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French Government Rejects American Concern Over Arms Deal With Libya

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The French Government has apparently rejected American expressions of concern over its reported \$400 million arms deal pending with Libya. The United States Ambassador in Paris, Sargent Shriver, brought up the subject today at a meeting with French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann. French officials said afterwards that the two had exchanged "information on all problems related to the Middle East."

State Department sources disclosed today that subject of the French-Libyan arms deal was opened last week when the French Ambassador, Charles Lucet, was informed of American views by Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mr. Lucet apparently failed to satisfy American apprehensions which may have led Ambassador Shriver to request today's meeting with Mr. Schumann.

France is reportedly negotiating with Libya for the sale of up to 50 Mirage jets, 200 tanks and other modern arms. France is also reported to have offered to take over the management and maintenance of the huge U.S. Wheelus Air Force Base near Tripoli and a British air base near Benghazi which are being evacuated at the demand of Libya's new revolutionary junta.

Talks With Libya Of General Nature

French officials have said that the talks with Libya were of "a general character." They take the view that arms sales to Libya do not violate the arms embargo that former President Charles de Gaulle imposed on belligerents in the June, 1967 Arab-Israel War. They say that unlike Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan, Libya was not a participant in that conflict.

But American officials are concerned that French arms sold to Libya would eventually find their way to Egypt and other Arab states actively fighting Israel. Military experts say that the arms involved in the French deal exceed by far Libya's defense needs and are too sophisticated for Libya's army and air force to operate.

Israel Will Take Defensive Measures Against Intensified Arab Attacks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Jan. 6 (JTA)--The United Nations Security Council was on notice from Israel today that an intensification of attacks on Israeli territory from Jordan and Lebanon obliged Israel to take "defensive measures" for the protection of its territory and population "subjected to the constant danger of murder and injury." Israel accused Jordan, in a letter to the Security Council delivered Monday of responsibility for more than 120 attacks from Jordanian territory during the last week of December and charged that there had been 19 armed attacks from Lebanon in the last ten days.

In about 30 of the attacks from Jordanian territory, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah reported, "Israeli villages in the Jordan and Beit Shean valleys were shelled indiscriminately." He said the attacks from Jordan territory have continued in the first days of January.

The attacks from Jordan, the Israeli envoy declared, "are part of a campaign of aggression aimed at inflicting casualties and destruction on the Israeli civilian population." He warned that "aggression from Jordan in violation of the cease-fire cannot be tolerated. Israel must insist on strict and reciprocal observance of the cease-fire and reserves the right of self-defense against armed attacks emanating from Jordanian territory."

Lebanese Aggression Is Flagrant Violation Of UN Charter

Mr. Tekoah told the Security Council that Israel held Lebanon responsible for the abduction of a civilian watchman from Metulla and for other acts of aggression by "raiders from Lebanon." He pointed out that "aggression from Lebanon has grown considerably in the wake of the agreement concluded on November 3, 1969 between the Government of Lebanon and terror organizations, through the mediation of the United Arab Republic Government."

Under this agreement, he reminded the Security Council, "Lebanon permits these organizations to operate in and from its territory in flagrant violation of the cease-fire and the United Nations Charter." He pointed out that "the Government of Israel has repeatedly called on Lebanon to realize the grave responsibility it has assumed in pursuing this policy of aggression and to desist from it." Lebanon, however, he said, "has not modified its attitude and aggression from its territory against Israel have further increased."

The Israeli envoy then declared that "under these circumstances, Israel is obliged to take defensive measures for the protection of its territory and its population subjected, as a result of Lebanon's policy, to the constant danger of murder and injury." Previously, Lebanon had complained to the Security Council against the Israeli punitive action last Friday involving the seizure of hostages at Qalla and Tal-Nahas. The Lebanese, however, did not ask for a Security Council meeting.

Israeli Jets Blast Egyptian Positions And Return Home Safely

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets blasted Egyptian positions in the southern sector of the Suez Canal zone for more than an hour today and returned safely to their bases. Earlier, Egyptian Air Force jets made their first appearance in two weeks in two attempts to bomb Israeli positions at the northern end of the canal zone.

