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Cairo Says It Would Hold Indirect Peace Talks With Israel Through An Intermediary

LONDON, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- The Egyptian Government said today that it would be willing to enter into peace negotiations with Israel through an intermediary as it did in 1949 when an armistice agreement was reached on the Mediterranean island of Rhodes.

The Government's new official spokesman, Dr. Esmat Abdel-Meguid, told reporters in Cairo that the so-called "Rhodes formula" could be used as a means for reaching a settlement. But he emphasized that the "Rhodes formula" has never been "and cannot be considered under any circumstances as direct talks." He said that "it would be acceptable to us if it was not constructed as direct negotiations."

The "Rhodes formula" derives its name from the form that the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations took in the Hotel des Roses on Rhodes in 1949 under the mediation of Dr. Ralph Bunche, the then UN representative who later won a Nobel Peace Prize for his success in obtaining an armistice ending Israel's War of Independence.

Both the Arabs and Israelis were housed in the hotel with Dr. Bunche. Egypt claims that all negotiations were carried on indirectly through him and that there were never direct contacts with the Israelis. The Israelis, on the other hand, while admitting that Dr. Bunche on many occasions shuttled between the rooms of the two delegations, insist that there were several direct contacts with their adversaries. Both parties were together in the same room on several occasions according to UN documents under Dr. Bunche's name.

Dr. Abdel-Medguid said that it was up to Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, UN Secretary-General's special representative, "to go ahead." The Egyptian Government, he declared, "would welcome a renewal of his contacts with the parties" involved.

The Israelis, while having indicated that indirect negotiations through Dr. Jarring, acceptable at the start, must ultimately give way to direct negotiations leading to peace and a settlement of all outstanding issues. Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian foreign minister, recently indicated at the UN that Egypt would be willing to carry on indirect talks. He said at the time -- and Egyptian Government statements backed him up -- that direct talks were out of the question.

Dr. Jarring Returns To Moscow Post, UN Says Mission Is Continuing

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the Middle East peace envoy, returned today to his post as Sweden's Ambassador to the Soviet Union. His departure does not mean a suspension in his mission, a United Nations spokesman said. While in Moscow, Dr. Jarring "will continue to keep closely in touch with developments and intends to resume his active efforts at an appropriate time," the spokesman said. Dr. Jarring, whose mandate stems from the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution, arrived at the UN on Sept. 15 in connection with the opening of the General Assembly.

He was here, the UN spokesman said, "for the purpose of further consultations with the Secretary-General, the parties concerned and others." He was reported to be resuming his diplomatic post "for the time being." Dr. Jarring was said to have established "effective and expeditious channels of communications with the parties" concerned. While here he conferred with Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel twice, with Arab envoys and with the Big Powers.

The UN said that although Dr. Jarring was until recently absent from the Mideast diplomatic scene -- he returned to Moscow last spring -- his mission "is not nor has it ever been in suspension." In the future, as in the past, Dr. Jarring will be "available to the parties any time," the spokesman emphasized. It was recalled that the envoy twice this year went to Switzerland to meet Mr. Eban.

The decision of Dr. Jarring to resume his regular post is connected with the fact that foreign ministers of the countries concerned have departed for home, or are about to do so, it was said. The UN spokesman declined to evaluate the success or failure of Dr. Jarring's efforts here to obtain progress toward peace.

Mr. Thant today issued what a UN spokesman termed an "exceptional statement" denying formally a radio news report that Dr. Jarring was abandoning his mission. "There is no truth in this(report). Ambassador Jarring wishes to be associated with this denial" of the report over the Columbia Broadcasting System, the spokesman said.

The "exceptional statement" was made, he said, "because it is felt that this incorrect report could be very damaging to Ambassador Jarring's mission."

Mrs. Meir Said To Insist Upon 'Declaration Of Intent' Based On Resolution Before Talks

JERUSALEM, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir reportedly told the Cabinet today that Arab-Israeli peace negotiations would have to be preceded by a "declaration of intent" from both sides that they were meeting in accordance with the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution to reach a just and lasting peace.

Informed sources said the subject came up in the course of Mrs. Meir's report on her visit to the United States. Mrs. Meir noted that the 1949 Arab-Israel armistice talks on Rhodes began with a "declaration of intent" by both sides that they were seeking an armistice. The declaration was filed before entering on substantive matters, she said. She asserted that there had been direct talks at Rhodes between both sides and said she had found it necessary to make some clarifications on this issue when she met UN Secretary - General Thant last month.

