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Israelis Hold Jordan Responsible For Frogmen Attack On 2 Vessels At Eilat's Port

TEL AVIV, Nov.18(JTA)--Israeli officials hold Jordan responsible for an attack by frogmen which damaged two Israeli merchant ships in the port of Eilat early Sunday. They say the frogmen may have been Egyptian but they came from Aqaba, the Jordanian seaport adjacent to Eilat. Observers here believe retaliatory action will be taken against Jordan. Israeli jets bombed Aqaba several months ago after Arab guerrillas staged a rocket attack on Eilat from Jordanian territory. But generally a tacit agreement has been in effect by which the Israelis and Jordanians refrain from attacking each other's towns.

One of the damaged ships, the 14,000 deadweight ton freighter Dahlia, has been patched up and will sail tomorrow for the Far East with a cargo of potash. She is expected to drydock at Singapore for permanent repairs. The tourist ferry Hey Daroma will be repaired locally and is expected to be seaworthy in a few days.

An Israeli intelligence officer said it was "reasonably" certain that the frogmen reached Eilat from Aqaba. They planted explosives on the underwater hulls of the two ships. The Cairo newspaper Al Ahran published a purported interview with one of the frogmen whose name and rank were withheld. He reportedly said that the operation was "rehearsed scores and scores of times" before being executed. Egypt claims the frogmen were flown in by helicopter.

Egyptian War Minister Says His Country Is Winning War Of Attrition Against Israel

LONDON, Nov.18(JTA)--Egypt's War Minister, Mohammed Fawzi, claimed yesterday that his country was winning its declared war of attrition against Israel. According to the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahran, Gen. Fawzi told a secret session of the Egyptian National Assembly that Israeli armed forces are now suffering an average of 150 fatalities a month compared to an average monthly loss of 50 men in 1967 and 82 in 1968. He attributed the results to "greater fighting efficiency" by Egyptian soldiers, better training and better armaments, Al Ahran said.

The Egyptian War Minister said that the ratio of Israel's casualties to its population was four times greater than the Egyptian figure. He said Egypt was planning to escalate its war of attrition but warned that it must be prepared to absorb counter-blows by Israel, according to Al Ahran.

(Fighting continued along Israel's borders today. A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said two soldiers were killed and two wounded in an encounter with saboteurs near the Jordan River. Four soldiers and a soldier's visiting wife were wounded in an early morning bazooka attack by Arab commandos on military headquarters near El Arish in northern Sinai. A curfew was imposed on the area. Jordanian and Israeli forces engaged in an artillery duel across the Jordan River in the Turkmaniyah area today. Two local Arabs were killed by an Israeli sentry in Gaza last night when they failed to reply to a challenge in an area under curfew. Yesterday, Israeli Air Force jets carried out a series of raids on Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi artillery positions in Jordan and hit an Egyptian-manned radar station in southern Jordan. One Israeli jet was downed by anti-aircraft fire--the 15th lost since the 1967 war--but the pilot bailed out safely over Israeli territory. The radar station, which was believed to be monitoring all Israeli flights in the Negev and Sinai, was knocked out early this year but was rebuilt.

Israel Charges That Moscow Is Preparing To Welcome Former Pro-Nazi Arab

JERUSALEM, Nov.18(JTA)--Israeli sources charged today that the Soviet Union is prepared to welcome to Moscow a former pro-Nazi Arab in order to further its political and military penetration of the Middle East. The sources said that Egyptian Vice President Anwar El-Saadat, who will head an Egyptian mission to Russia, was an organizer of the movement for an Arab alliance with Nazi Germany in 1941. They said that Mr. El-Saadat confirmed this role in his personal memoir, "Revolution on the Nile."

The Israelis said that Soviet experts and advisers are now active on all levels of the Egyptian economy and Army and fulfill virtually every operational function except actual fighting. They said that Moscow is also prepared to receive the first official delegation of Arab terrorist organizations. These sources believe that the Soviets will grant more arms to Egypt which means that more Soviet technicians will be going to Cairo to instruct the Egyptians.

2 Leading Soviet Newspapers Call Punishment Of Arabs 'Nazi-Like Outrage'

LONDON, Nov.18(JTA)--The two leading Soviet newspapers charged Israel yesterday with imposing collective punishment on Arabs in the occupied territories and called it a "Nazi-like outrage." Pravda, the Communist Party organ, and Izvestia, the Government newspaper, referred to a statement by Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Dayan that Arabs would be held responsible for terrorist activities in their neighborhoods if they failed to cooperate with the authorities.

