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Egyptian Vessels Shell Northern Sinai In First Naval Attack since 1967-Eilat Sinking

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9(JTA)--Two Egyptian destroyers and several smaller craft shelled the Israel-occupied northern Sinai coast last night but were driven off by Israeli planes. Israeli jets attacked Egyptian positions and military targets in the northern section of the Suez Canal today and returned safely to their bases, an Israeli military spokesman reported.

The Sinai shelling 25 miles east of the Canal, was Egypt's first naval action against Israel since Soviet Komar-type missile craft sank the Israeli destroyer Eilat in international waters off Alexandria two years ago. The attack was carried out by one destroyer of the "Skory" class, a vessel of 3,500 tons displacement, another destroyer of unidentified type and smaller craft. Israeli officials said the Egyptian naval guns hit nothing but sand in an action that lasted 30 minutes. A reporter and a photographer representing a journalists' pool were flown to the site and reported seeing only shell craters in sand dunes. Israeli officials said the naval task force apparently left Port Said last night, reached their target area at 10:30 p.m. local time, and fired hundreds of shells none of which found a target.

An Egyptian military spokesman claimed in Cairo today that the naval attack inflicted "heavy losses in personnel, weapons and equipment" and that Israeli jets staging a retaliatory raid over the Canal were repulsed. The Egyptians claimed that anti-aircraft guns aboard their ships scored hits on two pursuing Israeli planes. Israel denied that any planes were lost.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan warned on a radio interview that last week's three Egyptian commando raids across the Suez which took three Israeli lives were no threat to Israeli military strongpoints along the waterway. Even if Egyptian raids in unpopulated areas between Israeli positions are occasionally successful, I am certain that our lines will not be upset and that we shall find a military solution which will prove to the Egyptians that such raids are not to their advantage--since they will sustain many more losses than we" he declared.

Israelis Watch Joint Defense Council Meetings in Cairo

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9(JTA)--Israeli Government circles watched today with interest the Arab League's Joint Defense Council meetings in Cairo to see what effect they would have on Soviet-American efforts to find a basis for Mideast peace. The semi-official Middle East News Agency and semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported that the 13 members of the League present--the meeting is being boycotted by Tunisia turned down the latest U.S. peace proposals.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad rejected the proposals charging that they were "even worse" than previous ones formulated by Washington. The Arab foreign and defense ministers and other military officials heard Mr. Riad assail the U.S. as no longer merely an "advocate" for Israel but rather an "accomplice."

The meeting of the Council, first since the Six-Day War, was called to discuss "mobilization of all Arab energies" for war against Israel. Sudanese Minister of State Farouk Abu Issa, said the U.S. has become "enemy number one of the Arabs." In addition to discussions on how to strengthen the front against Israel and build up the guerrilla movement, the Council planned "the most comprehensive study of American policy in the Middle East since the June, 1967 war." An official said "this review comes at a junction in history when we must clearly define our positions vis-a-vis the U.S."

Abel Khalek Hassouna, Arab League secretary general, assailed the U.S. for a 1967 court decision that Americans who serve armies of friendly countries need not automatically lose their citizenship. He asserted that this decision was "contrary to international law, United Nations resolutions and U.S. interests in the Arab world." Mr. Issa of Sudan charged that the U.S. not only sent arms and money to Israel but "has mobilized its sons to serve in the Israeli Army."

Eban Says Nasser's Speech Reveals Him as a 'War-Monger'

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's speech last week declaring that "war" and "bloodshed" were "inevitable" and were the only solution to the Arab-Israel conflict was described by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban as "a war-monger's aggressive speech, laden with threats."

