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Gaullist Says French Attitude Toward Israel Changes, Hints Partial Lifting Of Embargo

PARIS, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- A Gaullist deputy said here today that France's "general attitude toward Israel has changed favorably in recent months" and hinted that there might be a partial lifting of the arms embargo imposed on Israel by former President Charles de Gaulle.

Jean Mercier said at a meeting of the French Committee for Solidarity with Israel that "certain important negotiations have started between France and Israel concerning spare parts" and their outcome was "very hopeful." He added, however, that within the past year France has "taken certain options within the Arab world which she will be unable to shake off."

Others attending the meeting were Michel Poniatowsky, secretary general of the Independent Republican Party, the Government's junior coalition partner, and Sen. Jean Lacanuet, a former Presidential candidate. M. Poniatowsky said it was regrettable that the "exemplary factor" contained in Gen. de Gaulle's embargo decision two years ago was not followed by the Russians or anyone else. For that reason "the French Government must now reconsider its entire policy" on the embargo issue," he said. Sen. Lecanuet warned of Soviet penetration in the Mediterranean area and of the dangers of an imposed settlement in the Middle East.

Reports Mrs. Meir, Rogers Discussed Measures To Free 2 Israelis Held In Syria

JERUSALEM, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Official quarters reported here today that measures to obtain the release of two Israeli nationals held by Syria since their TWA airliner was hijacked to Damascus Aug . 29 were discussed by Premier Golda Meir and U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

According to the report, Mr. Rogers assured her that energetic action will be taken to ensure the release of the detainees at an early date. Mr. Rogers also reportedly told Mrs. Meir that there has been no change in the basic Soviet position on the Middle East.

Jerusalem newspapers reported that Israeli officials are thinking of setting a deadline for conclusion of diplomatic efforts to free the pair. There are "other means at Israel's disposal" that might be used to liberate them if they are not freed by a certain date, the papers said. The Foreign Ministry denied that any deadline was under study.

(At the United Nations today, Dutch Foreign Minister J.M.A.H. Luns told the General Assembly his Government would ask that an urgent item dealing with hijacking be put on the agenda. He said the UN should recommend measures for the safety of air traffic and the lives of passengers. Mr. Luns said steps should also be taken to prevent hijackers from going free.)

Mrs. Meir Flies On To Los Angeles Following 'Overwhelming' Tribute By New Yorkers

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir took off for Los Angeles today via El Al after three days of official meetings and receptions in New York which she described as "overwhelming... beyond anything I ever dreamt of." Before leaving, she conferred with executives of three major broadcasting networks and a group of New York Congressional and political leaders. The group included New York Reps. Leonard Farbstein, John Murphy, Joseph Addabo, James Scheuer, Hugh Carey, Edward Koch, Jack Gilbert, and James Delaney, all Democrats. Democratic Mavoralty Candidate Mario Procaccino and other local political figures joined the delegation.

The wind-up event was a kosher dinner tendered in her honor last night by Mayor John V. Lindsay at the Brooklyn Museum. The $20-$25 a plate event, held in a Sukkah erected and decorated by the City, drew 1,400 guests, among them Jewish leaders and city, state and Federal officials and political figures. About 1,500 spectators, many wearing "Shalom Golda" buttons, were outside the Museum when Mrs. Meir arrived escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay and Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

Mrs. Meir received the longest and most emotional ovation of her visit earlier in the day when she addressed about 3,600 Zionist youths in Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. Her address matched the fervor of her receptive listeners whom she urged to come to Israel to find "hardship, difficulty and danger, but a sense of fulfillment."

The 71-year-old grandmother declared that Simchat Torah this year should be designated an international day of solidarity between Jewish youth in America, Israel and Soviet Russia. She told the cheering youngsters that Simchat Torah was "a day of joy in which our forefathers did not fear to accept the burden of Torah and carried it with pride." Noting that the holiday would be observed in Moscow by thousands of Jewish youths who would sing and dance in the streets, she said, "let us make it a token of identification with them and with youth in Israel."

The event was sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation, North American Jewish Youth Council and the American Zionist Youth Council. The youngsters gave Mrs. Meir a 10-minute standing ovation and ended the meeting by forming circles to dance the hora and sing Israeli songs.

Of her meetings with President Richard M. Nixon and other U.S. officials in Washington, she said: "One thing is not debatable. We are sure we have the friendship of the U.S. Government. We know they would not do anything that would be harmful to Israel. But the only possible danger is that the U.S. may do something that they think is good for Israel, but we know is not good for Israel."

