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Gunboats Arrive In Israel; Re-Fitting Started For Oil-Hunt Duties

HAIFA, Jan. 1 (JTA)--The five French-built gunboats which arrived here last night after a 3,700 mile voyage from Cherbourg were being prepared today for a civilian role as oil-prospecting craft. The Israeli naval crews which brought the 40-knot craft from the French port turned them over to civilian crews engaged by Netivei Nepht, an Israeli firm that prospects for offshore oil.

The five boats were anchored in the Kishon River estuary while technicians surveyed them for possible damage sustained during their six-day voyage. Their officers reported that the trip had been stormy throughout and that 18-foot waves had been encountered at one stage. They denied that the boats were escorted at any time by Israeli naval craft. They said they were refueled from other ships on the high seas.

The voyage of the five boats created an international sensation after it was learned that they slipped out of Cherbourg harbor on Christmas Day, reportedly flying the Norwegian flag. The boats were built in France for the Israeli Navy but were "frozen" there under the French Government's arms embargo against Israel. Although unarmed when they left Cherbourg, they are designed to carry Israel-made "Gabriel" sea-to-sea missiles.

Officials of Netivei Nepht permitted reporters and cameramen to board the vessels after their arrival to emphasize that they were not armed and had no military equipment. The officials said the boats were leased from Starboat & Weill, S.A., a Panamanian concern which purchased them in France. Starboat & Weill is reportedly largely owned by Maritime Fruit Carriers Ltd., an Israeli shipping company that specializes in the transportation of frozen produce. The boats were given a rousing welcome by hundreds of Israelis who had been looking out for them for the past few days. News of their arrival was immediately transmitted to Premier Golda Meir who was attending a plenary session of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

When the boats left Cherbourg under mysterious circumstances early on Dec. 25, world-wide opinion was that the Israelis had executed a brilliant coup in seizing their property under the noses of the French. The French Government reacted sharply, suspending two high-ranking Defense Ministry officials, pending an inquiry.

(The French Government formally named today Adm. Mordechai Limon, chief of Israel's purchasing mission in Europe, as the official they wanted Israel to recall in the gunboat incident. This was made known to Israeli envoy Walter Eytan by French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, who interrupted his New Year holiday to call in the Israeli envoy, an action interpreted by reliable sources in Paris as indicating the importance of the matter to the French Government.

(However, immediately after that meeting, Mr. Eytan and four members of the Embassy staff, went to the Elysee Palace, the official residence of President Pompidou, for a reception honoring the diplomatic corps. Many observers in Paris, the JTA reported, expressed surprise that in view of the manifested displeasure of the French Government, a full delegation of the Israel Embassy, including the military attache in full uniform, were invited to the Palace to express good wishes to President Pompidou.

(The London Telegraph said editorially today that the release of the gunboats to Israel was "conducted at some high level, though not necessarily by the two French generals who have been suspended." The Telegraph said that if Pompidou intended to start a reversal of the de Gaulle arms embargo, this was "a strange way to set about it," adding that the "uncanny silence" of the Arabs over the incident probably stemmed from assurance of French favors to come.)

The boats, which originally had Israeli naval names, were re-named "Starboat" numbers one through five. Netivei Nepht officials said the boats would be used for oil prospecting and to guard oil-drilling craft. They were the last units of a fleet of 12 ordered by the Israeli Navy in 1966 and paid for in full. Seven were delivered before then President Charles de Gaulle imposed his embargo and are now on duty in the Israeli Navy.

Secretary Rogers Reported To Consider Gunboat Exploit 'Amusing'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers carefully followed the voyage of the five Israeli gunboats from Cherbourg to Haifa and reportedly found the episode "very amusing." He disclosed his interest in the incident in informal conversation at a year-end cocktail party given by the State Department Correspondents Association. A number of other State Department officials indicated that they, too, enjoyed following the unusual affair.

Six Underwater Oil Drillings Planned In Israel During 1970

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Fourteen test drillings for oil in Israel will be made during 1970 at a total cost of about \$10 million, with capital to be provided almost entirely by foreign firms, Development

Minister Chaim Landau reported today. He disclosed the plans during a visit to the Ashdod port where an oil drilling ship, the Typhoon, had been brought by the American Beico Co. The Typhoon will carry out six underwater drillings, with the remaining eight test drills on land, four by Israeli firms and four by foreign firms, he said, listing as among the foreign firms Belpecto and Mayflower.