Mr. Eban declared that the speech "presented Nasser without a mask" and that it expressed "Egypt's traditionally aggressive policy under Nasser who has brought down on the Egyptian people and upon the entire region constant misery and tragedy and who still promises more ordeal for his people in the future." The Foreign Minister added that the address "demonstrated the frustration of this declining tyrannic regime. Instead of repenting of his aggressive adventure of 1967, Nasser threatens to shed more blood and fire," and thus "continues to be the major obstacle on the way to peace in the area and to progress of the Arab peoples." Asserting that the Egyptian leader had once more revealed "his true aspirations to eliminate Israel's independence and existence," Mr. Eban declared that Col. Nasser's "aggressive ambition extends to all of Israel before and since 1967." He said that "one should not be surprised that Nasser sees no way to a peaceful settlement, since he never meant to make peace with Israel."

Shazar Finishes Consultations With All Parties, Told All Support Mrs. Meir for Premier

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9(JTA)--President Zalman Shazar wound up his consultations today with the representatives of all political parties elected to the Knesset. He was expected to charge outgoing Premier Golda Meir tomorrow with the task of forming a new Government. Mrs. Meir will have 21 days to present a new Cabinet to the Knesset for approval but may request an additional 21-day extension. All of the factions represented in the outgoing National Unity Government reportedly told Mr. Shazar that they wished Mrs. Meir to continue as Premier.

Final and official results of the Oct. 28 election for the seventh Knesset, announced by the Central Election Committee, confirmed that the Alignment of Premier Golda Meir's Labor Party and the leftist Mapam had won 56 seats in the 120-seat parliament and that Gahal (Herut-Liberal) Alignment won 26 seats to maintain its position as Israel's second largest political grouping. The Labor-Mapam group had an absolute majority of 63 seats in the sixth Knesset and Gahal had 22 seats.

The official tally showed that the National Religious Party increased its seats from 11 to 12, the Agudat Israel retained its four seats and that Poalei Agudat Israel held its two seats. The Arab-Druze pro-Labor lists retained their four seats. The Independent Liberals retained four seats. The Free Center, a breakaway group from Gahal, dropped from four to two seats, and the Israel Communist retained its one seat. Former Premier David Ben-Gurion's State List, comprised only of Mr. Ben-Gurion in the sixth Knesset, rose to four seats. The one-man Haolam Hazeh faction gained a seat.

The committee reported that 1,758,658 Israelis were eligible to vote and that 1,427,981 had cast ballots, of which 1,367,743 were valid. The Labor-Mapam alignment won 46.2 percent of the vote; Gahal, 21.6 percent; National Religious Party, 9.7 percent; the Arab-Druze lists, 3.5 percent; Agudat Israel, 3.2 percent; Independent Liberals 3.2 percent; the State list, 3.1 percent; New Communists, 2.8 percent; Poalei Agudat, 1.8 percent; Haloam Hazeh, 1.2 percent; Free Center, 1.2 percent; Israel Communists, 1.1 percent; The number of votes needed to capture one seat was given as 11,274. A total of 114 seats were distributed among the lists with the full number of votes needed. The remaining six seats went to the six lists with the largest number of extra votes.

Justice Minister Threatens High Court Judge For Holding Court On Sabbath

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9(JTA)--Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro told the Cabinet today that he would consider steps against Supreme Court Justice Zvi Berinson "as provided by law" to discipline him for holding court on the sabbath. Judge Berinson issued an 11th hour order Friday evening over-riding a Government ban on Sabbath television broadcasts. Mr. Shapiro called it "an act unprecedented, even under the British Mandate." But legal observers here doubted that the Minister would institute any proceedings against the justice. They noted that to do so, he would have to obtain the consent of the president of the Supreme Court, Justice Shimon Agranat, and that such proceedings might threaten the whole principle of the independence of Israel's judiciary.

