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Crisis in Lebanon Worsens Following Invasion Of Guerrilla Forces From Syria

LONDON, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The crisis in Lebanon worsened today as guerrilla forces invaded from Syria and battled Lebanese Army regulars near the eastern border. Pro-guerrilla forces were reported to be in possession of more than half of Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, north of Beirut. In the capital itself, a strict curfew was in effect.

A spokesman in Beirut referred to the invaders as "armed men" and said two were killed and six wounded when regular forces counter-attacked. There were reports of an occupation of the eastern Lebanon frontier village of Yanta by El Fatah guerrillas. Fighting was reported between Lebanese soldiers and guerrillas at Bint Jbeil, a village close to the Israeli border in southern Lebanon.

The fighting and rioting which broke out in Tripoli and in Beirut in the last few days has been fanned by El Fatah radio broadcasts from Damascus and Cairo. The broadcasts exhorted "honest elements" in Lebanon to drive out the "American presence" and those who support it. The guerrillas demanded that Lebanon permit them a free hand to carry out their war against Israel from its territory. The guerrillas are strongly supported by Syria and Iraq. Lebanese authorities did not accuse the Syrian Army of invading the country but left no doubt that they held the Syrian Government responsible for the guerrilla invasion.

The El Fatah radio in Cairo assailed the United States as the instigator of the Lebanese regime's anti-guerrilla drive. It accused the U.S. of planning to land troops in Lebanon as it did in 1958 when the regime of then President Camille Chamoun was threatened by a pro-Nasser coup. "We will increase our measures until Lebanon takes on a real Arab aspect and sweeps out its treasonable clique and takes its full role in the Arab battle for the liberation of the occupied territory," the Cairo broadcast said.

Israel Maintains Normal Policy Toward Lebanon, Foreign Ministry Says

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israel has not adopted any change in its policy toward Lebanon "as it has been defined for several years," the Foreign Ministry reiterated today. The ministry's statement came in the wake of a Cabinet meeting at which the situation in Israel's northern neighbor was discussed.

Commentators on Kol Israel, the State radio, today defined the situation in Lebanon as a continuation of Syrian and Egyptian attempts to subvert the regime. They said that these attempts had taken place intermittently for a dozen years, recalling how in 1958 United States Marines landed to prevent a Nasserite takeover of the Government.

"This time the Palestinian Arab cause is being used as a pretext by Syria and Egypt out of the knowledge that few Arab statesmen will dare come out against it," the commentators said.

They noted that during a long weekend of pre-election speeches there had been no references to Lebanon and it was assumed that "this silence on events going on right next door has been imposed on purpose."

The Foreign Ministry has disavowed a statement by Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon, construed by many as a threat to intervene militarily if the Beirut regime was overthrown by pro-guerrilla elements. The ministry said that the view was that of Mr. Allon personally and not that of the Government.

Speaking Thursday at Kibbutz Givat Brenner, Mr. Allon said that the fall of Lebanon would undermine its cease-fire agreement with Israel. "Israel would have to take all possible measures to guarantee her security on the northern borders. Israel cannot be indifferent to what is happening in Lebanon. We cannot ignore a change for the worse in the status quo of this neighboring country," he said. Strict observance of the cease-fire and safeguarding of Israel's territorial integrity have been key elements of Israeli policy toward Lebanon over the years, the ministry said.

(Mr. Allon's remarks were deplored by the U.S. State Department as "unhelpful." A spokesman said that the U.S. was "concerned that statements from any quarter may increase the level of tension in the Middle East." The U.S. is "trying to maintain a moderate posture," the Department said.

(The U.S. does not contemplate intervening in Lebanon and has been working with the British and French Governments to try to defuse the situation, but there has been no contact with the Russians, sources in Washington said. The U.S. has no military commitments to Lebanon. Assistant

Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco said recently that the U.S. attaches "great importance to Lebanon's independence and integrity" and that "we would view with great concern any threat to that integrity from any source." Asked if guerrilla action against Lebanon from Syria constituted a violation of that integrity, a State Department spokesman declined to reply.