Jets Hit Egyptian Positions, One Attack Reported To Be First Since 1967 War

TEL AVIV, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli jets today attacked Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal and on the western shores of the Gulf of Suez. The aircraft were reported to have returned safely after both sorties.

(The Columbia Broadcasting System said that one of the attacks occurred at night and was the first night attack since the 1967 war. Targets were said to have been Egyptian troops who were taking advantage of the darkness to repair bombed installations.)

The air attacks on that area have been an almost daily occurrance since Israeli amphibious forces carried out a 10-hour assault on Egyptian fortifications and radar installations on the Gulf of Suez Sept. 9. The raids have caused most of the inhabitants of the region to flee and have prevented the Egyptians from repairing their fortifications.

According to Israeli sources, the impact of these continuous and unopposed attacks on Egyptian morale was responsible for Cairo's claims of successful commando raids on Israeli positions deep in the Sinai Desert which Israel says never occurred.

Bazookas and several mortar shells were fired last night at Israeli forces near Ashdod Yaacov in the Beisan Valley. Mortar shells also landed on Nahal Golan in the southern Golan Heights. A military spokesman said the fire was returned. There were no Israeli casualties or damage.

A bus loaded with farmers and workers narrowly escaped a bazooka attack near the Lebanese border today. A bazooka shell exploded directly in front of the vehicle. The driver accelerated and avoided a burst of automatic fire. The incident occurred near Yaron settlement less than 200 yards from the frontier. The bus was carrying workers from the northern Galilee settlements of Baram and Yaron.

A month-long curfew on the Beit Sahur area south of Jerusalem was lifted today following a meeting between the Israeli military governor, Brig. Rafael Vardi, and several sheikhs and the mayor of Beit Sahur. The curfew, which had been in effect for 20 hours daily, was imposed after Katyusha rockets were fired from the Beit Sahur region at the southern suburbs of Jerusalem. Israeli forces later found 13 rocket launchers lined up and ready to fire. They concluded that the guerrillas could not have set up the rockets without aid from local inhabitants. The curfew affected about 35 Bedouin families who live in the region.

Attorney General Denies Rohen Will Be Tried In Same Glass Box As Eichmann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- The Attorney General's office today denied a published report that Michael Dennis William Rohen, accused of setting fire to the Al Aksa mosque Aug. 21, will stand trial in the same bulletproof glass box used in the trial of Adolf Eichmann. The spokesman said that Mr. Rohen, an Australian Christian, will be tried behind a glass partition.

Haaretz, a Tel Aviv newspaper, reported that Mr. Rohen would go on trial in the same booth used in 1960 in the trial of Eichmann, who was convicted and executed for having sent millions of European Jews to their death. After the execution, the booth was placed in the Museum of the Holocaust in Kibbutz Lohame Hageteot (Fighters of the Ghetto) as a memorial to the Jews killed by the Nazis.

The Rohen trial will begin Oct. 6. The accused will be tried in a large hall of Jerusalem's convention center in order to accommodate 400 spectators and newsmen. Israel wants wide publicity of the case in order to offset Arab charges that it was responsible for the fire.

Mr. Rohen has been charged with two counts of arson and two counts of "violation of Holy Places." He could get a total of 44 years in prison.

A government official said yesterday that the Moslem Religious Council in East Jerusalem was within its rights in barring the Temple Mount area to visitors. The area contains the Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar) and the Al Aksa Mosque. Moshe Sasson, the Prime Minister's adviser on minority affairs, was questioned about the ban on a television interview. Israeli authorities closed the Moghrabi gate immediately after the fire to keep Jewish visitors out of the Temple Mount area for fear of inciting Moslems. The Moslem Religious Council, responsible for Moslem shrines, closed the other gates where a toll used to be levied on visitors.

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem defended his liberal policy toward East Jerusalem Arabs during a debate in the City Council yesterday. Mr. Kollek said his approach had prevented disorders from erupting in East Jerusalem and that maintenance of order in the city encourages Jewish settlement there.

Leading Hindu Politicians Demand Revision In Indian Government's Foreign Policy

NEW DELHI, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Smarting from the rebuff India suffered when it tried to participate in the Islamic summit conference in Rabat, Morocco a week ago, leading Hindu politicians are demanding a drastic change of Indian foreign policy that will take it out of the pro-Arab camp. One critic, A.P. Vajpayee, president of the Hindu Janasang Party, declared in Bombay that India's answer to the Rabat "insult" should be to extend full diplomatic recognition to Israel. Mr. Vajpayee argued that if Moslem countries like Turkey and Iran maintained diplomatic and trade ties with Israel, nothing prevented India from following a similar course.

