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Lebanese Army, Guerrillas Reportedly Agree On Cease-Fire During Talks In Egypt

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The two-week conflict between the Lebanese Army and Palestinian guerrillas was reportedly scheduled to enter a cease-fire phase at midnight tonight (6 p.m. EST), a Cairo official announced today. The agreement to end the costly fighting was reportedly reached by Yassir Arafat, Ei Fatah chief, and Maj. Gen. Emile Bustani, Commander-in-Chief of Lebanese Armed Forces.

The official statement said the parties had decided "to halt all military operations....and halt all measures which resulted in the crisis....and which could lead to further tension. An agreement was also reached on continuing the search for the sake of reaching complete agreement on all points." President Gamal Abdel Nasser had conferred with Arafat before the guerrilla chief met with Maj. Gen. Bustani. It was believed that the antagonists were considering a Lebanese offered 10-point plan that would give the commandos free movement in certain parts of Lebanon while not threatening Lebanese sovereignty.

The crisis was ignited by the Lebanese Army's crackdown on guerrillas using southern Lebanon as a base for strikes into Israel. The guerrillas had demanded full freedom for their military operations but Beirut sought to curtail their activities out of fear of major Israeli reprisals. Egypt had functioned as a mediator in trying to resolve the conflict.

The reported cooling down in the crisis, the most serious in the Arab world since the 1967 war, came in the wake of a call by King Hussein of Jordan for an Arab summit conference to discuss establishment of a united Arab front against Israel. Opening the Jordanian Parliament yesterday, the King said, "Arab blood must not be spilled in any Arab country. No Arab guns should be fired except on the battleground against Israel." King Hussein and President Nasser have called frequently in recent months for a summit parley to work out a unified military posture; a summit may be arranged when Arab military commanders confer in Cairo on Saturday.

While there was little fighting in Lebanon today, Syrian troops were reported massing near the Lebanon border in the wake of a Syrian Government denial that its troops were fighting with the guerrillas against the Lebanese. Damascus Radio said Beirut had issued such reports "in order to create an atmosphere convenient for the entrance of American troops into Lebanon."

Israel Plans To Increase Maximum Age Of Military Reservists

Meanwhile, Israel was contemplating the imminent increase of the maximum age for military reserve duty from 49 to 55. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said the action must be taken because of the "necessity for increased manpower in the defense forces and civil defense." The move apparently reflects a strain on the country's manpower reserves stemming from border activities and the need to cope with the internal security threat.

The Cabinet learned today of a serious deficit in the Government fund used to pay a percentage of the personal income of civilian reservists called to military duty. The fund is maintained with monthly payments contributed by job-holders and their employers and by self-employed persons, and allows a refund of up to 70 percent of normal income, not exceeding \$200 per month, during the period of military service.

But owing to increased call-ups, the fund registered a \$9 million deficit during the past fiscal year, and an additional deficit of \$6 million was expected this year. A ministerial committee is trying to work out procedures for the future. The Cabinet decided that up to November the deficit will be covered from Finance Ministry reserves. According to unofficial estimates, income to the fund must be doubled to balance disbursements. Several ministers also want to raise the ceiling above \$200 to meet rising prices. Many employers, including Government agencies, now contribute the difference between employees' normal earnings and the payments made by the fund.

On the diplomatic front, diplomatic observers here interpreted Soviet Government remarks of Saturday as supporting recent Egyptian attacks on the United States and as strengthening the hands of guerrillas. They said that the official remarks were Russia's first in two years specifically directed against the United States over the Mideast question and that this may have been the reason for Washington's sharp reply.

Recent revolutions in the Sudan and Libya, as well as events in Lebanon, may have encouraged the Soviet Union, and in its remarks it sought to place itself clearly on the side of the Arab "progressives," the sources said. But the Soviet comments were not taken as meaning that the Kremlin wants to break off talks with the U.S. over the Arab-Israeli conflict; rather they were seen as having been designed to strengthen the Soviet position in the talks and to influence the positions of Britain and

France if the Big Four talks are resumed. Leonid M. Zamyatin, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press department, said at a press conference that Russia was optimistic that the next Big Four talks would lead to a "comprehensive solution" of the conflict. He said that the Mideast crisis had been prolonged by U.S. support of Israel's "obstructionist line."