(The Soviet Union, voicing concern over the conflict in Lebanon, called for non-interference by the West in a matter that is "within the competence of the Arab states themselves." It called the Sisco statement a possible pretext for U.S. involvement. Moscow blamed the situation on "mounting tension. . . caused by the Israeli aggression, the aftermath of which has not yet been fulfilled.")

Israel And Egypt Trade Air Blows; Israelis Suffer Number Of Killed, Wounded

TEL AVIV, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt traded air blows on the Sinai Peninsula and across the Suez Canal over the weekend as Israeli and Egyptian artillery duelled over the waterway and other fighting flared across the cease-fire lines with Jordan. Israeli aircraft raided guerrilla positions in Jordan hitting targets for the first time in the northwest suburbs of Amman, the capital.

Eleven Israeli soldiers were wounded, one fatally, in a surprise Egyptian air raid Friday on Israeli positions near Romani, about 20 miles from the Suez Canal. Israeli aircraft blasted Egyptian positions in the Canal zone Friday and Egyptian planes raided Israeli positions near the Canal on Saturday. A military spokesman said one MIG-17 was shot down by a Hawk missile during the raid on Romani and another exploded in the air over the Suez Canal.

An Israeli soldier was fatally wounded by artillery fire in the Canal zone. Another was killed and two were wounded Friday in mortar attacks from Jordanian territory on five Beisan Valley settlements. Four Arab saboteurs were killed Friday night in a clash with an Israeli patrol near Umm Sidra on the Jordan River. Bazooka shells were fired near the Israel-Jordan-Syrian border junction Sunday morning. Fifteen mortar shells exploded Friday at Yardenia settlement in the Beisan Valley injuring two horses and causing some damage.

Israeli sappers demolished 18 Arab-owned houses in Khalhoul village near Hebron Saturday following the death of an Israeli second lieutenant who was fired on from one of the houses.

Six Israeli surveyors in the employ of the Jewish National Fund were injured today when their jeep hit a mine in the Golan Heights.

A volunteer organization of residents was set up in Haifa to patrol the streets and homes following a series of apartment house bombings last Wednesday and Thursday. The blasts killed two persons and injured 26. More than 100 Arabs have been rounded up for questioning. Jews and local Arabs will serve on the Haifa patrols in an effort to prevent further sabotage. All are volunteers past military age.

Israeli authorities reported today that they have uncovered evidence linking a number of Israeli Arab villagers in the north of the country with sabotage gangs outside of Israel. The discovery was made during the investigation of the Haifa bombings, but there was no indication whether the suspected Arabs were connected with the Haifa acts.

Ben Gurion Favors Return Of All Territories Except Golan Heights, East Jerusalem

PARIS, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israel's former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion said here that he favored return of all the Arab territories occupied during the June, 1967 war with the exception of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Mr. Ben Gurion, who stressed that he was speaking as a private individual, said that peace was more important than holding on to occupied territories.

The 83-year-old Israeli statesman was visiting here as a guest of the French United Jewish Appeal and addressed its closing session today. He expressed disappointment that he would not meet former President Charles de Gaulle. Mr. Ben Gurion had written to the General asking for a meeting but was told that de Gaulle has not received political visitors since leaving office. Mr. Ben Gurion said nevertheless that he admired Gen. de Gaulle who "saved France."

India's Prime Minister Says She Will Not Establish Ties With Israel

BOMBAY, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi indicated today that India does not intend to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in retaliation for the rebuff it received when its efforts to participate in the recent Masmun summit conference at Rabat, Morocco were blocked.

Addressing the Bombay Union of Journalists, Mrs. Gandhi said "it would not help ease tension if we take any new step." She said there was no question of changing India's basic policies because of a rebuff suffered in one instance. The Prime Minister said that her Government had recognized Israel but had not established diplomatic relations with it because of the "very delicate situation" in the Middle East.

Dean Acheson Calls Israel 'Inflexible' On Problem Of Arab Refugees

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson sharply criticized Israel today as being "inflexible" on the Arab refugee problem from the earliest days of its Statehood. Mr. Acheson appeared on the nationally televised ABC program "Issues and Answers." He said that as Secretary of State during the Truman Administration, he had envisaged later difficulties arising from the refugee problem but that the Israelis would not heed his advice.