An article in Pravda signed by Igor Belyayev said "the present rulers of Israel have decided to

follow the course of the Hitlerites. How does the new Dayan doctrine differ from what the Fascists perpetrated in occupied territory? The Hitlerites shot hostages and burned their houses simply because they might have sympathized with Partisans. Dayan is doing practically the same thing. His doctrine, which he is not ashamed to advertise, is an undisguised doctrine of violence." An unsigned article in Izvestia said, "the Israeli militarists continue to commit outrages on illegally occupied Arab territory." It protested the "mass arrests of peaceful (Arab) inhabitants."

Both newspapers however called for a non-military solution of the Mideast conflict and a durable peace based on the United Nations Security Council's resolution of Nov. 22, 1967. Neither referred to the recent speech by Egypt's president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, who said that violence and bloodshed were the only solution.

See Guerrilla Control Of Lebanon's Refugee Camps Affecting U.S. Aid For UNRWA

WASHINGTON, Nov.18(JTA)--Arab guerrilla control of virtually all refugee camps in Lebanon may affect the United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). A \$23.2 million UNRWA grant comes to the House floor for debate tomorrow.

Rep. Jonathan Bingham, a New York Democrat, indicated last week that he might attach a rider preventing funding for UNRWA until control of the Lebanese camps passed out of guerrilla hands. Mr. Bingham said yesterday however that he was having second thoughts after talks with Administration officials and has not decided whether an amendment will be introduced.

At the United Nations yesterday, Israel's Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah, maintained that "the UN cannot give assistance to persons engaged in warfare against a member state. When a refugee camp passes under the control of terror organizations, UNRWA is not entitled to continue...relief and services."

Dr. Laurence Michelmores, commissioner general of UNRWA, conceded that "armed men" had taken over in some Lebanese refugee camps and that the Lebanese camp authorities disappeared. However, he said, as a result of talks with the Lebanese government, he "assumes" conditions will "soon change in the direction of the previous pattern" which would mean the return of the camps to Lebanese Government administration. Dr. Michelmores said he was "satisfied that the integrity of UNRWA operations has been maintained," and that UNRWA assistance goes to bona fide refugees and not to guerrillas.

But other UNRWA sources admitted that some bona fide refugees might also be active members of commando units. According to reports from Lebanon, the Beirut Government was negotiating with guerrilla leaders for a system of dual sovereignty over the camps which could allow military training of the inmates.

The U.S. position appeared to be that the UN should not cut off aid to the Arab refugees under existing circumstances because that would lead to a "radicalization" of the refugees and a further aggravation of the problem. Israelis have argued that once commando groups controlled a camp, even if it returned officially to Lebanese administration, the "radicalization" process would go on and continued UN aid would be wrong and wasted.

The U.S. is the major contributor to UNRWA. But even without an American fund cut-off, Dr. Michelmores warned yesterday, the agency would have to cut down its present level of minimal services unless new sources of income are found by next spring. The feeling among diplomats is that UNRWA would take no measures to cut off aid to guerrilla-controlled camps unless there was pressure from the U.S. Congress or State Department. They said the agency would "eagerly accept" any Lebanese assurance that the situation would return to normal.

5 Parties Try To Hammer Out Common Foreign, Domestic Policies For New Government

TEL AVIV, Nov.18(JTA)--The five parties in the outgoing national coalition Government met for five hours yesterday to try to hammer out a common policy on foreign and domestic issues that will guide the new coalition whenever it is formed. They spent about half the time arguing over procedure. But no changes were proposed in the present coalition platform dealing with foreign affairs and security.

The inter-party talks were boycotted by Mapam, junior partner in the Labor Alignment. Mapam, which is Marxist oriented and takes a conciliatory line towards the Arabs, has refused to join a coalition with rightist, hardline Gahal (Herut-Liberal Alignment) based on a common platform. So far Mapam has resisted Labor Party pressure to back down. There is talk in both Labor Party and Mapam circles that the best solution would be for Mapam to withdraw from the political alignment with Labor which was formed earlier this year. In that event, Mapam would be excluded from the new coalition.

Some Labor Party members however are finding it difficult to accept Gahal's demands for changes in the economic and social policies of the outgoing coalition. Gahal submitted a lengthy document proposing, among other things, the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes and a new national health insurance plan. In addition to Labor and Gahal, the other factions represented at yesterday's meeting were the National Religious Party, the Independent Liberals and the Poalei Agudat Israeli.

Meanwhile, the Labor Alignment managed to retain the mayorship of Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, by agreeing to concessions demanded by the National Religious Party which will be its coalition partner. The NRP will get the posts of acting mayor and will be given control of several municipal departments. In addition, life in Tel Aviv will be made to conform, at least outwardly, to Orthodox religious practice. The planetarium will be closed Saturdays. There will be no public shows on that day and even private shows will not be permitted to advertise planetarium performances taking place on Friday nights.