No details of today's Cabinet session were released. It was learned however that Mrs. Meir told her colleagues that she had brought up the case of the two Israeli nationals held captive in Damascus with President Nixon and with every other U.S. official she met. She said she had found Mr. Nixon willing to consider maintaining the arms balance in the Middle East -- a policy which, Mrs. Meir said, brought tangible results in the past. She said economic issues were also raised with the President and that the U.S. is well aware of the heavy burdens Israel has to bear.

In a related development, Finance Minister Zeev Sharef confirmed yesterday that Mrs. Meir had asked President Nixon for a loan of one billion dollars. He confirmed news reports -- which the Government had earlier denied -- of the requested sum which Israel says it needs to offset heavy military expenditures during the next five years. However, Mr. Sharef said, "the check is not in our pocket yet." Mr. Sharef just returned from Washington where he attended the International Monetary Fund conference and had a meeting with Secretary of the Treasury David M. Kennedy.

Israel Will Answer Swiss Note On Alleged Theft Of Mirage Jet Engine Plans

JERUSALEM, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry disclosed today that Israel would reply to a Swiss note implicating Israel's present military attache in Bern and his predecessor in the theft of jet engine plans by a Swiss national who allegedly sold them to Israel. The contents of the reply were not revealed.

Switzerland yesterday put the stamp of persona non grata on Col. Zvi Allon, the present attache, and Brig. Gen. Nehemia Kein who previously held the post at the Israeli Embassy in Bern. According to the Swiss Government both were involved with Alfred Frauenknecht, an employe of the Sulzer plant in Winterthur which manufactures Mirage III-S jet engines under a license from the French firm of Marcel Dassault. Frauenknecht was arrested Sept. 26 and accused of selling blueprints, models and tooling instructions for the engines to Israel for $200,000. Col. Allon is attached to the Israel Embassy staff in Rome but was also accredited to Switzerland. Gen. Kein has returned to Israel.

Israeli Jets Hit Guerrilla Bases In Jordan; 5 Arab Saboteurs Killed, 5 Captured

TEL AVIV, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Israeli jets attacked guerrilla bases in Jordan twice today. A military spokesman said all planes returned safely to their bases. Five Arab saboteurs were killed last night and five others were captured today in encounters with Israeli patrols near the Abdullah Bridge over the Jordan River. Four Israeli soldiers were wounded by Egyptian artillery fire in the Suez Canal zone today.

A military spokesman said the slain saboteurs were part of a gang that had just crossed the river. There were no casualties on the Israeli side. Attempted infiltration has increased recently because saboteurs want to cross the Jordan before winter rains make it too difficult.

Israeli jets attacked Egyptian targets on the Gulf of Suez yesterday. They also struck at guerrilla bases inside Jordan following a mortar and rocket bombardment of five settmements in the Beisan Valley and Upper Galilee. Fourteen soldiers were wounded in fighting in the Canal sector yesterday. Four were victims of an Egyptian air attack in which the Arabs lost three MIGs to Israeli fighters and anti-aircraft fire. The others were injured in a heavy artillery bombardment that followed the apparently unsuccessful air assault. According to Israel, the Egyptians sent MIG-17s to drop bombs and napalm on Israeli positions on the east bank while MIG-21 fighters provided cover and engaged Israeli jets in dogfights.

Israel returned the bodies of six Egyptian soldiers and exchanged civilians at the canal today. The soldiers were killed Oct. 3 in an abortive commando raid on Israeli positions. The bodies were returned under Red Cross auspices at Kantara. The Red Cross also supervised an exchange of 110 Egyptian citizens living in the Gaza Strip and northern Sinai for 123 natives of those areas who had been living in Egypt.

Israeli forces blew up two houses belonging to Arab terrorists yesterday and sealed off a third. The buildings were located in Nablus and in Halhul village near Hebron. (A report from Red China that reached Israel today said an El Fatah delegation headed by Abu Kassem was among the guests of honor who joined Chairman Mao Tse Tung on a parade platform on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Communist revolution in China.)

Canadian Foreign Secretary Says Government Is Attempting To Aid Jews In Arab Countries

OTTAWA, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Mitchell Sharp, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the Canadian Government was actively engaged in measures to aid the Jews in the Arab countries. In a written reply to questions raised by a JTA correspondent, Mr. Sharp drew a distinction between "deplorable events such as the recent public executions in Iraq and the difficulties of a considerably different nature affecting the bulk of the Jewish community in that country, as well as Jewish communities in other Arab states."