Rapid Exodus Of Polish Jews Has Strained JDC's Financial Resources, Horowitz Says

GENEVA, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The rapid exodus of Jews from Poland has strained the financial resources of the Joint Distribution Committee to a point where it will have to curtail its relief operations in Israel and other parts of the world unless additional funds are immediately forthcoming. Louis D. Horowitz, director general of the international relief agency, said an additional \$1 million was required for refugee needs in 1970. The JDC's budget for 1969 amounted to \$23 million.

Mr. Horowitz made his assessment at the close of the 23rd annual JDC overseas conference here. He said, "the final outpouring of Polish Jews that began early in September imposed a life or death priority for JDC and left it with no alternative but to find the large sum of money needed to care for the refugees and other hundreds of Jewish transmigrants from Eastern Europe and the Middle East whom we care for in Vienna, Rome and Paris while they await their migration papers."

Mr. Horowitz said that unless the money can be found, JDC would have to freeze its current world-wide health and welfare programs at a "dismally inadequate level. We will have to say no to increasing the distribution of food, clothing, fuel and medicine to elderly Jews in Rumania; we will have to say no to the handicapped in Israel, to the deaf, crippled and retarded children; we will have to say no to social investments that would help migrants from North Africa to adjust to cold, grey climates in the industrialized society in Europe; and we will have to say no to urgently needed repairs of school buildings in Iran that are ready to fall down on the children's heads," Mr. Horowitz said.

Mr. Horowitz noted that Jews have been departing from Poland at a rate of 1,000 a month since last September. Mainly they are Jews who applied for exit permits before the Sept. 1. deadline set by the Warsaw regime last spring. He said that, according to recent estimates, there are fewer than 18,000 Jews left in Poland.

Eisendrath Tells Reform Conventions Youth Must Share In Decisions Affecting Future

MIAMI BEACH, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, warned today that "our youth will increasingly abandon an 'Establishment' religion" unless they are given an opportunity to "share in those decisions that shape their destiny."

The future of the synagogue, he said, rests upon young Jews who today condemn the "hypocritical hiatus between pretensions and practice, precept and example."

Addressing 3,000 guests and delegates to both the 50th general assembly of the UAHC, the central congregational body of Reform Judaism in the U.S. and Canada, and the 27th biennial assembly of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, the rabbi called for inclusion of youth in the national regional and local governing bodies of Reform Judaism.

Chiding those who are critical of youth's rejection of the "Establishment," Rabbi Eisendrath asked if parents are "really, truly, genuinely concerned with fealty to folk and faith" of their children. He recommended that they listen to youth "instead of the voice of expediency and caution which too frequently prompts our every thought and action."

Rabbi Eisendrath, in a stinging denunciation of the Vietnam war, accused the Nixon Administration of "sleight of hand" tactics and called the military regime of South Vietnam tyrannical. He asked that the convention demand in a resolution an immediate standstill -- cease-fire in Vietnam. He said Mr. Nixon seeks to "placate public opinion and cool dissent" by withdrawing troops "in agonizingly small installments."

Representatives Of Judaism's 3 Branches Will Appear In Conservative Parley Symposium

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y. Oct. 26 (JTA) -- A symposium with participants from the Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform branches of American Judaism will be held here next Thursday at the closing session of the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational branch of the Conservative movement. The symposium was announced by Rabbi Bernard Segal, executive director, at the convention opening today.

He said it would be the first time in the 56-year history of the United Synagogue that speakers representing the three branches of Judaism would appear on the same platform.

Participants in the symposium will be David W. Silverman, professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Dr. Irving Greenberg of Yeshiva University, and Dr. Jakob J. Petuchowski, a professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Rabbi Segal reported that the United Synagogue Youth, the United Synagogue's teenage organization, and its college-age organization, Atid, have reached a combined membership of 25,600, an all-time high.

He said, in his keynote address, that a "love of Zion" was always the cornerstone of the Conservative movement. Since its inception in 1913, the Conservative movement has been the only one of the three branches of American Judaism that did not tolerate anti-Zionism in its ranks, he said.