B'nai B'rith Women Set Letter Campaign To Urge Hanoi To Lift 'Curtain' On Prisoners

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18(JTA)--The B'nai B'rith Women announced today that they were starting a nationwide letter-writing campaign among their 135,000 members to urge the North Vietnamese Government in Hanoi to lift its "dark curtain" over 1,300 American prisoners of war who are being held incommunicado in violation of the Geneva Convention. Mrs. Michael Shapiro, international president of the B'nai B'rith Women, said the letters would be addressed to Hanoi, the United Nations, U.S. Congressmen, governments and newspapers throughout the world.

"Shockingly, the savage regime in North Vietnam has drawn a dark curtain of secrecy over the cruel treatment of American prisoners of war, except for the cynical release of a few, purely for propaganda purposes," Mrs. Shapiro said. "Hanoi has placed more than 1,000 American women in a cruel, heart-breaking dilemma. They have no way of knowing whether they are wives or widows," she added. Mrs. Shapiro said the B'nai B'rith Women will urge Hanoi to permit the International Red Cross to visit the prisoners and to arrange for a flow of letters and packages to them in accordance with the Geneva rules.

Canadian Jewish Leaders Rap Jewish Defense League Following Rabbi Kahane's Speech

TORONTO, Nov. 18(JTA)--Leaders of Canadian Jewry yesterday rapped the self-styled Jewish Defense League, an organization that claims to protect Jews and Jewish property in racially tense urban areas. Murray Spiegel, chairman of the National Joint Committee on Community Relations of B'nai B'rith and the Canadian Jewish Congress, said the Jewish community in Canada had no need for JDL intervention and thoroughly disapproved of its methods which he said, have no application to the Canadian scene.

Mr. Spiegel's statement was prompted by a meeting at Bethel Temple where 160 people were addressed by Meir Kahane, founder and director of the JDL. Mr. Kahane, an Orthodox rabbi, claimed that his organization has 400 members in Montreal who are training for combat at a local armory and 63 paid-up members in Toronto. Stanley Kotick, president of the Bethel Temple Brotherhood, said he supported the Canadian Jewish Congress' position. He said Rabbi Kahane was invited to speak because he is a controversial figure and can "turn a crowd on." The JDL was founded by Rabbi Kahane in Brooklyn. It was most recently engaged in a bitter campaign to defeat Mayor John V. Lindsay for reelection on grounds that he abetted anti-Semites.

Second Round Of Israel-EEC Preferential Agreement Talks Slated For Dec. 10-12

BRUSSELS, Nov. 18(TA)--The second round in the negotiation of a preferential trade agreement between Israel and the European Common Market countries will take place here Dec. 10-12. There is already a complete agreement on general principles, though positions differ slightly on some details. Israel hopes that the ECC will improve its sales ability in the industrial sector. It also looks for an improvement in the agricultural sector since Western Europe is the natural market for Israeli produce. A number of concessions to be granted to Spain, also a citrus producing country, might be extended to Israel, sources said.

The Israelis are aware however that their requests can pose a delicate problem for the European community which would like to balance concessions to Israel with similar grants to Egypt and Lebanon. The ECC will open exploratory talks with Egypt later this month. An Egyptian spokesman said his country has asked for a preferential agreement and the same has been requested by Lebanon.

Canada's Foreign Secretary Says New UN Emergency Force Is Needed Between Israel, Egypt

OTTAWA, Nov. 18(JTA)--Mitchell Sharp, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, says he would be "more optimistic" about the possibility of Middle East peace if a new United Nations Emergency Force had been requested by Israel and Egypt to lie as a buffer between them. Mr. Sharp met reporters here on his return from an eight-day tour which took him to Teheran, Israel and Cairo. He called the present situation "dangerous" and termed it "confrontation without concession from any party."

He said that he had brought no peace proposals to his talks with Premier Golda Meir or President Abdel Nasser. He said that a cooling down in the tone of speeches--an apparent reference to Col. Nasser--would help improve the political climate in the area. He did not see any outbreak of an all-out war as imminent.

Israeli Diplomats Says Nasser Gave Sharp False 'Sweet Talk'

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18(JTA)--Diplomatic quarters here said today that Mr. Sharp had been given "the sweet talk that Nasser reserves for visiting Western statesmen."

The diplomats commented on press reports of Mr. Sharp's statement upon leaving Cairo. He was quoted as having said that both Israel and Egypt equally desire peace. This remark was described here as "another example of Nasser's two-facedness and hypocrisy." Israel has learned that his talks with Western statesmen should not be taken seriously; rather, attention should be paid, to his "official war-like speeches for they are usually followed up by action while his speeches are not," a source said.

At a news conference in Cairo, Mr. Sharp said that while President Nasser had reiterated his support for the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution, the Canadian found "a good deal of discouragement" in Israel and Egypt over the outlook for progress toward a non-violent solution to the conflict. He said, "one would have to be a very considerable optimist to think that any progress had been made recently."