Meanwhile the Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim blasted Judge Berinson for activating the court on the Sabbath. He called it "a destructive act against every soul of Jewry and our land's honor." Apart from injuring the sensibilities of Orthodox Jews, Judge Berinson's ruling seriously embarrassed Premier Golda Meir's efforts to negotiate a coalition Government with the National Religious Party. The latter has made a ban on Sabbath TV the main condition of its participation in a coalition with Mrs. Meir's Labor Party-Mapam Alignment. Mrs. Meir gave in to Orthodox demands Friday when she over-ruled a 13-9 vote by the Israel Broadcasting Authority to institute Sabbath television despite a Cabinet recommendation to the contrary. Judge Berinson's order in effect over-ruled Mrs. Meir. The Cabinet was unable to discuss the matter officially today because of the Supreme Court's order to desist from interfering with the Broadcasting Authority, an independent body under Israeli law. State Attorney General Meir Shamgar advised the Authority today that he would not represent it before the Supreme Court in the upcoming hearing. Judge Berinson's order gave the Government 30 days to show cause why a Sabbath TV ban should be upheld. Premier Meir is the second respondent of the order and it is believed that Mr. Shamgar intends to represent her. The Authority is composed of 31 representatives of Government Institutions.

Mrs. Meir Mobilizes Government's Best Lawyers to Fight TV Ruling

Mrs. Meir was mobilizing the best legal minds at her Government's disposal today in an effort to black out the nation's television sets on the Sabbath. Her initial effort in that direction failed when Justice Berinson issued his order on the complaint of two private citizens. Following the ruling, Israeli TV sets lit up at 9:10 p.m. local time Friday for the nation's first Sabbath TV program.

Mrs. Meir's reasons for seeking a ban were frankly political, without the 12 Knesset seats won by the religious bloc in the Oct. 28 election Mrs. Meir will not be able to form a coalition without the cooperation of Gahal which emerged as the nation's second strongest party and is demeaning Cabinet representation commensurate with its strength.

Mrs. Meir's political motives were responsible for the first serious rebuff to her authority since the 71-year old veteran of Israel's political wars succeeded the late Premier Levi Eshkol this year. When the Authority's secret vote was over-ruled, two Tel Aviv TV set owners, acting on their citizens' rights, went directly to Judge Berinson who granted the order. The complainants, Adi Kaplan, a clerk, and his brother-in-law, Yehudah Kessler, a lawyer, argued that Mrs. Meir's reversal of the Authority's decision was illegal because she had allowed political considerations to enter her judgment. Israeli law forbids a minister to act out of political motives in exercising his office.

Judge Berinson did not specify on what grounds he granted the order. He acted swiftly however, since only a few hours were left to prepare for the telecast.

Koenig Hits French Official For Saying His Government 'Supports The Arab Cause'

PARIS, Nov. 9(JTA)--A French Foreign Ministry official's statement that "France supports the Arab cause" was sharply attacked by Gen. Pierre Koenig, a former leader of the French resistance during World War II and president of the French Committee for Solidarity with Israel. Gen. Koenig said that the statement, by Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jean de Lipkovsky, "places France in one of the two camps and thus deprives her of any possibility of acting as a mediator or in any other useful capacity in the Middle East conflict."

M. de Lipkovsky made his statement last Sunday at the opening of a French industrial exhibit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Gen. Koenig urged the French Government to "assume its responsibilities by showing due regard for Israel's rights and for justice." His remarks were published in several French newspapers but there has been no official comment from the Foreign Ministry.

French Jewish Press Shows Impressive Circulation Figures But Is Not Seriously Read

PARIS, Nov. 9(JTA)--The Jewish press in France has impressive circulation figures but is not seriously read according to a report published today in "Information Juive," a publication of the French section of the World Jewish Congress.

There are 16 Jewish publications in the French language and they have circulations ranging from a minimum of 1,500 to 37,000, according to the report. But they are received in only about 30,000 French-Jewish homes. Another 20,000 Jewish homes do not consider it worth while subscribing to the Jewish press. The report concluded however that despite its narrow readership and imperfections, it makes a positive contribution toward preserving the continuity of the French-Jewish community.