A military spokesman said that four MIG-17s appeared over Kantara at nine a.m. local time and four Sukhov bombers came over 55 minutes later. He said the planes dropped their bombs harmlessly and turned tail. There were no casualties or damage done in either attack.

Last night an alert Israeli patrol repulsed an Egyptian commando attempt to land on the east bank of the Suez Canal near Port Tewfik. Nine Egyptians were found dead on the sand after the rest of the raiding party escaped under cover of an Egyptian artillery barrage. Blood stains indicated that other Egyptian commandos may have been hit.

Cairo Claims Huge Military Victory For Egypt

(A military spokesman in Cairo claimed "huge victories" for Egyptian air and ground forces in the canal zone. According to Cairo, Egyptian air attacks and commando raids caught the Israelis by surprise and inflicted heavy casualties and severe damage. Cairo mentioned no Egyptian losses.)

An Israeli military spokesman said it was not clear what the mission was of the attempted Egyptian commando landing last night. He said the Egyptians did not appear to be heading for any military post or fortification but left behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition with their dead. The commandos were spotted by an Israeli patrol as they landed on the east bank of the canal at about 9:30 p.m. local time.

An Israeli military spokesman said the issue was decided in the first minutes of the encounter when Israeli salvoes ripped through the Egyptian force as it set foot on the beach. After a brief but sharp exchange of fire, the commandos retreated to their boats. There were no Israeli casualties despite heavy shelling from the Egyptian side of the canal.

Rift Detected In Herut Ranks Over Foreign Minister Eban's West German Visit

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Political antennae were tuned today for news of a possible rift in the ranks of Herut, the militant nationalist party which, along with the Liberals, comprises Gahal, the second strongest faction in the national coalition government.

So far there has been no word of trouble in Herut ranks. But reports that the new Minister of Transport, Gen. Ezer Weizman, voted against his Herut colleagues at Sunday's Cabinet meeting have been reliably confirmed. The issue was relatively minor but one that has agitated Herut leader Menachem Beigin and others for some time -- Israel's relations with West Germany. Herut protested Foreign Minister Abba Eban's acceptance of an official invitation to visit West Germany next month. Herut policy insists that Israel have no relations whatever with Germany.

Gen. Weizman, who joined the Cabinet on the Herut slate, surprised everyone by voting with the Liberals on the question. The Gahal -- Herut-Liberal alignment -- provides freedom of voting on questions concerning Germany.

Israel's Citrus Exports Blocked By Longshoremen's Strike In Haifa

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--A longshoremen's strike in Haifa and a threatened strike at the port of Ashdod is holding up Israel's citrus exports at the peak of the season. The Haifa dockworkers walked out in a long smouldering dispute with the Port Authority. Israel's new Minister of Transport, former Air Force Gen. Ezer Weizman, was on the waterfront today to attempt to work out a solution.

At Ashdod, Israel's newest port, longshoremen say they will strike for higher wages and premium payments. Meanwhile many ships are dropping anchor in Haifa Bay waiting for a loading berth. Several vessels held up at Haifa have steamed down to Ashdod in hope of loading a citrus cargo but without success. Thousands of cases of citrus fruits destined for European markets are piled high in warehouses at both ports and in danger of spoiling.

Jews Imprisoned In Egypt Subjected To Deplorable Conditions

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Deplorable conditions allegedly endured by Jews imprisoned in Egypt were described today by a tourist from France who was in Cairo recently.

The tourist said there were 78 Jews at the Abou Zaabel prison there, locked in a single cell of less than 40 square feet. He said mentally ill persons from asylums were thrown in with the rest of the prisoners. They are given very little food and all of it is bad. According to the tourist, Egyptian Jews live in constant fear.

Secret Meeting Between Israeli And Lebanese Officials On Prisoner Exchange

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Israeli and Lebanese army officers met secretly at the Ras el Nakura border post on Saturday to discuss a prisoner exchange, it was learned today. The meeting was apparently fruitless but it was held without the presence of United Nations observers or any outside parties. Israel no longer recognizes the Mixed Armistice Commissions established by the UN in 1949.

