking secretarial positions, he said. He reported that the Jewish applicants were assisted in filling out applications by Rabbi Joel Skurnik, director of a job placement program for Orthodox Jews at the Federation Employment and Guidance Service, and Melvin D. Freeman, Guidance Service assistant executive director. Rabbi Weinberger was present throughout most of the day to help the applicants.

The applications are now being reviewed by bank personnel officials, who will notify eligible applicants to report for physical examinations and specific job orientations, prior to placement. Jobs for which applications were filled out were key punch operators, data processers, clerks and secretaries. Bank executives have assured Rabbi Weinberger that Hassidic Jews employed by the bank will receive special consideration in regard to early leave during the fall and winter for Friday and absences during all Jewish holidays.

Conflict Breaks Out Between Israel Government, Jewish Agency On Immigration

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A new conflict developed between the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency over the functions of each in the sphere of immigration. The Agency Executive has unanimously rejected a reported proposal by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon to transfer most of the Agency's immigration activities to the Ministry for Immigrant Absorption which Mr. Allon heads.

The Ministry was established in 1968 by the late Premier Levi Eshkol. At the time it was decided that the Jewish Agency would retain responsibility for immigration but that the absorption of newcomers would be handled jointly by the Agency and the new Ministry. Mr. Allon said in an interview published in the newspaper Haaretz recently that if he is asked to retain the Ministry in the next Cabinet one of his proposals would be that it take over most of the Jewish Agency's functions regarding immigration. Several members of the Jewish Agency called the proposal "dangerous" and "damaging." Louis A. Pincus, Jewish Agency chairman, wrote to Mr. Allon after the interview was published, rejecting the proposal.

(The conditions in Israel that await Jewish immigrants from Latin America were discussed at a day-long meeting in Buenos Aires of the Tnuat Haliyah, the Zionist immigration movement in Argentina. The gathering was addressed by Gen. Uzi Narkis, director-general of the Jewish Agency's immigration in Latin America. Naphtali Bar-Giora, deputy director of the immigration department, spoke about absorption prospects. Other speakers included Nachman Radzichowski, chairman of the Argentine Zionist Federation, and the Israeli Ambassador, Eliezer Doron.