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Israelis Skeptical About Worth Of Egyptian-Sponsored Mediation Of Lebanon Crisis

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Israeli experts on Arab affairs said today that Egypt's effort to mediate the Lebanese crisis was little more than an attempt to assert Egyptian primacy in the Arab world. They said it was of slight importance because Egypt has committed itself in advance to the support of terrorist groups operating outside the so-called "progressive" Arab countries.

According to the Israeli sources, the guerrillas have agreed to mediation because they bow to Egyptian authority. But genuine mediation is not likely because the terrorists insist on freedom of action along the Israeli border with Lebanon and punishment of the Lebanese authorities responsible for the measures taken against them. If Lebanon agreed to such demands, it would mean the end of the Lebanese regime, and President Charles Helou is well aware of this possibility, the Israelis said.

According to informed Israelis, the majority of moderate Moslems in Lebanon are anxious to avoid a confrontation between the Christian elements, who comprise about half the country's population, and the Palestinian guerrillas who are supported by extreme Moslems, some Druze tribes and young militants at the universities. The evaluation here, however, is that less extreme Moslems may be pulled into the pro-guerrilla camp against their will if the crisis continues.

See Beirut As Losers In Any Talks; Arab States Back Guerrillas

LONDON, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The Lebanese crisis appeared today to be heading for the conference table but with the cards stacked against the Beirut regime which has tried to suppress Arab guerrilla warfare against Israel for fear of Israel's reprisals.

According to Damascus Radio, Egypt, Syria and Libya have pledged their full support of the Palestinian guerrillas and said they would tolerate no attempts to hinder their activities.

The announcement was broadcast by the state-controlled Syrian radio after a meeting that was supposed to have been the beginning of a mediation effort undertaken by President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt at the urgent request of the Lebanese President Charles Helou.

Col. Nasser's personal envoy, Dr. Hassan Sabri al-Kholi, flew to Damascus yesterday where he met with Syria's President, Dr. Nureddin al-Atassi; Col. Moussa Ahmed, the Libyan Minister of Interior; and Yassir Arafat, commander of El Fatah, the largest Palestinian guerrilla group.

Syria has strongly backed the guerrillas who invaded Lebanon over the weekend and have been battling Lebanese regulars along that country's eastern frontier. Fighting slowed down today and the curfew was lifted in Beirut. But Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, was still under martial law. Part of the city was reportedly occupied by guerrillas.

President Nasser sent Dr. al-Kholi to Damascus after President Helou asked him to intercede to avert a full scale war between Lebanon and the guerrillas on its soil. The Egyptian envoy visited King Hussein of Jordan in Amman before arriving in the Syrian capital.

But sources in Damascus said that Mr. Arafat had succeeded in eliciting a public pledge of support for the guerrillas at the meeting. A statement issued by the Egyptian, Syrian and Libyan participants said that "there was full agreement on the necessity of supporting Palestinian commando resistance, being a genuine expression of the Arab people's steadfastness and determination to liberate the occupied homeland. There was also full agreement," the statement continued, "on ensuring full freedom for commando action throughout the Arab homeland and not tolerating any side attempting to strike at the commando movement or to place obstacles in its path or to try to stab it in the back."

Dr. al-Kholi was expected to invite Arab envoys to a Lebanese peace conference, probably in Cairo. Egypt was said by Arabs to be striving for "restraint" and a compromise in the dispute. The Egyptian Government-controlled Middle East News Agency reported the text of a message sent to President Nasser by El Fatah yesterday. It denounced "agents of Zionism and imperialism in the Lebanese Government" and praised Col. Nasser's "great stand on the side of the Palestinian revolution."

(In Washington today, a U.S. State Department spokesman accused the Soviet Union of "making propaganda out of the difficulties confronting the Lebanese people." Robert McCloskey accused Moscow of making unfounded charges against the U.S. in connection with the Lebanese crisis. He referred to a report by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, that the U.S. supported anti-guerrilla measures taken by the Beirut Government. Mr. McCloskey said the U.S. regretted such charges and

said the present situation required "quiet diplomacy, not public argument. The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda warned today that NATO naval maneuvers off Lebanon "puts this explosive area on the brink of a very dangerous conflict.")