29 Labor MPs Dispute London Times' Foreign Editor on Israel's Treatment of Arabs

LONDON, Nov. 9(JTA)--Twenty-nine Laborite Members of Parliament who claim to have "visited Israel and seen for ourselves" took issue with a report by the London Times' foreign editor E.C. Hodgkin which alleged cruel and oppressive treatment by Israel of Arabs in the occupied territories. Their letter, published in the Times, was apparently addressed to fellow MPs and others who have written in defense of Mr. Hodgkin against the storm of protest that his article aroused from Israel sympathizers.

"Many of us have visited Israel recently and have spent considerable time in the occupied territories, have conversed with Arabs there and have been given every opportunity of seeing the conditions that exist there," the legislators stated. "Nowhere did we find anything remotely resembling the state of affairs described by Mr. Hodgkin. We are astounded that our colleagues who have not visited the occupied territories and have no personal experience should rush into print and accept these allegations as true. We suggest that our colleagues...should, before condemnation visit Israel and judge for themselves."

Perlzweig Tells Mexican Government Of WJCongress' Gratitude for Support At UN

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 9(JTA)--Dr. Maurice Perlzweig, who represents the World Jewish Congress as an observer at the United Nations, thanked Mexican officials here for their Government's support for continuing the WJCongress' non-voting observer status on the UN's Economic and Social Council. Earlier this year the non-governmental observer states of the WJCongress and other international Jewish organizations was challenged by the Soviet Union and the Arab states.

Dr. Perlzweig met with Foreign Ministry officials and was a guest at a meeting of the Jewish Central Committee. He visited here enroute to San Jose, Costa Rica to attend a session of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

Funeral Services Held For Yehuda Burla, 83, A Prominent Sephardic Novelist in Israel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9(JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Yehuda Burla, a prominent Hebrew novelist of Israel's Sephardic community who died in Haifa yesterday at the age of 83.

Mr. Burla had been for many years president of the Israel writers Association. He drew the material for his novels from Israel's Oriental Jew who were the heroes and heroines of his stories. Among his most popular novels were "The Songstress" and "His Unloved Wife." Mr. Burla was the first Hebrew novelist to write of homosexuality as a social phenomenon and as an individual predilection. He often expressed deep contempt for the Diaspora in his writing and in public discourse. Hundreds of his admirers and disciples attended his funeral.

Home for Aged In Philadelphia Gives Torah To Tiny Jewish Community on Majorca

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9(JTA)--A Jewish home for the aged in Philadelphia has provided a Torah for the tiny recently organized Jewish community of Majorca, a Spanish island in the Mediterranean off the east coast of Spain. There are 300 Jews on the island which is a popular tourist resort. According to Harry A. Robinson, president of the Home for the Jewish Aged, the presentation of the Torah scroll helped revive formal Jewish worship on the island for the first time in more than 500 years.

Mr. Robinson was instrumental in securing the Torah for the islanders after he visited Majorca on a holiday last summer. It was shipped through the intercession of Sidney Jaffe, director of finance of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia with which the home for the aged is affiliated. Mr. Robinson said the Jewish community on Majorca is descended from Marranos, Jews forcibly converted to Christianity during the inquisition in the 15th Century. There are also some recent Jewish immigrants.

American Jewish Community Divided Over President Nixon's Vietnam War Policies

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9(JTA)--The American Jewish community appeared today to be as deeply split as the rest of the nation over the Government's Vietnam war policies. The antithetical views were reflected in the capital where a massive anti-war moratorium demonstration in which many thousands of Jewish youth are expected to participate, will take place Nov. 13-15. Efforts by Jewish student and youth organizations to find housing last week end for the demonstrators met with a cold reception from many but not all, synagogues and temples in the Washington area. The Washington, D.C. Board of Rabbis called on local Jews to "open their doors and their hearts" to the anti-war marchers.