Israel Jets Twice Hit Suez Canal, Jordanian Targets; Israeli Watchman Kidnapped

TEL AVIV, Jan 1 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military positions in the northern and southern sections of the Suez Canal zone today and were also active over Jordan last night and twice today. A military spokesman said a morning attack in the canal zone was aimed at artillery batteries and anti-aircraft gun emplacements near Port Suez in the south and lasted for an hour and 20 minutes. A later attack hit artillery positions and other military objectives in the northern canal zone. All planes returned safely.

The air attacks on Jordan followed a night of heavy artillery and mortar duels across the Beisan and Jordan valleys. The first attacks at night and this morning hit guerrilla positions overlooking the Beisan Valley and also struck for the third time at Jordan's Ghor irrigation canal. The later attack blasted guerrilla positions opposite Nahal Tzofar in the Araba region near the Dead Sea.

Fighting flared along the Lebanese border last night as Arab guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets at Israeli settlements causing damage but no casualties. A band of saboteurs infiltrated Israeli territory from Lebanon and kidnapped 50 year-old Reuben Rosenwasser who was on guard duty at Metullah. Israel has asked the International Red Cross to take immediate steps to secure his release. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said today Israel viewed the kidnapping with "utmost gravity." He visited Metullah and spoke to the family of the kidnap victim. Mr. Rosenwasser was seized after midnight and the guerrillas were seen fleeing with him but other Israeli guards refrained from shooting out of fear of hitting the Israeli watchman. Gen. Dayan, who was accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev and Air Force Commander Gen. Motti Hod, said there had been a significant deterioration along the Lebanese border recently and that he expected it to get worse.

A military spokesman said the rocket attacks from Lebanon were unusually severe. One rocket exploded in a flat in Kiryat Shemona where five persons were sleeping but no one was hurt although the apartment was badly damaged. Damage was done to other houses and windows were smashed in the township. The attack sent settlers to bomb shelters for over an hour.

A settler from Kibbutz Baram escaped unhurt when his car was attacked with bazooka fire on a road near the Lebanese border. But two Israeli soldiers and a 16 year-old boy were wounded during last night's Jordanian mortar attacks on Beisan Valley settlements. Shells hit a cowshed at Ashdod Yaacov killing four cows. Other livestock was destroyed in attacks on Maoz Chaim and Tel Katzir by Jordanian gunners and Iraqi artillery stationed in Jordan. Israeli forces returned the fire in the direction of the Jordanian villages of Irbid and Umm Kiss. Israel Air Force jets attacked the artillery positions silencing them.

One Arab was killed and two others were wounded when a small Russian-made hand grenade exploded in East Jerusalem today. The victim was a resident of Silwan village outside of Jerusalem. A local Arab was killed and another was injured when a hand grenade was thrown at a police vehicle in Hebron today. The grenade missed the vehicle and exploded at a vegetable stand. Israeli police cordoned off the area and arrested all the vendors in the vicinity for questioning. The terrorist was reported to have stood among them for some time before throwing the grenade.

Life Terms Given Three Guerrillas; More Terrorists' Homes Razed

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Life imprisonment terms were imposed today by military tribunals on two leaders of a saboteur group from Jordan and on a 19-year-old Syrian-born Arab. Meanwhile Israeli security forces demolished yesterday six houses in the Samaria area belonging to known terrorists.

A tribunal in Nablus handed down the life sentences on Abdul Diab Mahdawwy and his deputy, Al Afad Nassara, and imposed 30-year terms on five other members of the group, who were captured on Dec. 1 in the Jordan rift the day after they crossed over from Jordan. They were members of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by George Habbash, believed to be responsible for the attacks on El Al planes and offices in Europe. A tribunal in the Golan Heights imposed a life term on Ahmed Abdul Samekh of Aleppo, one of a group of guerrillas who killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded two others in an ambush. In the razing operation, two houses each were destroyed in Tulkaram, Jenin and Nablus. The center of Nablus remained under curfew after a grenade blast which injured 10 local Arabs. More than 150 persons were detained for questioning.

Cleaver Asserts U.S. Militant Blacks Support Anti-Israel Guerrillas

LONDON, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Eldridge Cleaver, the Black Panther leader wanted by American police, said in Algiers yesterday that the militant Negro movement in the U.S. fully supports Palestinian guerrilla activities against Israel. Cleaver, who has found asylum in Algeria, told the newspaper El Moudjahid that "Zionists, wherever they may be, are our enemies." He said the Panthers "totally support the armed struggle of the Palestinian people against the watchdogs of imperialism." He charged that the U.S. uses the Zionists "to torpedo the struggle of our people for liberation." Cleaver met earlier with El Fatah leader Yasser Arafat and pledged Black Panther cooperation against all pro-Israel Jews.