The spokesman blamed "the lack of tangible results in Soviet-American bilateral talks and in the Big Four talks thus far on an "unbalanced attitude" by Washington on a possible solution of the conflict. He said that the U.S. seemed interested only in finding a solution for matters that "concern Israel" and of leaving unresolved "problems of primary interest to the Arab states." Mr. Zamyatin compared the Arab guerrillas to the Soviet and French partisans of World War II, saying the Palestinians were fighting a "just struggle." He emphasized that the guerrillas were not receiving any Soviet aid.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman accused the Soviet Union of making "totally false" charges that maligned the American role in the Mideast, and questioned "whether the Soviet Government wants a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute." The statement was issued following a meeting between Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mr. Rogers reportedly told the Russian envoy about U.S. unhappiness over the Zamyatin charges.

State Department spokesman Robert McClosky said that the U.S. would like to resume Big Four talks but only when it was "possible and sensible" to do so; the time is not yet ripe, he indicated. He said that none of the Four were "delaying simply to delay" but were rather awaiting a more propitious time. Lord Caradon, British Ambassador to the United Nations, said this weekend that he expected the Big Four talks to resume "certainly within a week or two." They have been recessed since last summer.

Sisco, Dobrynin To Meet Wednesday; U.S. Hopes For New Mandate For Jarring

Joseph J. Sisco, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and Mr. Dobrynin were slated to resume their bilateral consultations on Wednesday. American diplomats hope that when the Big Four get together again, they will make an effort to give UN Mideast envoy Gunnar V. Jarring a new mandate to bring to the Arabs and Israel. Diplomatic quarters in Jerusalem said they had no information that Dr. Jarring intended to resume his mission in the area, riding the circuit of the Mideast capitals. The diplomat is presently at his regular post as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow.

The Jerusalem sources said that in their last meeting, Dr. Jarring told Foreign Minister Abba Eban that he does not believe he can contribute anything to peace while the Big Powers are meeting in an attempt to reach an agreement among themselves. The sources said that Dr. Jarring interprets the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution as a mandate for him to bring the two sides to an agreement but not as a writ for a settlement to be imposed from the outside.

A French Government statement of last week that the Israel-Arab conflict caused the crisis in Lebanon was disputed by a Foreign Ministry spokesman. He asserted that the statement no more reflected the facts than did any conclusion that the Big Four talks could solve that crisis. He added that ever since Lebanon had become independent, Syria and other Arab states had caused incessant crises in Lebanon. He added that the welfare of Lebanon could be assured by the capacity of the Lebanese people to maintain the regime they wanted in a free and independent way without outside intervention, and by the Lebanese Government's readiness to keep the peace on its borders with Israel and respect its cease-fire commitments.

Mrs. Meir Begins Talks Aimed At Forming New Government, Consults With NRP's Shapiro

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir began informal talks today in an effort to establish a new coalition Government based on the results of last week's Knesset election. She met today with Moshe Shapiro, leader of the National Religious Party, who is Minister of Interior in the outgoing Government.

Mr. Shapiro yesterday advocated retention of the present national unity Government, which was put together by the late Premier Levi Eshkol on the eve of the Six-Day War. There are differences of opinion over re-establishing a broad-based Government within Mrs. Meir's Labor Party-Mapam Alignment. Without the NRP, it would be difficult to find partners for a coalition based on a parliamentary majority. According to unofficial election returns, the Labor alignment won 58 seats in the new Knesset, five less than the absolute majority it holds in the outgoing sixth Knesset. The Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) emerged as the second strongest party with 27 seats, a gain of five. The NRP ran a poor third, with 11 seats. However, in partnership with Labor, it would permit Mrs. Meir to govern without accepting the conditions that Gahal is likely to demand in return for its participation in a new coalition. The Central Elections Committee announced meanwhile that it would publish the official election results next Thursday.

The final count in the Jerusalem municipal elections gave Mayor Teddy Kollek's Labor alignment 31 seats on the City Council. Gahal won 16 against a total of 13 for the three religious factions--NRP, Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel. A new list, the Iraqi Immigrants Party, received one seat. Mr. Kollek favors a coalition made up of all parties.

One of the surprises of the election was the large Arab turnout in Jerusalem. Some 9,000 East Jerusalem Arabs cast ballots, ignoring Arab guerrilla reprisal threats and a demand for a general strike broadcast by Amman radio.

COLPA Files Brief, Joined By 9 Orthodox Organizations, In High Court Taxation Case

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs announced today that it had filed a "friend of the court" brief in a suit before the United States Supreme Court which contends that exemption from real estate taxes for religious institutions violates the Constitution's church-state separation principle. Julius Berman COLPA president, said his brief had been filed on behalf of COLPA and nine other national Jewish organizations. The brief argues that "tax exemption for property owned by religious corporations and associations in constitutionally mandatory." Several Jewish organizations have filed similar briefs.