The board, whose membership includes 50 Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Rabbis, issued its appeal through its president, Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Support was expressed for "all sincere and strenuous efforts in and out of Government to observe the commandment to seek peace and pursue it." The board recognized "the democratic right of all our fellow citizens who, through various non-violent means, are expressing the extreme urgency and priority for peace in Vietnam. On the Sabbath of Nov. 14-15 we propose that our congregations offer special prayers for Shalom-peace--and engage in programs and discussions emphasizing its centrality to our lives and future...We encourage our synagogues and our congregants to open their doors and their hearts in the ancient spirit of 'hachnasat orchim'--hospitality to guests, practiced by our people since the days of our forefather, Abraham."

But many Jews in the capital and elsewhere expressed fear that Jewish support for the peace demonstrators would irritate President Richard M. Nixon. Some Jewish leaders strongly endorsed the President's war policies and his Nov. 3 Vietnam speech. They appeared to agree with the President's contention that a U.S. withdrawal would precipitate a Communist victory and claimed that such an outcome would heighten the dangers faced by Israel.

Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America, took sharp issue Saturday with Jewish leaders who opposed Mr. Nixon's course. Addressing the ZOA's national executive committee, he claimed that "the problems of Vietnam and the Middle East are connected and a Communist victory in East Asia will encourage the enemies of Israel and the Arab terrorists in their attacks against our fellow Jews." Mr. Torczyner was especially critical of the view expressed by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The Reform leader called last month for a change in Vietnam policy and urged the Nixon Administration "to press for a standstill cease-fire with arrangements to be made for free elections which would, inevitably, lead to a representative coalition in South Vietnam."

Rabbi Eisendrath's remarks drew a sharp attack from Orthodox rabbis who denounced them as "irresponsible" and hastened to express their support of Mr. Nixon. Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, wrote to the President last week claiming that a "silent majority" of American Jews supported him. In his Nov. 3 speech, Mr. Nixon called for support from the "silent majority" of Americans against what he termed the "loud minority."

Another pledge of support for the President's war policies came from Bernard B. Drenfeld, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. He wired the White House that "the Jewish War Veterans have faith that President Nixon's withdrawal plan will move ahead in a manner squarely within the national interest and the honor of our country."

But the American Jewish Congress, bitterly opposed to the Vietnam war, urged its members Friday to "join in effective and meaningful peace-related activities" on their local communities over the moratorium week end. "We associate ourselves with this effort as a means of dramatizing the desire of Americans in all walks of life to bring about an end to the war in Vietnam," said Mrs. Howard Levine, chairman of the AJCongress' peace committee. Among the activities suggested were community meetings, petitions and letter-writing campaigns, efforts to obtain resolutions from government bodies and briefings for Congressmen.

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) accused Mr. Nixon of fostering the same Vietnam policies as pursued by the Administration of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. Referring to the President's Vietnam television address, Rabbi Gittelsohn said it was an example of "too little, too late and too vague." Commenting on Hanoi's peace posture, the rabbi agreed that the North Vietnamese Government was not "blameless" in its refusal to respond more affirmatively at the peace table. He added that the burden for peace rests with the U.S. since the U.S. intervened in a civil war. He urged CCAR members to "openly and actively" support this week's peace moratorium.

Reform Rabbinical Students Will Spend First Year in Israel, Dr. Glueck Announces

NEW YORK, Nov. 9(JTA)--Rabbinical students entering Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will spend their first year in Israel concentrating on the study of the Hebrew language and literature, Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Reform theological seminary announced today. He said the innovation in rabbinical training would begin with the 1970-71 academic year which all first year students will spend at the HUC-JIR school in Jerusalem.

Dr. Glueck said that "a full command of Hebrew is and will always remain the foundation of rabbinic training. We now expect our rabbinic students to gain that basic command in the Hebrew language environment of Israel." He observed that "one cannot be a rabbi without being deeply immersed in the life and spirit of Israel. The year in Israel for our rabbinic students will insure that every Reform rabbi whom we will ordain will possess a close knowledge of Israel" and "will further enrich and deepen the strong ties between American Reform Judaism and the land and ideals of Israel."