New Trade Minister Forecasts Two 'Lean Years' For Israel's Economy

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--At least two "lean years" for the Israeli economy was predicted yesterday by Joseph Saphir, the new Trade and Industry Minister, in an address to the Israel Manufacturers Association. He declared also that the decline in Israel's dollar reserves "cannot be arrested immediately" but he added that Israel must be alert that "they do not drop below the safety line. Our aim must be to restore reserves to the safe level by 1972."

He renewed a proposal which he had made frequently in previous years that the Government sell to private owners abroad some of its enterprises. He also indicated that the Treasury would give more long-term loans from the development budget to industry.

In a related development, the Alignment committee on economics decided last night that wage policies for the coming year will be decided by a group to be named by the committee. Views on wage levels were reported to range from those of the Manufacturers Association whose members are willing to grant pay increases of around five percent to those of the leftist Mapam, which is demanding increases ranging from 10 to 15 percent. Officials said the issue must be decided by Jan. 15 when the semi-annual consumers price index is published, which is the basis for cost-of-living allowance adjustments now added to all salaries in Israel. The issue of retaining the automatic linkage is one of the problems which will be considered, the officials added.

Jewish Agency Sets Record Budget, Dates For Actions Committee Meeting

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--A record budget of \$380 million was adopted by the Jewish Agency today for the next fiscal year. According to the Agency's treasurer, Leon Dulcin, the \$50 million increase over the current budget is based on the expectation of 60,000 immigrant arrivals this year compared to 35,000 which was the basis of last year's budget.

Mr. Dulcin said the new budget anticipated a substantial increase in contributions from fund-raising agencies abroad. He noted that in the last three years they provided a record \$730 million. They are now expected to raise a similar amount in two years. The new budget was approved at a plenary session of the Jewish Agency executive and will be submitted to the Zionist General Council in February.

The Jewish Agency executive decided that the General Council (Actions Committee) will be convened between Feb. 24 and March 2. Its agenda will include an address by Jewish Agency chairman Aryeh L. Pincus on the current state of Zionism and a report from the treasurer, Leon Dulcin. Also in the order of business will be a world membership census of the Zionist organization and the organization of elections to the next Zionist Congress. One of the sessions will be addressed by Premier Golda Meir.

News In Brief

LONDON, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Three prominent British Jews on the Queen's New Year Honors List will be knighted and three other British and Commonwealth Jews are to be made Commanders of the British Empire which carries no title. Knighthood will be conferred on Alfred Jules Ayer, a professor of logic at Oxford who becomes Sir Alfred Ayer; Philip Jack Oppenheimer, managing director of the diamond syndicate who becomes Sir Philip Oppenheimer and Rudy Sternberg, of the Export Council who will be knighted Sir Rudolph Sternberg. The CBE will be awarded to William Frankel, editor of the London Jewish Chronicle; J.E. Marks, a Canadian industrialist and L. Kadoorie, an industrialist from Hong Kong.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar of Israel received the heads of Christian churches today to extend good wishes for the New Year and express Israel's desire for peace. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch, Benedictos, replied that the Christian communities in the country will do their utmost "so that peace and love shall reign here." The only prelate not to attend was the Latin Patriarch who sent a representative.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban will pay an official visit to the West German Federal Republic in February on the invitation of Bonn's Foreign Minister, Walter Scheel, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today. Mr. Eban will be the first Israeli Foreign Minister to visit Germany. The only other Israeli minister to visit Germany while in office was Chaim Tsadok who was Minister of Trade and Industry at the time. The Foreign Ministry said a return invitation has been extended by Israel to Mr. Scheel. Mr. Eban will also visit Belgium and Holland in February.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--The Jerusalem municipality is trying to find a way to crack down on movie posters showing nude figures. Acting at the request of Deputy Mayor Moshe Porush, of the Orthodox Agudat Israel faction, it has asked Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro for legal guidance in the matter. Under present law the municipality cannot prevent movie theater owners from posting posters from films that have been passed for screening by the Government-appointed film censorship board.

PRINCETON, N.J., Jan. 1 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir of Israel is fourth on the list of women who Americans admire most, according to a new Gallup poll. Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, wife of the late President, headed the list in the 22nd such poll taken by the Gallup organization. Mrs. Eisenhower received 125 votes among 1,511 adults of both sexes interviewed in the poll which was made in late November. Premier Ghandi of India was second with 112 votes, Mrs. Richard Nixon was third with 110 votes and Mrs. Meir ranked fourth with 103 votes, ahead of Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, Mrs. Joseph Kennedy, Mrs. Robert Kennedy, Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, Queen Elizabeth and Sen. Margaret Chase Smith.

