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Israel Reports Two Soviet Built Fighter Bombers Blasted Out Of The Air

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Two Soviet-built Egyptian Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers were blasted out of the air by U.S.-made Hawk ground-to-air missiles over the Gulf of Suez yesterday. The "kill" was reported by Israeli ground crews who said the Egyptian jets blew up in a shower of debris and their pilots were killed.

The planes had attempted a low level attack on an Israeli base near Ras Sudar on the east shore of the Gulf of Suez, south of the Suez Canal. They made one bombing run in which an Israeli soldier sustained slight wounds but no damage was done. A military spokesman said the latest action brought the total number of enemy planes shot down since the June, 1967 Six-Day War to 81. He said that of that number, 64 were Egyptian and 17 were Syrian. (Egypt's version of the incident claimed the destruction of an Israeli Hawk missile site by its bombers.)

Israeli forces killed 12 Arab saboteurs and captured four in a series of clashes in the Arava region and the Jordan Valley over the week-end. Israeli security forces seized a massive arms cache in the Sinai desert near Eilat yesterday, the largest found to date. It contained some 300 bazooka shells, 19 bazookas, a machine gun, 200 Russian-made hand grenades and a vast quantity of light arms ammunition, all apparently destined for terrorists in the Gaza Strip. The Arab village of Jish, in northern Israel, was attacked by Arab guerrillas from across the Lebanese border Friday night. Two buildings were blown up but none of the occupants was hurt. Jish is inhabited by Maronite Christians. The village elders who called the act revolting decided to employ guards and called for volunteer watchmen among the villagers. Jish was the first Arab village attacked by saboteurs.

French Government Under Sharp Attack From Left For Libya Arms Sale

PARIS, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The Government of President Georges Pompidou came under sharp criticism from many quarters today for its decision to sell arms to Libya including 50 supersonic Mirage III jets, while maintaining its tight embargo on arms sales to Israel. The criticism came from leftist sources, normally unfriendly to Israel, from newspapers that generally support the Government and from the pro-Government independent republican parties and the orthodox Gaullist UDT faction.

The feeling in French political circles was that the Pompidou regime has adopted a clearly pro-Arab policy which is expected to become even more evident in the coming weeks. On its part, Government quarters tried to placate angered public opinion by stressing that the first Mirages will not be delivered to Libya until 1971. Official circles also justified the arms deal by the importance of Libyan oil. France imports 17 percent of its oil from Libya and from now on will pay for it with French francs, government sources said. They claimed that Libyan oil costs France a dollar less per barrel than its main oil imports from Algeria.

But the left-wing daily Combat, never a partisan of Israel, headlined the Libyan deal story, "A Criminal Betrayal." The newspaper Figaro questioned the morality of a government which "sells arms to one side while refusing to supply the means of self-defense to the other." L'Aurore said President Pompidou has outdone former President de Gaulle in the one-sidedness of his Middle East policy. The central committee of the Socialist Party held a special meeting to discuss the Libyan deal. It issued a communique deploring the arms sale as a "tragic act." Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann and Defense Minister Michel Debre are to appear before the political committee of the Gaullist UDT faction Tuesday to explain the Government's act.

Canadian Jewish Leaders Ask Government To Re-Examine Middle East Policy

OTTAWA, Jan. 11 (JTA)--A delegation representing the Canadian Jewish community, asked Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Acting Prime Minister today for a re-examination of Canadian foreign policy with regard to the Middle East and a "new diplomatic initiative" to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The delegation expressed Canadian Jewry's deep apprehension over what it described as the seriously deteriorating situation in the Middle East. Saul Hayes, executive vice president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, pointed out that since the Six-Day War in 1967, there had been a steady erosion of support for Israel among the Western powers while, at the same time, there was the Soviet Union's increasingly militant support of the Arab states. These developments, he said, faced the world "with a very dismal prospect of stability in the Middle East."

Speaking for the delegation, composed of leaders of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada, Mr. Hayes proposed that the Canadian Government undertake a new examination of its foreign policy with respect to the Middle East, based on "present-day realities" rather than on the actions of the United Nations. He declared that the alignment of forces within the United Nations made that body "an instrument of doubtful validity" in determining the future of Israel.

In view of the failure of the Four Power initiative to find an acceptable solution to the conflict, the increasing ambivalence of the United States position and the inability of the United Nations to resolve the conflict, the delegation urged Canada to undertake a new diplomatic initiative.

Following an exchange of views, it was agreed that the delegation would submit policy proposals to the Canadian Government in the near future. During the meeting, Mr. Sharp who has actively sought to aid the Jewish population remaining in the Arab states, expressed his concern over the position of the Jews in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Libya. It was agreed that the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Department of External Affairs should continue their consultations with a view to ameliorating the plight of the Jews in those countries.