Israel Branded Aggressor By Greek Cleric Formerly Histadrut Member

CARACAS, Venezuela, Jan. 6 (JTA)--A visiting Greek Catholic church leader launched into a polemic against Israel today after protesting to newsmen that he was a "non-political" person and should not be asked "political questions."

Former Msgr. George Hakim of Haifa, now the Greek Catholic Patriarch for the Orient, branded Israel a "thief" and an "aggressor." Hakim lived in Israel for many years and was a member of Histadrut. He now lives in Damascus.

Hakim said Israel must be made to observe the United Nations resolutions that followed the 1967 Six-Day War and return the "usurped" territories. According to the Patriarch, Israel has been granted everything it has asked in the last 20 years. When asked about unfulfilled international guarantees under which Israel evacuated the captured Sinai peninsula in 1956, Hakim said as far as he knew "those promises were carried out." Several newsmen observed that his comments were "one-sided" and unbefitting a spiritual leader.

Marshal Tito Blames Israel For War Situation In The Middle East

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia blamed Israel for what he described as a "permanent war being waged in the Middle East." In an interview broadcast by Zagreb radio he claimed that there was "no good will on Israel's part" and no sign that Israel was prepared to become more flexible. It was Marshal Tito's second broadcast attack on Israel in a month.

Jewish Agency Plans Drive To Recruit Disaffected Jewish Youth

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency is planning a concerted drive to win over Jewish youth abroad who are opposed to Zionism or indifferent to it. According to Aryeh L. Pincus, Jewish Agency chairman, 200 emissaries will converge on summer camps in the United States to try to influence the "fence sitters" and those "who deny Jewish peoplehood and the right of Israel to exist as a state."

He estimated that the emissaries will reach about 50,000 American Jewish youth in the camps. He said Zionist emissaries are already active on 100 American college campuses and their numbers may be increased to cover more universities with large Jewish student bodies.

At a press conference today, Mr. Pincus outlined plans for re-organizing and broadening the Jewish Agency to include representatives of the various fund-raising agencies all over the world. The program stems from decisions of the last World Zionist Congress. Mr. Pincus said that a "Jewish Agency Assembly" to be convened for the first time next October or November would elect a new Jewish Agency executive.

The Assembly will consist of 148 delegates from the World Zionist Organizations, 89 from American fund-raising agencies and 59 from fund-raising agencies in the rest of the world. He said the plan would be brought before the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) when it convenes here shortly.

British Jewry To Observe Day Of Prayer On Anniversary Of Hanging Of Iraqi Jews

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--British rabbinical authorities and the Federation of Synagogues have declared next Saturday, a day of prayer and remembrance for the Jews who were executed in Iraq last year. Jan. 15 will be the first anniversary of the public hangings in Baghdad and Basra. Nine Jews went to the scaffold along with other Iraqis on charges of having spied for Israel and the United States.

Orthodox Group To Make Presentation To Generalissimo Franco Of Spain

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America will honor Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain by presenting him with an ancient sacramental wine cup. Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Alliance, handed the cup over to Rabbi Chaim U. Lipschitz tonight in ceremonies at Kennedy Airport. Rabbi Lipschitz, who left for Spain at the invitation of the Spanish Government, will present the cup to the Spanish dictator.

Rabbi Lipschitz, editor of the Jewish Press of Brooklyn, is author of a book, "Franco and the Jews," which credits the generalissimo with having made possible the rescue of 60,000 Jews from the Nazis during World War II. The Rabbinical Alliance is composed of about 500 Orthodox rabbis.

German National Democrats Keep Secret Locale Of Party Congress

BONN, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) may have found a site for its upcoming national party congress. But it's not saying where, for fear that the permit may be withdrawn.

The NPD, which has been accused of espousing neo-Nazi policies, was recently refused permission to hold its congress at Saarbruecken and in other West German cities. Some circles say it plans to convene at Wertheim on Feb. 14-15.

Anglo-Jewish Relief Organization Marks Its Fiftieth Anniversary

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations is marking its 50th anniversary this year. The organization, founded in 1920, grew out of efforts to help Jewish victims of the first World War and the pogroms that followed it.