JDL Head Blames Mayor Lindsay For Clash During Soviet Mission Protest

NEW YORK, Jan 1 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, director of the Jewish Defense League, accused Mayor Lindsay's office yesterday of responsibility for a clash last Tuesday between JDL members and the police at a demonstration outside the Soviet mission to the United Nations. A spokesman for the Mayor's office said that the matter was "completely handled by the Police Department" and that the charge against the Mayor's office was "fiction."

Rabbi Kahane, who was one of 27 persons, mostly JDL members, arrested in the melee, also charged that the clash developed when police refused to honor a permit permitting a demonstration at the site on behalf of Soviet Jewry. He said the permit had been honored previously in the JDL-proclaimed vigil. All of the arrested demonstrators were released in their own custody.

Moscow Chief Rabbi Assails JDL Protest Tactics For Soviet Jewry

LONDON, Jan 1 (JTA)--Moscow Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin has denounced the Jewish Defense League for its demonstrations in New York City on behalf of Soviet Jewry, declaring that the JDL was jeopardizing Russian Jewry, it was reported here yesterday from Moscow. He was quoted as saying that "one must not speak to the Soviet Union by such methods."

Rabbi Levin declared also that the JDL had no right to stage a protest at the New York office of the Soviet's Tass news agency. He did not mention other protests by the JDL but said "these activities could cause complications for Jews seeking permission to go to Israel."

ADL Survey Finds 29 States Improved Civil Rights Protection During 1969

NEW YORK, Jan 1 (JTA)--A year-end survey by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith disclosed that 29 states adopted laws improving the protection of civil rights during 1969. The results of the survey were published in "Law," an ADL publication. The number of states passing protective laws was down 13 since 1967, the last year in which nearly all legislatures met for general business. This was attributed to the fact that "most states in which one can realistically expect enactment of such laws have already taken action," the publication said. A majority of the laws passed in 1969 strengthened existing legislation against discrimination.

The survey found, however, that fair housing legislation still lags well behind existing enactments against other types of discrimination. Five states--Delaware, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico and Washington--passed fair housing laws in 1969 bringing the total up to 26 states. There are 37 states with laws against discrimination in employment and 38 that have laws against discrimination in places of public accommodation. "Law" is edited by Sol Rabkin, director of the ADL's law department and Paul Hartman, associate director. The report noted that Indiana, Minnesota and New York added to their fair housing laws last year a prohibition against "blockbusting." A similar law was enacted by Illinois which still has no fair housing law. Maine was reported to be the first state to pass a law dealing with discrimination by private clubs which hold state liquor licenses.

Israeli Official Gives Assurances On Chicago Black Jewish Immigrants

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 1 (JTA)--The Israel Consul here has assured a local Jewish group that 39 black Jews from Chicago who arrived in Israel last month requesting immigrant status would be accorded the same treatment as all other Jews entering the country under the "law of return." Consul Moshe Yegar gave his assurances to the Philadelphia Association of Black and White Jews, a group composed of more than 100 members including rabbis and community leaders.

They had expressed concern over doubts cast on the status of the Chicago group which is being housed temporarily in Dimona, in the Negev, under Jewish Agency auspices. The Israeli chief rabinate which decrees who is and who is not a Jew is yet to render a decision in their case.

But Mr. Yegar noted that Black Jews from India, though not recognized by the entire Orthodox rabbinate in Israel, are permanently settled under the "law of return" which entitles every Jew to automatic citizenship. He said decisions on the Chicago group would not be influenced by considerations of skin color. The Chicago Negroes, including 15 children, arrived in Israel from Liberia where they tried to establish a communal settlement but were made to feel "unwanted."

Catholic Interracial Group Plans Study Of Parochial Texts For Bias

CHICGO, Jan. 1 (JTA)--A national textbook commission will examine textbooks used in Catholic elementary and high schools for racial, ethnic or religious bias, the National Catholic Conference for Inter-racial Justice announced here. The commission was initiated by the NCCIJ's department of educational services. Its members include classroom teachers, parents, academicians and textbook writers, under the direction of S. Margaret Ellen Traxler.

The first reports of the study will begin in late January. The NCCIJ conceded that "anti-Semitism and racial bigotry exists in texts and other learning tools in Catholic classrooms," adding that "sporadic ad hoc vigilante groups are not always best qualified to do the evaluation."

Prof. Sabin Begins Duties As President Of Weizmann Institute

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Prof. Albert Sabin, developer of the Sabin oral polio vaccine, took office today as president of the Weizmann Institute of Science. He succeeded Meyer Weisgal, who was named chancellor of the Institute. Mr. Weisgal had served as president since 1964.