Supporters Of President's War Policies Hail Mrs. Meir's Message To President Nixon

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18(JTA)--Jewish and non-Jewish supporters of President Richard M. Nixon's Vietnam war policies had boundless praise today for Premier Golda Meir of Israel whose message to the President supporting his Nov. 3 Vietnam speech has created a stir in Washington. The praise came chiefly from Republicans and others who have previously denounced war critics and the mass anti-war mobilization here last week end in which thousands of Jewish youth and adults participated.

House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan, said he commended to all Americans "the bright vision" of Israel "which the Premier expresses in her congratulatory message to President Nixon on his Nov. 3 speech to the nation." Rep. Ford attacked "the simplistic and myopic view of the struggle in Vietnam which some strident critics of President Nixon's policy take" and said it was "sharply refuted by the Prime Minister of Israel". He praised her "indomitable courage and independence of mind" which "cannot be questioned." He said Mrs. Meir "knows as do her countrymen that the fate of small, still free nations everywhere is deeply involved in Vietnam." Rep. Ford is a strong advocate of the sale of Phantom jet bombers and other military equipment to Israel.

Bernard Direnfeld, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, which has always taken a hawkish stand on the Vietnam war, claimed that Mrs. Meir's support of Mr. Nixon was "highly relevant to the security both of Israel and the United States." Mr. Direnfeld claimed, in a statement issued today, that "there are many parallels between Israel's long search for peace and America's present efforts to negotiate a meaningful peace in Vietnam."

Meanwhile, Congressmen were cautious in their reaction to Mrs. Meir's message. Except for Rep. Ford, none of the Senators and Representatives contacted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency were willing to be identified by name. Their comments followed party lines. One high ranking Republican praised Mrs. Meir as a "brilliant, perceptive woman." But a prominent Democratic Senator expressed disbelief that Mrs. Meir had in effect endorsed the President's speech. A Democratic member of the House told JTA that he was reserving comment because "many of my supporters strongly support Israel but just as strongly oppose the President's Vietnam policy."

Mrs. Meir's letter was made public by the White House Sunday. It was conveyed to the President through Walworth Barbour, the U.S. Ambassador in Tel Aviv. It said: "The Prime Minister wishes to congratulate the President on his meaningful speech, and expresses her hope that he will speedily succeed in bringing about peace in Vietnam. The President's speech contains much that encourages and strengthens freedom-loving small nations the world over, which are striving to maintain their independent existence looking to that great democracy, the United States of America."

Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., addressing the Women's National Democratic Club in Washington yesterday, he said he thought Mrs. Meir's letter referred to the following passages in the Nixon speech: "Our defeat and humiliation in South Vietnam would, without question, promote recklessness in the councils of those great powers who have not yet abandoned their goals of world conquest. This would spark violence wherever our commitments help maintain peace--in the Middle East, in Berlin, and eventually even in the Western Hemisphere...Let historians not record that when America was the most powerful nation in the world, we passed on the other side of the road and allowed the last hopes for peace and freedom of millions of people of this earth to be suffocated by the forces of totalitarianism."

Strong dissent from Mrs. Meir's position was voiced by Rabbi Balfour Brickner, a war critic and national director of the commission on Interfaith Activities for Reform Judaism. He said he had no alternative as a liberal Jew but to reject Mrs. Meir's support of President Nixon on the Vietnam issue. Rabbi Brickner said, "Golda Meir has driven wedge between herself and the liberal, intellectual Jews of America who saw no conflict in supporting Israel's struggle while opposing the unjust, unwise war in Vietnam." He expressed fear that the Meir endorsement would alienate "many of Israel's friends in America's academic community, among liberal Protestants and Catholics and the clergy, and among politically active young people with liberal inclinations."

Israeli Officials Say Message Was Not Intended To Support Vietnam Policy

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18(JTA)--Official sources declared today that Mrs. Meir's message to Mr. Nixon in no way implies support for the President's policy in Vietnam. Her message was released today for publication in Israel. The sources stressed that her concern was for a speedy peace in Vietnam.

Rabin Says Israel Has Never Asked U.S. For Soldiers Or Military Advisers

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18(JTA)--Israel's Ambassador, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, said yesterday that his country has never asked the U.S. Government for soldiers or military advisers because "we see it's our responsibility to defend ourselves." Gen. Rabin spoke at a luncheon of the Women's National Democratic Club.

The envoy disclosed that he had received many letters from American Jews and non-Jews who sought to volunteer for military service in Israel. He said all of the would-be volunteers were thanked for their interest but none were accepted because Israel's policy is to use only its citizens in its defense forces.

Referring to recent Arab allegations that U.S. volunteers were serving with Israeli armed forces, Gen. Rabin said that there are over 3,000 Russian military advisers and Soviet Army technicians serving in Egypt. He added that the Soviet Navy was now based at Port Said and Alexandria to protect those seaports.