Bitterness Against French Sale Of Jets To Libya Reaches New Heights In Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Bitterness against France reached new heights among Israelis today following the French Government's acknowledgment that it will sell about 50 supersonic Mirage jets to Libya under a major arms deal recently concluded in Paris. The Cabinet issued a strong denunciation of the arms deal after a briefing by Foreign Minister Abba Eban at its regular Sunday session. The statement was published as an official communique. Mr. Eban is expected to hand it tonight to the French Ambassador, Francis Hure in the form of a protest and it will be transmitted to Israel's Ambassador in Paris, Walter Eytan, for immediate presentation to the French Foreign Ministry, government sources said. Diplomatic circles here said Franco-Israel relations have reached their lowest ebb since the June, 1967 Six-Day War because of the Libyan deal. (In Paris the French State radio said it could result in a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries.)

The French-Libyan arms deal is said to involve 50 Mirage III fighter-bombers, the same number and the same type of aircraft that France has withheld from Israel under its arms embargo although they were paid for in full more than a year ago. The Cabinet's communique referred to the arms embargo as "a moral and legal injustice" on top of which France "is now prepared to sell 50 Mirages to Libya which has announced its intention to join in future war efforts against Israel and which demonstrates consistent and extremist activities in the hostile campaign against Israel." The Cabinet statement went on to say, "It is safe to assume that these (French) arms will be used against Israel." The Cabinet expressed the hope that "The French Government will restore its policy of friendship and decency toward Israel to the satisfaction of both nations."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman accused the French yesterday of escalating the Middle East arms race and said they were responsible for the rapidly deteriorating situation in that region. The spokesman said France had virtually destroyed its moral position as a peace-making factor in the Arab-Israel conflict by its arms sales to Libya.

The deal was confirmed Friday by Agence France Presse which quoted sources understood to be in the French Foreign Ministry. The news agency is frequently used as an outlet for announcements the Government is unwilling to make directly. The French originally denied that any arms deal was being negotiated with Libya. Last week Paris admitted that 10-15 Mirage jets were involved in such a deal. Friday's report confirmed earlier rumors that Libya would receive 50 of the high performance warplanes, among the speediest, most efficient jet fighters in the world. The figure of 10-15 was said to represent the initial deliveries.

Israel Fears Jets Will Go To Egyptian Air Force

Israel's alarm and concern was heightened by the fear that most if not all of the Mirages would eventually find their way to the Egyptian and probably the Syrian airforces to supplement Soviet-supplied aircraft. Military experts in France and other countries say Libya's minute air force is incapable of maintaining or flying the complex, sophisticated Mirages which, in any event, are not required by Libya for defensive purposes. French sources have insisted that a clause in the Libyan arms deal forbids the transfer of the planes to any third party. But in the international arms traffic, such clauses are regarded as meaningless because there is no way to enforce them.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said here that it was clear to all who are acquainted with Libya's requirements, including France, that the weapons being sold are for the purpose of filling Arab supplies to complement Soviet weapons they are receiving in order to prepare for war against Israel. While France maintains its policy of embargo against Israel, it strengthens the war potential of the Arab states that refuse to sign a peace treaty with Israel, he said.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan lashed out at the French Government Friday when he went to Lydda Airport to greet Admiral Mordechai Limon, the chief of Israel's arms purchasing mission in France. Admiral Limon was recalled to Israel at the demand of the French Government for his alleged role in last month's gunboat affair. The French Defense Ministry accused him of signing false papers to make possible the release of five French-built gunboats withheld from the Israel Navy by the embargo. The unarmed boats left Cherbourg on Christmas Day and sailed to Israel allegedly under civilian auspices, to be used in off-shore oil prospecting.

Dayan Finds No Justification For Limon's Expulsion From France

Gen. Dayan said he could find no justification for Admiral Limon's ouster. He said the gunboats' papers were in perfect order when they left France and that his Ministry had nothing to do with them. He said the injustice of France's attitude was never more apparent than when it expelled Admiral Limon because Israel legally took possession of its property, while at the same time it was negotiating arms

deals with Libya and Iraq. The French have insisted all along that their arms sales to Iraq and Libya did not violate the Mideast arms embargo imposed by former President Charles de Gaulle during the June, 1967 Six-Day War. According to France, neither of those countries were belligerents, although Iraq sent fighting men to Jordan at the time and now maintains over 10,000 troops on Jordanian soil.