Mr. Sharp noted that "the Canadian Government has made abundantly clear, through public declarations and other channels, the repugnance with which it views acts like the recent executions, both on humanitarian grounds and because of their potential inflammatory effect on the tense situation in the Middle East." He pointed out that "at the same time, we have been trying to work out practical ways of assisting some of the unfortunate people involved, and we shall continue to seek means of helping the Jewish community in Iraq."

Turning to the question of Jews living in other Arab states, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said, "I recognize that in some instances there is cause for concern, although I think you will agree that our most urgent anxiety just now must be for the community in Iraq. It is on this that we are concentrating for the present, while remaining acutely conscious of the continuing difficulties of Jewish communities elsewhere and standing ready to help in any way we can.

"I am glad to be able to say," he concluded, "that quiet diplomatic efforts by a number of countries, including Canada, have had some effect in improving the situation of Jewish communities in some of the countries concerned."

Social Democrats' Director Warns That NPD Must Be Taken Seriously Despite Defeat

BONN, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- The director of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), senior partner in the next West German coalition Government, warned yesterday that the ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) must still be taken seriously despite its resounding defeat in the Sept. 28 national election. Hans Jurgen Wischnewski said at a press conference that the 4.3 percent of the vote polled by the NPD, while short of the percentage required to enter the Bundestag, was nevertheless double the vote claimed by the party in the 1965 Federal elections.

Mr. Wischnewski hinted that the new Government might seek a constitutional ban on the NPD. Asked if steps would be taken to outlaw the party, he replied that if the Interior Ministry was to make a request to that effect, the Government would act accordingly. He said that as a result of the elections, the NPD would lose ground in local contests. He said he was opposed in principle to the violent anti-NPD demonstrations that greeted the right-wingers almost everywhere during the late election campaign.

The reputedly neo-Nazi party meanwhile has been forced to shift the site of its forthcoming convention from West Berlin to Hanover. The convention was to have opened in West Berlin Oct. 25. But Mayor Klaus Schutz petitioned the Allied occupying powers (Britain, France and the U.S.) to prohibit the gathering. They agreed on grounds that it might lead to disturbances.

Former Nazi Goes On Trial For Alleged Role In Murder Of 90 Jews

BONN, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Helmuth Bulhorn, a former Nazi accused of participation in the murders of 90 Jews in Eastern Europe during World War II, went on trial in Hamburg yesterday. A Hanover jury returned from Russia where it took testimony from witnesses in the trial of former SS man Friedrich Wirth who is accused of having taken part in the shooting of 40 Jews in two villages near Minsk and Smolensk. The jury questioned witnesses in Minsk and Moscow.

EEC Ministers Will Consider Proposed Preferential Trade Agreement With Israel

BRUSSELS, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- A proposed preferential trade agreement with Israel is expected to be on the agenda when the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community convenes in Luxembourg on Oct. 17-18. The Common Market's Executive Commission has presented a draft mandate to the ministers on negotiating a five-year preferential trade agreement with Israel. The proposal calls for the six member states to lower tariff barriers by 45 percent on nearly all Israeli goods and by 40 percent on certain agricultural products, among them citrus fruits, mangoes, and avocado pears.

A non-preferential agreement between Israel and the Market expired in 1967, but the EEC has been unilaterally carrying out its provisions ever since. Last July, the Market's foreign ministers failed to reach agreement on a preferential trade pact with Israel after France argued that it was politically impossible to do so without similar arrangements with Israel's Arab neighbors.

Paintings By Israeli Artist Pinhas Shaar Go On Display At New York Bank

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Paintings by the Israeli contemporary artist Pinhas Shaar went on exhibit yesterday at the Fifth Ave. branch of the American Bank and Trust Co. The paintings were assembled from various Israeli and European private collections by J. Komkommer, chairman of the board of directors of I. Komkommer and Zoon, Belgium. Mr. Shaar was flown here from Israel for the opening and his exhibition welcomed by Saul Kagan, bank president. Israeli diplomats were present at the opening. The exhibition is the bank's 10th. Some 22,000 persons visited earlier ones.

Cleveland Federation, 'Jewish News' Denounce Defense League Efforts To Begin Chapter

CLEVELAND, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- Announcement of plans for creation of a Cleveland area chapter of the militant Jewish Defense League was promptly denounced by the Community Relations Committee of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation as a "misguided" and unneeded "intrusion into the community by outside forces."