The suit before the Supreme Court, which Mr. Berman said was considered one of the most important church-state tests to come before the court in this decade, was brought by Frederick Walz, a New York taxpayer. He sued the New York City Tax Commission, claiming that tax exemption he was attacking violated the First Amendment. Mr. Berman said that the COLPA brief declares that New York's constitutional and statutory taxing provisions "do not grant a unique or peculiar tax status to religious corporations vis-a-vis other charities which are not religious by nature. They simply assign property owned by religious organizations precisely the same tax status as that enjoyed by secular non-profit charitable and educational institutions."

He added that the COLPA brief contends that "a denial of tax exemption on account of the religious nature of the claimant organization would violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments. If tax exemption were denied to synagogue and church property while being retained for buildings operated for 'scientific, literary, bar association, library, patriotic (and) historical' purposes or for non-religious 'charitable' and 'benevolent' purposes (including those devoted to 'moral or mental improvement of men and women'), it would only be because of the religious nature of the owning organization and the religious purpose for which the building is to be used. Such a singling out of religious activity and property necessary for the exercise of religion would...be impermissibly discriminatory."

The nine organizations joining in the COLPA brief were listed as the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Poalei Agudath Israel of America, Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbinical Council of America, Religious Zionists of America, Torah Umesorah--the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Mr. Berman expressed the gratitude of the Orthodox Jewish community to Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice-president and former deputy assistant attorney in the Justice Department, for action as special counsel to COLPA for the brief.

Goldman Autobiography Calls For Neutralization Of Israel As Solution To Conflict

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Neutralization of Israel under international auspices could solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to Dr. Nahum Goldmann. The world Zionist and Jewish leader outlined his proposal in his autobiography, just published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The book has attracted considerable attention in Israel.

Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organization, asserts in "The Autobiography of Nahum Goldmann: Sixty Years of Jewish Life," that neutralization would mean that the nations of the world "would recognize Israel's unique role of providing for its Jewish and Arab citizens, offering a haven to Jewish refugees and, at the same time, serving as the national and cultural center that guarantees the future of the Jewish people throughout the world."

Israel, "whose mere existence requires the moral and spiritual solidarity of all the Jews of the world, must by definition be neutral if all Jews are to be able to maintain emotional and spiritual ties with it, irrespective of their nationality and political orientation," he contends. "Any political alignment on the part of such a state makes it difficult and sometimes impossible for Jewish citizens of certain other countries openly to profess their allegiance to it."

Contending that "Israel cannot exist forever as a hostile island in an Arab ocean," Dr. Goldmann asserts that a neutralized Jewish State would require that the United Nations, "and above all, the two super-powers, would have to guarantee the state's existence and integrity by methods that would be effective." He argues that Israel's integration into a Middle Eastern confederation of equal states is the only alternative he can see to neutralization but he is skeptical about confederation, arguing that "the Arab world is so divided internally that a long time may pass before a real confederation," including Israel, could be established. Existing Israeli foreign policy, which he says has not changed substantially since former Premier David Ben Gurion retired in 1962, will not bring about either solution, he contends. That policy, he says, must lead to increasing alignment, if not formal alliance, with the Western bloc, while the Eastern bloc continues to arm the Arabs, with increasing involvement of the two super-powers and their blocs "in this local conflict."

YIVO's Center For Advanced Jewish Studies Is Providing Training For 49

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--A Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, opened a month ago by the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, is providing specialized Jewish training for 49 students from nine colleges and universities, according to Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, a founding trustee of the center. Dr. Shapiro said the new institution "is future-oriented in that it addresses itself mainly to students who will assume positions of academic and intellectual leadership in Jewish affairs." Dr. Shapiro said there is a great shortage of personnel in Jewish community agencies and services throughout the country and an even greater need for trained Jewish scholars and the recognition of Jewish scholarship in all areas of Jewish activity.

Poale Zion, Farband Join Jewish Labor Committee, Adding 35,000 Members

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The Jewish Labor Committee (JLC) ended its 35th anniversary biennial convention here today after approving the affiliation with it of the Poale Zion United Labor Zionist Organization and Farband, the Labor Zionist fraternal order. The JLC elected Charles Zimmerman, 72, as its president to succeed the late Adolph Held. The affiliation of Poale Zion and Farband will add 35,000 members to the JLC which represents 500,000 Jewish members of the AFL-CIO and 65,000 Jewish families in the Workmen's Circle and the United Hebrew Trades.