The Rabat conference, called to consider the aftermath of the Al Aksa mosque fire in Jerusalem, was converted into a general anti-Israel forum by the Arab participants who overruled the more moderate non-Arab Moslem delegates. India, which has a large Moslem minority, sent a delegation to Rabat. But it was refused admission to the conference on the insistence of India's old rival, Pakistan.

The head of the Indian delegation, Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, a Moslem, said at a press conference here that it was time for a reassessment of India's foreign policy, taking into consideration Rabat events. Former Foreign Minister M.C. Chagla issued a long statement critical of the Government's policy, and six members of the ruling Congress Party have demanded the ouster of Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh. They held Mr. Singh responsible for the "Rabat fiasco" and declared that "if the support our Government has always given had failed to convince the Arabs, nothing that we do now can carry conviction."

Mr. Singh's removal from the Cabinet was demanded by the Parliamentary Party Secretary C. Desai in a letter to Premier Indira Gandhi. He also asked her to fire top Foreign Ministry officials who had advised the Government to participate in the Islamic summit.

Hindu sensibilities have been aroused by the warm welcome accorded by Mr. Singh and others to an El Fatah delegation on a fund-raising and propaganda tour of India. Observers say that after the Rabat affair, India is likely to refuse to attend the Asian foreign ministers conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, next March and will review its future ties with such countries as Morocco, Iran and Jordan which opposed India at Rabat.

Rabbi Feinberg Shouted Down By Quebec Separatists During Montreal Lecture

MONTREAL, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, rabbi emeritus of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple, was shouted down yesterday by Quebec separatists and students during an address at McGill University. He urged Jewish students to become radical activists but was repeatedly interrupted by shouts of "fascist?" "flown with the Zionism?" and "Yankee, go home."

Visibly shaken, Rabbi Feinberg appealed to the hecklers to "respect a 70-year-old man and wait for the question period." He was allowed to finish his speech and some of the separatists, addressing him in French as a "fascist Zionist," demanded to know why he talked about the struggle for liberation by the Vietnamese people but not about Quebec's "struggle for liberation." The Ontario Province rabbi replied that "I have a simple answer to that. I don't know enough about it."

Earlier in his address, Rabbi Feinberg, here for a series of lectures on Jewish radicalism and radical Judaism, told the crowd that "to be a Jew is to mean to be a radical. In my interpretation of Judaism, I believe there is one unmistakable command or life style -- and that is to take the radical way."

Netherlands Justice Minister Refuses Pardons To 3 Nazis Serving Life Sentences

THE HAGUE, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- The Netherlands Minister of Justice, Dr. Carel Polak, has refused pardons to three Nazi war criminals serving life sentences in Breda prison for their roles in the deportation of 100,000 Dutch Jews during World War II. Dr. Polak, who is Jewish, acted after the Cabinet decided against introducing a law that would have made it possible for the Nazis to be freed on probation. Public opinion was opposed to such a law. The prisoners, the last three Nazi war criminals still incarcerated in Holland, are Josef Kotaella, 61, Fritz Ausderfuenten, 59 and Franz Fischer, 67.

Czech Communist Newspaper Accuses Israelis Of Degrading Christian Holy Places

LONDON, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- A Czech Communist newspaper has accused Israelis of degrading Christian holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. According to "Lidova Demoracie," official organ of the Peoples Party, such shrines as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem have been sullied by Israeli occupation troops, police and Jewish tourists. The paper claimed that the shrines were the scenes of "smoking, selling of liquor and disreputable photographs and unseemly behavior."

Prince Phillip Attacked By Pro-Arab Journal For Planned Address To Joint Benefit

LONDON, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Prince Phillip, the Royal Consort, was attacked in a pro-Arab journal this week because he will address a joint charity dinner of which the Jewish National Fund is a co-sponsor. The event is the dinner given annually by the National Playing Fields Association, of which Prince Phillip is president, and the JNF's charitable trust. According to "Free Palestine," an organ of local Arab groups, the Prince's appearance at the dinner would be an affront to the Arab world.

A spokesman for the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace said they were aware of the article but had no further comment. Lord Luke said this will be the fifth time Prine Phillip has attended the affair and there was nothing new in it. "Free Palestine" charged that the Prince was pro-Jewish.