Israelis Elect New National Government Tomorrow; Labor Party Seen Triumphant

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Israelis will go to the polls tomorrow amid a worsening Mideast crisis to elect their seventh Knesset (Parliament). But no one expects the elections to change the political complexion of the country to any noticeable degree. It is almost a foregone conclusion that the combined Labor factions headed by Premier Golda Meir will emerge victorious.

The margin of the Labor victory may be less by a few percentage points than it was in the last Knesset election in 1965. But whatever the outcome, it is virtually certain that Mrs. Meir will retain the present "national unity coalition" Government put together by the late Levi Eshkol on the eve of the June, 1967 Six-Day War.

Lack of suspense over the outcome and a widespread feeling that the elections will have little effect on the one all-pervading issue facing Israel -- lack of peace with its Arab neighbors -- have made for voter apathy, JTA columnist Eliahu Salpeter reported today.

The turnout at the polls is expected to be poor compared to previous elections. This became apparent recently when less than two-thirds of the eligible voters cast ballots for the governing councils of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. The elections were regarded as a dress rehearsal for the Knesset balloting. And while a greater percentage of the 1,750,000 registered voters will vote Tuesday, it is expected to fall far short of the 85 percent that went to the polls in 1965, Mr. Salpeter wrote.

The ballots will contain the lists of 16 different political factions offering candidates for the 120-seat Knesset, Israel's unicameral Parliament. In addition, voters will elect mayors, council members and other officials in hundreds of municipalities from the largest cities to the tiniest villages.

Under the national system of proportional representation, Knesset seats are allocated on the basis of percentage of votes won by each faction.

The election will probably see a consolidation of Labor strength. For the past year the former Mapai, Achdut Avodah and Rafi factions have been merged, if somewhat uneasily, in a United Labor Party. Earlier this year, the left-wing Labor faction, Mapam, associated itself with the Labor Party to the extent of presenting common lists in the Knesset, municipal and Histadrut elections.

The strongest opposition faction is Gahal, made up of the nationalistic Herut, headed by Menachem Beigin, the underground guerrilla leader of pre-Statehood days, and the Liberal Party consisting of middle-roaders, general Zionists and businessmen. Gahal is a member of the coalition Government and is expected to be part of the new Government. As such, neither Gahal, nor Labor nor the other coalition members, which cover the entire political spectrum, seem to offer an alternative to present government policies.

On the surface, at least, the only dissenting voices come from splinter parties outside the government. At one extreme is the Land of Israel movement which advocates Israel's annexation of the occupied Arab territories; on the other is the so-called "Peace List" which wants Israel to withdraw from the occupied areas with or without a peace settlement. Neither of these fringe groups has made any impression on the mass of Israelis. Together with the other splinter parties, they are expected to win no more than a handful of Knesset seats, Mr. Salpeter reported.

Israeli Jets Hit Egyptian, Jordanian Positions; Eshkol's Nephew Is Buried

TEL AVIV, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force planes attacked Egyptian positions in the central sector of the Suez Canal for an hour last night and blasted an Arab guerrilla camp in Jordan this morning. A military spokesman said all aircraft returned safely to their bases despite heavy Egyptian anti-aircraft fire.

The target in Jordan was a guerrilla encampment at Khirbet Katef. A spokesman said it was hit in retaliation for a guerrilla attack this morning on an Israeli patrol near Gesher in the Beisan Valley.

Three Israeli soldiers were injured today when an Army vehicle hit a mine near Raffah in the southern Gaza Strip. Three Arab saboteurs were killed today in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near El Arish in the northern Sinai. There were no casualties on the Israeli side.

A nephew of the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol was buried with military honors at Natanya yesterday. Second Lt. Alexander Tabak-Shkolnik was killed Saturday during an Egyptian artillery attack in the southern sector of the Suez Canal. He was the adopted son of Mr. Eshkol's brother, Ben Zion Shkolnik, who arrived in Israel from Russia only four years ago. Another Israeli soldier buried was 18-year-old Pvt. Moshe Cohen who was killed by Egyptian mortar fire near the Firdan bridge on the Suez Canal.