The 500 delegate convention was greeted at its opening Friday with a message from President Richard M. Nixon who hailed the JLC's efforts "to bring to those who have been left out or left behind the benefits of our social and economic life." Premier Golda Meir of Israel cabled a message of greeting, saying "as you go forth with renewed strength and solidarity in the task of ever extending social justice with equality in human society, our ancient Biblical teachings about social justice and the contemporary achievements of Labor Zion in Israel are our joint dedication and inspiration."

The affiliation of Poale Zion and the Farband with the JLC was recommended in a report by the organization's national executive committee, submitted to the convention by Emanuel Muravchik, executive director. The two Labor Zionist groups had requested affiliation in November, 1968. The national executive committee's report noted that there were no ideological reasons to oppose affiliation. It pointed out in its recommendation that affiliation "would make the JLC for the first time the spokesman for the entire democratic Jewish labor movement in the U.S. and this would significantly increase our stature in American Jewish life and our power within the various coordinating bodies--national, international and local."

Mr. Zimmerman, a vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, had been serving as interim JLC president since Mr. Held's death. He told the convention that the JLC "will support any action taken by the International Association of Airline Pilots and the Airline Pilots Association AFL-CIO, in their efforts to get United Nations and other governmental action against air hijacking." He said, "We also want to remind the United States Government that too many days and weeks have passed since an American airliner was hijacked to Syria and that two passengers, both Israelis, still languish in Syrian prison."

Family Court Judge Jacob T. Zukerman, JLC first vice president, warned that "responsible Negro and Jewish leadership must not allow the alliance between Jews and Negroes to crack." Judge Zukerman, former Assistant Commissioner of Welfare, said that "extremist Blacks do not speak for all Negroes any more than the Jewish Defense League speaks for all Jews."

In an address to the closing session, Gordon Band, of Cleveland, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, warned of "a vast apparatus of Arab propaganda, luxuriously financed" which is trying "to drive a wedge between Americans on the one hand and Israel and the Jewish people on the other." Mr. Band said that the Arab propagandists were making headway among the New Left, the extreme right, in the Black community and "among the Christian clergy--especially in those Protestant denominations with heavy stakes in Jerusalem and in the missionary movement in the Middle East." Mr. Band said Jews must counter the propaganda "by at least an equal increase and intensification of interpretive activity by community relations agencies and by other organizations... We must emphasize the democratic character of Israel, its role as an embodiment and expression of the highest ideals of freedom and democracy and of self-realization for Jews, and its reflection of the finest aspirations of a people for self-determination."

Orthodox Rabbis In New Jersey Oppose Essex County Y's Plans For Special Sabbath Program

NEWARK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Council of New Jersey announced it had joined with the Council of Orthodox Rabbis of Essex County in opposition to the plans of the Essex County YM-YWHA to keep its Northfield Y building open on Saturdays for a modified program of special activities for young people, the Jewish News of Newark reported.

Rabbi Albert Schwartz of Perth Amboy, president of the state Rabbinical Council, in announcing full support for the Essex Orthodox Council on the issue, said he had appointed a "committee of concern for the sanctity of the Sabbath in Jewish public institutions." He said the committee would meet with officials of the West Orange Y to seek cancellation of the new Saturday policy and that the committee would develop a "preaching campaign" to tell congregations and members of Ys throughout New Jersey of the "possible imminent danger of having the open-door policy of the Sabbath spread to other sections" of the state.

The Rabbinical Council said that it was urging the Y's board "to reconsider its action and maintain the long-standing tradition of communal agencies, created and maintained by Jews, to adhere to observance of and respect for the Sabbath." The Rabbinical group also declared that the decision, "however well-intentioned, nevertheless contributes to divisiveness of the community by an institution that is committed to the concept of serving as the common meeting ground for all elements of the Jewish community."

Rabbi Samuel H. Gordon, Long Active With Jewish Welfare Board, Is Dead At 69

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA)--Rabbi Samuel H. Gordon, rabbi of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, Long Island and a member of the staff of the National Jewish Welfare Board, died last week at the age of 69. Rabbi Gordon was general secretary of the World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish Community Centers from 1947-1951. During his five years of service with the JWB he was a JWB-USO representative in California and the Panama Canal zone and director of the JWB's service in Europe.