Detectives Probing Vandalism Of Crown Heights Yeshiva, No Arrests Made Yet

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- Brooklyn police said today that detectives are investigating an incident of vandalism at the Crown Heights Yeshiva in Brooklyn over the weekend but so far no arrests have been made. Vandals broke into the four-story building while it was closed for the Sukkot holiday and left a trail of destruction in 25 of its 27 rooms.

Mrs. Naomi Benezra, director of the school, called the vandalism "malicious mischief." She said there appeared to be no indication of anti-Semitic intent, although a sacramental cover was splotched with black ink. The vandals broke about 130 windowpanes and glass door panels, ripped out desk drawers, forced open steel cabinets and a candy vending machine, tore a clock from the wall and sprayed fire extinguisher fluid on the walls. Pupils' notes and textbooks and other papers were strewn on the floors. The vandals did not enter a 850-seat synagogue which occupies part of the building.

The damage was discovered when the school reopened Monday. Police have been watching the premises as well as a public school next door since Mayor John V. Lindsay ordered stricter surveillance of religious buildings nearly a year ago. Mayor Lindsay issued his order after a wave of vandalism hit Hebrew schools in Brooklyn and other boroughs. The neighborhood, once predominantly Jewish, is now mixed between Jews, Negros, Puerto Ricans and other ethnic groups. According to Mrs. Benezra, neighborhood relations have been good.

American Reform Jews Asked To Support Oct. 15 Students' Vietnam Protest

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- The major institutions of American Reform Judaism have called upon rabbis and Reform's 700 synagogues to actively support the proposed Oct. 15 college student nationwide Vietnam protest with congregational teach-ins, religious services and youth programs.

In a joint statement addressed to the member temples' rabbis, presidents and social action chairmen, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said that by supporting the planned student drive, "we will join hands with those young people who refuse to yield to despair and who, equally, refuse to acquiesce in the endless continuation of a war which appalls their conscience."

Both organizations have repeatedly called for an end to what the statement referred to as the "cruel" Vietnam war. Rabbis Eisendrath and Gittelsohn said, "We have already paid too high a price as a nation for this misconceived policy" and that "an indefinite investment of American lives and resources to preserve a repressive military clique in Saigon is unconscionable."

In a separate observation, Rabbi Gittelsohn sharply condemned President Richard M. Nixon's "prejudgment" of the protest action when he announced last week at a press conference that he would not be influenced by any of the expressions and public sentiments of the Oct. 15 protests. Rabbi Gittelsohn said, "The Administration seems determined to repeat the tragedies of the last Administration."

Philadelphia City Council President D'Ortona Is Guest Of Tel Aviv Municipality

TEL AVIV, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- The president of the City Council of Philadelphia, Paul D'Ortona, was the guest of the Tel Aviv municipality this week. The occasion was the dedication of the new Anne and Paul D'Ortona youth center here. Mr. D'Ortona, accompanied by Charles Simpson, a Philadelphia businessman, was greeted by Mayor Yehosua Rabinovitz who stressed the similarities between the "City of Brotherly Love" and Tel Aviv. American independence was declared in Philadelphia in 1776 and Israel proclaimed its independence in Tel Aviv in 1948, Mayor Rabinovitz said. He observed that Philadelphians demonstrated their friendship toward Israel when Premier Golda Meir was warmly welcomed there last week.

The Tel Aviv mayor presented his guests with an album of Tel Aviv and a coin of the Bar Kochba era excavated in the vicinity. A toast was proposed to the continued friendship between the two cities and the two nations after which Mr. D'Ortona and Mr. Simpson were conducted on a tour of Tel Aviv.

The dedication ceremonies were attended by municipal dignitaries, representatives of youth organizations and a delegation of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, under whose auspices the youth center is being built. Mr. D'Ortona visited the Tate Clinic in Neveh Sharet, named for Mayor James Tate of Philadelphia, the Tel Aviv museum and ancient Jaffa. Mr. D'Ortona is visiting Israel as the guest of Histadrut.

American Jewish Committee Hails West Germans' Defeat Of National Democratic Party

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today hailed the results of Sunday's national elections in West Germany. The organization declared that "the election results indicate a fundamental rejection of radical politics and simplistic solutions, as expressed by left and right wing splinter parties, especially the ultra-nationalist, authoritarian National Democratic Party (NPD).

The NPD polled only 4.3 percent of the vote, insufficient to win seats in the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house. The AJCommittee statement said its repudiation by the voters was "particularly significant in Germany where radical politics has often meant right-wing extremism. Since these anti-American and anti-Israel extremist elements are often anti-Semitic, their repudiation augurs well for the future of a democratic Federal Republic."