The French seek to justify their arms deal with Libya on grounds that it is better for a Western nation to supply arms to that country than to have it rely on the Soviet Union. The French insist that the deliveries of Mirages to Libya will not begin before 1971. By that time they say they are confident that the Four Powers -- United States, Soviet Russia, Britain and France -- will have reached agreement on a Middle East peace settlement acceptable to both sides. The French have claimed recently that a substantial area of agreement already has been reached among the Big Powers. Foreign Ministry officials said here today that such claims were false and were an attempt by France to blur the fact that the recent Soviet reply to American proposals had been totally negative. They said the French wanted to create the impression that some kind of agreement had been reached in order to "take the heat off the Russians." They have been trying to draw up a list of points on which there is some kind of agreement between the Four Powers but there is no sign that these include any basic issues or that any change has occurred in the Soviet attitude, the Israeli official said.

AJCongress Hears Priest Call State Department's Middle East Policy Inept

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Father John Sheerin, editor of The Catholic World, told some 1,000 persons attending today an American Jewish Congress rally for the security of Israel that the current State Department's Middle East policy is a "masterpiece of inept diplomacy" that had "evoked protests from practically all parties involved."

The priest, who recently returned from a tour of the Middle East, declared that the various proposals for a peace settlement submitted recently by the United States "represent not only a turnabout in American policy but a tragic failure to face up to some of the chief obstacles to peace."

Father Sheerin criticized Secretary of State William P. Rogers' proposal to give Arab refugees of the 1948 war the option of repatriation to Israel or resettlement in an Arab country. "I believe the Secretary's proposals will not bring about Arab recognition of the legal existence of Israel, nor will they assure security to Israel," he said. The prospect appears to be an escalated campaign of more sustained and intensified guerrilla activity "on the part of the so-called Palestinians" who "vehemently affirm that they will settle for nothing short of total destruction of the state of Israel regardless of peace commitments by Arab leaders."

Oil Diplomacy And Four Power Talks Assailed

New York Senator Charles Goodell said U.S. foreign policy should try to create an atmosphere in which responsible Arab leaders can sit down with Israeli leaders and work out a just peace. He assailed Rogers' policy as unrealistic and dangerous. "While purporting to be balanced it actually favors the Arabs," Goodell added. The Senator declared that "oil diplomacy should not be the basis for our foreign policy" and urged abandoning Four Power talks because it is a "diversionary tactic." He also criticized the French government for selling jets to Libya. Goodell noted that this country cannot afford to be so naive as to say "we can be neutral when one side says its purpose is to destroy and the other side expresses a will toward peace. How can we be neutral in such a situation?"

Representative Edward I. Koch told the rally he did not believe it is in the interest of the United States to change its policy toward Israel "so as to make it more acceptable to the Arab states." He said he supported the policy Nixon expressed when he was running for office last year that would give Israel a technological military margin to more than offset her hostile neighbors' numerical superiority. "Unfortunately, the campaign rhetoric has not been fulfilled," Koch said, "and we have seen under the present administration a change in policy which euphemistically has been labeled 'balanced policy.' Yes, the scales have been tipped, but tipped adversely to Israel and its security."

Resolution Urges Administration Not To Impose Conditions

A resolution calling on the Nixon Administration "not to draw maps, not to propose boundaries, and not to impose conditions" but to bring both sides in the Middle East conflict to the conference table was adopted by those attending the rally sponsored by the AJCongress' New York Metropolitan Council. America's proper role, the resolution continued, "must be to bring the parties together. It is not necessary for America to choose between Israel and the Arab states. Peace can come to the Middle East only if the nations of the Middle East themselves make peace." The resolution urged that Israel must "be given sufficient military power to deter attack" and warned that the current State Department's policy "plays into the hands of the USSR by offering concessions that advance Soviet designs in the Middle East."

Slovak Communist Paper States Pan-Arabism Relies On Feudal Conservative Regimes

LONDON, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The organ of the Slovak Communist Party, "Pravda," said that "the Arab Summit Conference at Rabat has shown that the idea of resistance to Israel based on the principle of Pan Arabism as a unifying factor was not sufficient because it relies on feudal and conservative regimes, tied to Western capitalism. Differences have deepened after the summit and progressive Arab regimes have found that they must come closer together and coordinate their activities." The paper added, "This does not, of course, represent agreement with the extremist activity of certain groups of the Palestinian resistance to which El Fatah does not belong. Extremism no way contributes to a realistic settlement of the Middle East crisis, as is also shown by the example of Israel."