Rabin Tells AJCongress That Nasser's 'Political Settlement' Aim Could Lead To War

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to the United States said today that Egypt is seeking a political settlement of the Middle East conflict imposed by outside powers which would "establish a regime of temporary non-violence" but contain "the seeds for further conflict and war." Yitzhak Rabin addressed a dinner of the American Jewish Congress at which he accepted the organization's Stephen S. Wise Award for "moral courage and love of liberty."

Other recipients of the Wise Award were Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Bernard Z. Zients, president of Gimbels, New York.

Gen. Rabin said he believed Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser when he said he wanted a political settlement. "The hallmark of a political settlement, as Nasser sees it, is continuing non-recognition, outside intermediaries, third parties, outside involvement, outside guarantees and continued ostracism -- diplomatic, political and commercial -- of one party towards the other," Gen. Rabin said. "And since a political settlement does not eradicate the roots of the conflict, it automatically enshrines the seeds for further conflict and war. This is precisely why the political set-up enshrined in the arrangements of 1957 laid the groundwork for the war of '67."

Gen. Rabin said that for Israel peace means "the final and declared liquidation of the Israel-Arab conflict" involving peace treaties "because only peace treaties can end a war and establish peace."

In an address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Gen. Rabin said that the U.S. Government and Trans World Airlines were responsible for demanding the release of two Israelis held captive in Syria since their TWA airliner was hijacked to Damascus by Arab commandos on Aug. 29. According to international law, he said, the airliner was American "territory" while it was in the air.

Mrs. Slomo Samueloff and Mrs. Sallah Muallem, who visited Washington, New York, London and Rome to enlist support for their husband's release, found only sympathy and vague promises. Back in Israel, they said their most "shocking disappointment" came in a meeting with F.C. Weiser, TWA president. They said that he not only did not apologize for not replying to letters Mrs. Samueloff sent him but also evaded making any promises on behalf of the two Israelites.

Hoffman Tells AJCommittee's Board Of Israel's 'Agonizing Desire For Peace'

DETROIT, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, reporting on a recent visit by top AJCommittee leaders to Israel and Europe, emphasized that Israel's "agonizing desire for peace" continued. "Israel no longer expects an early peace. Rather, it has become aware of the power of Arab nationalism and the fatalism that supports it. On the other hand," he said, "some Arabs seem to recognize that Israel is here to stay." He spoke at the AJCommittee national executive board's annual meeting.

Mr. Hoffman, the first U.S. Jewish leader to visit Prime Minister Golda Meir after her recent visit to the U.S., said that her "triumphal trip produced a greater understanding of Israel's position and an improved image in this country." He declared, "the main problem that Israel now faces is to capitalize on the benefits of the trip."

Asserting that "far more often than not, Jews are the first victims of a sick society," Bertram H. Gold, AJCommittee executive vice president, told the board that the agency was involved with the needs and problems of various white ethnic groups "whose rising frustrations are feeding demagogues on the right and political opportunists on the left."

He said the organization would consider in the near future involvement in social problems like polluted air, water and soil, the right of privacy, the right of dissent, and hunger. Mr. Gold proposed establishment of a national Jewish welfare commission that would use the "Jewish presence in this area and help stimulate Jewish communal organizations to a greater sensitivity and awareness."

The board called upon President Richard M. Nixon to make major changes in the bill he submitted to Congress Oct. 22 calling for a revamping of the nation's welfare system.

In another development, a Presbyterian educator called on Protestant churches to revise teaching materials in order to present a more balanced picture of Jews, Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations. Gerald Trober, consultant on religious curriculum to the AJCommittee's interreligious affairs department, suggested that the churches, collectively and individually, establish task forces of scholars and religious educators to carry out the revisions.

He said, "most denominations have issued statements on anti-Semitism, indicating their commitment in principle to combat this most ancient form of racism. The time is long past due to translate that theoretical commitment into practice." President Hoffman noted that Mr. Strober's project grew out of an earlier AJCommittee study of Protestant teaching materials conducted at Yale Divinity School by Dr. Bernhard E. Olson and published in 1963 under the title "Faith and Prejudice."

Mr. Strober said his analysis of 3,000 church school lessons contained more than 300 texts published by 12 independent denominational groups "confirmed the hypothesis that certain Biblical and historical themes offer the potential of fostering negative attitude concerning the Jews and the Jewish religion, as well as Jewish experience."