Young Arabs, Leftist Supporters Hit Rothschild Bank, Newspaper Office In Paris

PARIS, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Young Arabs and leftwing student supporters of El Fatah attacked the Rothschild Bank and the offices of the newspaper L'Aurore last night, smashing windows and daubing anti-Israel slogans on the walls. Over 100 demonstrators took part in the assaults, which were apparently well planned, and managed to evade police. One worker at the newspaper office was injured by flying glass.

The attackers attempted to set fire to the bank. Earlier in the day, El Fatah supporters tried to set fire to the private residence of Baron Elie De Rothschild, president of the French United Jewish Appeal. L'Aurore, a mass circulation morning newspaper, was a target apparently because of its editorial support of Israel. The bank walls were defaced with such slogans as "Fatah shall win" and Ben Gurion is a Fascist."

The demonstrators carried Egyptian and El Fatah flags. They smashed windows with stones and used the flagpoles as battering rams to break into the offices of L'Aurore. Police said that the attackers assembled at a central point and then moved on the bank and newspaper office in small groups using side streets to avoid police. The attacks lasted several minutes and by the time police arrived the assailants had dispersed. They left an Egyptian and an El Fatah flag at the newspaper office.

Ben Gurion Urges French To Emigrate En Masse To Israel

PARIS, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion yesterday urged French Jews to emigrate en masse to Israel. The 83-year-old Israeli statesman, addressing a dinner of the French United Jewish Appeal, exhorted French Jews "not to forget or forsake their heritage of a chosen people and to fulfill their duty." He said the aliyah movement in France "must still be built up and consolidated."

Mr. Ben Gurion was due to leave Paris today after a three-day visit as the guest of the French UJA. He surprised newsmen yesterday when he said at a press conference that Israel should return all of the occupied territories except East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights in the interest of peace with the Arabs. He said Israeli troops should abandon the Sharm el-Sheikh strong-point at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula once a peace treaty was signed and free passage through the Straits of Tiran was assured.

Mr. Ben Gurion paid tribute to former President Charles de Gaulle but deplored the change of his once friendly attitude toward Israel. He expressed hope that the 50 embargoed Mirage jets that Israel purchased from France would be delivered.

15-Year-Old Jordanian Youth Will Face Court On Grenade Throwing Charge

THE HAGUE, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A 15-year-old Jordanian youth will go on trial here Nov. 11 on charges of throwing a grenade at the Israel Embassy last Sept. 8. Taysi Ali el Atat will be tried behind closed doors because of his age.

Negotiations For Israeli Pact With Common Market Slated For Nov. 12-14

BRUSSELS, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Negotiations for a preferential trade treaty between Israel and the six nations of the European Common Market will be held here Nov. 12-14. The Israeli negotiating team will be headed by Ambassador Moshe Alon, chief of the Israeli mission to the European Economic Community. It will be composed of representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Industry.

The European delegation will consist of officials of the ECC executive commission assisted by observers from the six member nations. A second round of negotiations is expected to take place before the end of the year.

Israel's Foreign Exchange Reserve Benefits From Re-Evaluation Of West German Mark

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The upward re-evaluation of the West German mark to 27.32 American cents caused Israel's foreign exchange market to shut down yesterday since the new value of the mark was not to be posted in European markets until today.

The bank of Israel reported that the re-evaluation has added several tens of million of dollars to Israel's foreign exchange reserves, much of which is held in marks.

The German commercial attache, Eduard Dickman, said that West Germany has not asked for any goods to be exempted from the tariff reduction on industrial imports which the European Economic Market is about to negotiate with Israel. The ECC is expected to reduce duties on imports from Israel by 45 percent over a period of three years.

Partisans Of Eastern European Victory Over Nazis Mark Event's 25th Anniversary

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The 25th anniversary of a Jewish partisan victory over the Nazi army in Eastern Poland was marked at a dinner here yesterday by the Federation of Jewish Underground Fighters Against Nazism. The battle took place on the plains of Ostrowce where Jewish and Christian underground fighters were given the task of blocking a German retreat in the face of advancing Russian forces. The engagement was recalled by Seymour Robbins, president of the underground fighters group. Another speaker was Rehavam Amir, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Former United Synagogue Head Urges More Welfare Fund Money For Jewish Education

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A leader of Conservative Judaism urged the American Jewish community and its welfare funds today to revise priorities in order to furnish more money for Jewish education. Henry N. Rapaport, outgoing president of the United Synagogue of America, said that Jewish education provided the only assurance of Jewish survival. "Without survival," he declared, "there will be no need for Jewish welfare funds, Jewish hospitals or Jewish defense agencies."