The Cleveland Jewish News called the plan "insolent, abrasive and outlandish" and said the proposed chapter "can only succeed in aggravating -- perhaps even causing -- the very turbulence it is supposed to quench." The Federation statement added that "there is no need for the efforts of the Jewish Defense League to organize in Greater Cleveland."

The editorial appeared in the same issue carrying a lengthy report on the organization meeting which was addressed by Rabbi Meir Kahane of Brooklyn, founder and head of the JDL. The meeting was arranged by Donald J. Kuby, an insurance agent, who announced he had been named Cleveland "district coordinator" for the JDL.

Rabbi Kahane insisted repeatedly that the organization was neither vigilante, racist nor organized to battle either blacks or whites -- "we are here to fight anti-Semites." He also told the mixed audience of 150 supporters and foes of the JDL that it had been formed "to teach self-defense" and use of political power to Jews. He again accused the Jewish "establishment" of unanimous condemnation of the JDL but asserted that rank-and-file Jews were receptive to his program.

The editorial said the "respectable Jewish organizations" assailed by the JDL "have unanimously rejected and repudiated the League and its hyperthyroid raison d'etre not because they love the Jewish people less, but because they know human relations more. In Cleveland, the community relations experience has been an intimate, intensive and highly effective story going back at least a quarter of a century." In dealing with the Negro community, the editorial said, "we need no coaching from musclemen; the Jewish person who sits down with a Negro youth to teach him of his skills, to impart knowledge, does not need to be fortified by expertise in karate."

Reform Rabbinical Leader Raps Nixon, Laird For Rejection Of Oct. 15 Vietnam Protest

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- A Reform rabbinical leader has accused President Richard M. Nixon and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird of "political insensitivity, arrogance and callousness" for their rejection of the nationwide "Moratorium Day" protest against the Vietnam war scheduled to take place Oct. 15. The criticism was voiced by Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, of Boston, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinical branch of Reform Judaism in America.

Rabbi Gittelsohn spoke at a meeting of the CCAR's executive board here. He referred specifically to a statement by President Nixon at a recent press conference that he would not be "affected whatsoever" by the anti-war protest. Mr. Laird made a similar statement before the AFL-CIO convention in Atlantic City, N.J. yesterday. Rabbi Gittelsohn said the war was the "most crucial moral issue facing the country" and warned that the Nixon Administration "seems determined to repeat the tragedies of the last administration."

ADL Asks Mayoralty Candidates To Avoid Bloc Voting Prediction, Group Appeals

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith told the three candidates for Mayor of this city that predictions of bloc voting and appeals to special racial, religious or ethnic groups can be divisive as appeals to racial, religious or ethnic prejudice.

In a strongly-worded letter to Mayor John V. Lindsay, Mario Procaccino and John Marchi, and to the major news media in the city, the ADL cautioned that appeals to specific ethnic, racial and religious groups, as well as media focus on "alleged bloc voting patterns -- the so-called 'Jewish vote,' for example," would inevitably increase "polarization, alienation and distrust."

Noting that the three candidates recently signed a pledge to run decent, honest and fair campaigns, Benjamin R. Epstein, ADL national director, said that the traditional Fair Campaign Practices Committee Pledge -- "I shall condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, creed or national origin" -- does not go far enough.

Although it is "otherwise excellent," he said, "it does not cover the practice of a particular candidate suggesting he may be best for the special interest of some group -- a suggestion which under conditions of intergroup tensions implies hostility on the part of other groups as well as rivalry of interests along racial or religious lines."

The ADL letter, which expressed the League's "disapproval of certain practices in the current New York City mayoralty campaign," said that recent political "analyses" have held "that the 'Jewish vote' is for this or that particular candidate, or that it is undecided, or that it is shifting, or that in any event it will be decisive. At the same time, it is charged that a candidate is appealing specially to this 'Jewish vote,' or that he is losing it by appealing to another bloc."

Mr. Epstein cited as an example a published newspaper story which reported a union official as charging the city administration with discouraging new welfare applicants, "and then in the very next paragraph quoted him as saying, 'anything for the Jewish vote.' Such simplistic -- and, by the way, bigoted -- attribution of voter motivation," Mr. Epstein said, "not only falls short of the truth, but does little to reduce intergroup tension."