Goldberg Feels Nixon Administration Is Not Unfriendly Toward Israel

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Arthur J. Goldberg declared last night he did not think the Nixon Administration is unfriendly to Israel despite impressions that a change in policy is taking place. "I don't think we should come to the conclusion," he told 500 Jewish leaders at an Israel Bond Organization conference. "I don't see any necessity for changing that policy and I want to express the hope that it will not be changed," Goldberg said in what he termed an extension of his remarks from an earlier prepared text. "The task of this country is to preserve our position with no hostility to anyone in the area and use diplomatic effort to get the two sides in the conflict to make peace with dignity and justice."

Goldberg noted that concern has been expressed by many in this country, Jews and non-Jews, that "our government has determined to pursue a more 'even-handed' policy than it pursued in 1967 and 1968." Goldberg, who was ambassador to the UN during that period, said he rejects "categorically the implication that our government's policy toward the Middle East during the period of my tenure at the United Nations was in any way one-sided."

He added, "we must say plainly, that as a nation we were unprepared to defend Israel" during the Six-Day War period. "We gave it sympathy and tea at the UN but didn't go beyond it," Goldberg expressed confidence that the American people now "are not willing to abandon their first commitment that Israel has the right to national sovereignty for the illusory price of currying favor with those states which level the charge of 'one-sidedness'."

Sapir Says Large Israeli Defense Budget Unavoidable

Israel's Minister of Finance Pinhas Sapir told the conference that Israel's growing productivity during the past decade had developed to a point where "we could have obtained economic independence while at the same time absorbing a steady flow of immigration." But, vast and ever-increasing security budgets "have delayed the attainment of this goal." Sapir noted that the defense expenditure in Israel's 1970 budget will amount to forty percent of the total amount. "We have no choice. We must do this because it is the one thing that separates us from destruction," he said. "This drain on our resources becomes bigger and bigger and is reflected in the growing deficit in our balance of payment. Sixty percent of this deficit is caused by military expenditures."

The Finance Minister said Israel's prime need is "immigration and economic development." The two are intertwined because "economic development is needed not only for the new immigrants but also for the pursuit of our own economic independence." In 1970 Sapir noted, immigration to Israel is expected to reach more than 60,000 from all parts of the world. "Israel has shown that we can maintain our military and political positions while, at the same time, moving ahead with the building of a strong Israel which alone is the guarantee for peace and political integrity," Sapir said. Asking rhetorically how long Israel can bear up under military attacks and terrorism, Sapir answered: "As long as may be necessary, till peace comes." He added that President Nasser has been "obliged to tell his people that Egypt and other Arab states will have to brace themselves for a long war of attrition."

New Goals For Israel Bonds In 1970

Israel Bonds will seek \$250 million in the United States and Canada in 1970 for economic development projects in Israel. This figure was disclosed at today's morning session which concluded the three-day conference. This goal, which represents an almost \$100 million increase over total bond sales in 1969, was not officially announced but it is expected that the national bonds convention scheduled in Miami at the end of February will confirm that figure. Yigal Allon will address that meeting.

At Friday's session of the Conference, Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board of governors, reported that \$159,041,750 bonds were sold last year. This, he said, represented "a record for any year in the history" of the bond drives with the exception of 1967 "when Israel's Six-Day War stimulated an outpouring of unprecedented support from Jewish communities throughout the world." The three-day conference which began Friday ended today.

Rabbi Steven Schwarzschild Resigns As Editor Of AJCongress Charging Interference

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--An official of the American Jewish Congress confirmed today the resignation of Rabbi Steven Schwarzschild as editor of the organization's intellectual publication, "Judaism," but denied the rabbi's charge that he had been forced out. Rabbi Schwarzschild, editor since 1962, said he had resigned because of "constant interference" with his "editorial freedom." Dr. Robert Gordis, a noted biblical scholar, has been named to replace him. He is a founder and first board chairman of the quarterly publication.

Rabbi Schwarzschild said that the issue which led to his decision to quit was a debate over publication of an article attacking the Jewish "establishment." The article, "Jewish New Leftism at Berkeley," was written by Michael P. Lerner, assistant professor of philosophy at Washington University in Seattle. Prof. Lerner wrote that before Jewish youth could be "effectively reached" by a message from Jewish radicals, the present-day synagogue "will have to be smashed." The article called the United Synagogue, the Conservative congregational body, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform agency and the Synagogue Council of America, representing the three major Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinical lay groups, "sewers which allow of no significant reform." Richard Cohen, associate director of the AJCongress, praised Rabbi Schwarzschild's work as editor and denied he was "forced out." He said the resignation was brought about by "administrative difficulties, weariness and his own desires to free himself from the burden of the magazine in order to write a book he had been planning to do for some years."