Mr. Rapaport, of Scarsdale, N.Y., addressed the biennial convention of the United Synagogue, which represents 831 congregations with an aggregate membership of 1.5 million in the U.S. and Canada. He defined Jewish survival as "religious survival," asserting that "there is no evidence that socio-cultural activities can alone provide the sinews of survival." Mr. Rapaport, a vice president of the American Association for Jewish Education, contended that "poor religious education is an even greater threat to the American Jewish community than inter-marriage."

Jacob Stein of Great Neck, NY, was elected today as president. He had served as vice president for the past four years.

Histadrut Unit Honors Javits, Raises Funds For Safad Medical Center Named For Mother

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits (Rep., N.Y.) was honored yesterday at a dinner sponsored by the public service council of Histadrut at which \$50,000 was raised toward the construction of a \$250,000 medical center in Safad, Israel, in memory of Sen. Javits' mother, Ida, who was born there.

The 800 guests were addressed by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, Mayor John V. Lindsay and Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the UN. Other speakers were the Senators Charles Goodell (Rep., N.Y.) Mike Gravel (Dem., Alaska) and Max Greenberg, president of the department store, retail and wholesale workers union who represented AFL-CIO president George Meany.

Responding to the tributes paid him and his mother, Sen. Javits spoke of America's continuing interest in Israel's security. He said the U.S. must provide Israel with the supersonic jets and other military aid it has requested, avoid imposing a settlement over the heads of the countries directly involved, and avoid a direct confrontation with the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

Reform Sisterhoods Making Gift Of Synagogue To Ben Shemen Youth Village In Israel

MIAMI BEACH, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods announced yesterday that it was making a gift of a synagogue to a youth village in Israel. According to Mrs. David M. Levitt, president of the Reform women's group, the synagogue will be built for the 800 elementary school children and teenagers in Ben Shemen, a pioneer youth village south of Tel Aviv.

It will contain a library, an assembly hall and a sanctuary. Ground-breaking ceremonies will take place in March, 1970.

Mrs. Levitt told delegates to the group's 27th biennial assembly here that the youngsters will be able to develop their own forms of worship. No effort will be made to "transplant the worship form used by Reform Jews in the West. We will merely provide the material assistance and helping hand."

Youth Sing And Dance Outside Soviet UN Mission, Demonstrating For Leningrad Jews

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- The Soviet United Nations Mission was taunted by Jewish youth groups yesterday. The youngsters danced to Israeli tunes and sang Hebrew songs outside the building in a demonstration on behalf of Jewish youth in Leningrad whose Simhat Torah celebrations last month were suppressed by Soviet police.

Participants were high school and college students of Hashachar and Betar, Jewish youth movements. They also read aloud letters from Russian Jews that were purportedly smuggled out of the Soviet Union.

Pittsburgh Hassidic Rabbi Plans To Move To Israel, Establish 'Court' And Yeshiva

TEL AVIV, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A Hassidic rabbi from Pittsburgh is coming to Israel shortly to establish his "court" and a yeshiva in Ashdod. The "court" consists of the rabbi's followers.

Rabbi Abraham Leifer expects to establish a "Pittsburgh quarter" made up of Hassidic families in buildings that were begun by the Foivasz Yeshiva but subsequently acquired by the Ministry of Housing. The rabbi and his followers will be given all privileges accorded to new immigrants.

Jewish Marine Is First In 50 Years To Be Promoted To Rank Of Brigadier General

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A Jewish Marine Corps officer currently serving in Southeast Asia has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, the National Jewish Welfare Board reported. According to the JWB, Gen. Leonard Earl Fribourg of Cleveland, is the first Jewish Marine to attain that rank while on active duty in the past 50 years.

Gen. Fribourg, 47, enlisted in the Marine Corps 27 years ago during World War II and received 14 medals and decorations for service in the South Pacific, Korea, and Vietnam.