Rabbi Urges Jewish Self-Defense But Assails Self-Appointed Defense Groups

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)—A member of the board of governors of the New York Board of Rabbis, writing in the current issue of the board's Bulletin, denounced self-appointed Jewish defense groups that "appear on the scene who allege to speak for the entire Jewish community while they actually only echo sentiments of a small segment of Jewry."

Rabbi Kurt Klappholz, writing on "The Defense of Jewish Rights," did not mention any existing defense group by name in his article, but the thrust appeared to be aimed at the Jewish Defense League headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane. Rabbi Klappholz, however, urged training, under Jewish auspices, of young Jews in self-defense methods to protect themselves against street attacks. He asserted that "since the established leadership of Jewry is slow moving and often unable to grasp the urgent need of the hour, self-styled leaders quickly move into the vacuum of leadership and gain public attention far beyond their importance."

He described the problem as one of people in urban centers being "afraid to walk the streets by night," and added that "Jewish economic positions in the inner city and on its fringes have become untenable. The rise of anti-Semitism among radical groups intensifies the Jewish problem in our cities." Rabbi Klappholz asserted that "our Jewish defense organizations have as yet to devise an effective plan to deal with those aggravated conditions, and unity among Jewish groups is still a messianic yearning."

Proposals Are Not Official Policy of Board of Rabbis

Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman, NYBR president, said that Rabbi Klappholz' comments and proposals were typical of the range of expression of views appearing in the publication and that they did not represent any official policy of the NYBR. He added that it was necessary to make a distinction between Jewish rights, involving such issues as anti-Semitism among Negro leaders, and the question of street attacks on Jews, which he said was a problem of street crime generally, rather than a matter of Jewish rights. He added that he felt that training of young Jews in self-defense was a useful idea.

Rabbi Klappholz said such training of young Jews would be "a deterrent to crime in our streets" and that "all Jewish groups must unite in getting better police protection and getting more Jewish auxiliary policemen in Jewish neighborhoods." He also contended that rabbis in urban communities must "become directly involved in matters of community protection and the defense of Jewish rights" and "lend our skills to the stabilization of our communities in our urban centers."

In criticizing self-styled defense groups, Rabbi Klappholz declared that "any protecting and defending of citizens' rights must be done by our police. It would be a sad day, indeed, if self-appointed groups -- Jewish or otherwise -- would take over the functions of the police in our communities" because "the end result would be civil war" and "the doom of our American society."

Hebrew Day Schools To Consider Strike To Dramatize Financial Plight

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)—More than 500 Hebrew day school educators in the New York metropolitan area will vote tomorrow night on a proposal for a city-wide Hebrew day school stoppage "to dramatize the financial plight of the yeshivas" in the area, a spokesman for the educators announced today.

The action will be considered at a Delegates Assembly of Day School educators, representing 150 Hebrew day schools, which was convened by the Association of New York City Yeshiva Principals and Administrators, according to Rabbi Naftali Langsam, chairman of the associations. Some 50,000 children attend the affected schools.

Rabbi Langsam also said the delegates, which include principals and administrators of the all-day schools, and representatives of parents groups, would be given a report on the "failure" of negotiations with the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies to obtain financial help. He said another motion to be considered will be agreement on use of "confrontation politics" to focus attention on the "financial crisis" facing the day schools. Mass demonstrations by students and parents and a possible picket line at the Federation offices will be voted on, Rabbi Langsam said.

Request For Funds Under Study By Federations

Rabbi Langsam said the meeting also would be attended by a number of college activists who took part in an effort at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds last November in Boston to obtain a commitment for more funding for Jewish education by the federations.

A spokesman said the debts of the Hebrew day schools in the New York area last year totaled between \$10 million and \$12 million. He said the New York Federation gives subsidies to individual Hebrew day schools but that the total of such subsidies last year was about \$40,000, "less than a dollar per pupil."

The spokesman said that, during negotiations with Federation officials, day school representatives had asked for a "minimum" funding this year of \$6 million. He said that the only response so far to the day school requests was that the Federation was "studying" the request.

The spokesman said that teachers were talking about a strike, that parents of day school students were being "taxed to capacity," and that "frustrated and harried administrators" would not use new educational developments because of "inflation and rising costs."