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Israel Air Force Attacks Egyptian Positions; Plants In Sdom Under Attack

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian positions in the central section of the Suez Canal zone for an hour today and returned safely to their bases. A military spokesman said the targets were army outposts, artillery and anti-aircraft gun batteries. Israel's big potash and chemical plant at Sdom on the southern shores of the Dead Sea came under heavy attack by Soviet-made Katyusha rockets just after midnight today. There were no casualties but some damage was sustained and electric power lines were put out of commission for several hours.

The attack was the longest and heaviest yet carried out against the potash works. Israeli authorities believe that Arab guerrillas based in Jordan staged it at the request of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt, in retaliation for Israeli commando attacks on military targets inside Egypt. The plant, located near the site of the Biblical city of Sdom at the lowest point on the earth's surface, has a daily output of 2500 tons of potash and 40 tons of bromine. It employs 820 workers. Israeli gunners returned Syrian artillery fire in the southern Golan Heights yesterday. The Syrian shelling began at 7:30 p.m. local time and lasted an hour. There were no casualties or damage on the Israeli side.

Explosion Damages Jewish School In Beirut

(Beirut radio reported that a dynamite explosion severely damaged a Jewish school in the Lebanese capital and shattered hundreds of windows and injured patients in a nearby Arab hospital early today. The blast went off on a window ledge of the Khaddouri Louis Zilka Charity Foundation School which has been under special police guard since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. A Lebanese security official said the explosion was the work of "criminal elements" trying to defame Lebanon.)

(The New York Times published an eye-witness account of Sunday's Israeli air raid close to Cairo's Almaza Airport. The dispatch was filed by Henry Kamm from Bombay, India. He said a single Israeli fighter bomber managed to penetrate the heavy Egyptian anti-aircraft defenses to bomb the Huckstep Army camp about a mile east of the airport, setting fires that burned for nearly two hours. He said passengers in the crowded airport terminal were thrown into confusion after the attack, indicating that no prescribed routine was set for airport employes and passengers in case of air raid.)

Roger's Mid-East Policy Assailed As Appeasement By Massachusetts Lawmaker

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 (JTA)--Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., a Massachusetts Democrat, has made public the text of a letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers in which he characterized the new American policy on the Middle East as "appeasement" and warned that its only effect was to make war "profitable" for the Arabs and to facilitate a Soviet takeover of the area. Rep. O'Neill asserted that since Israel's establishment in 1948, "the fundamental issue between Israel and the Arab states has been the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign nation." American opinion, he said had been "overwhelmingly" in support of Israel's right to exist. Present-American policy, he said, would condemn Israel to continue to suffer a major war every 10 years and daily terrorist attacks.

"Your position of appeasement makes war profitable for the Arab states and allows the Soviet Union to use the Arabs in its plan to take over the Middle East," Rep. O'Neill declared. "Enough of our unilateral concessions to the Soviet Union." Sen. Stephen M. Young, veteran Ohio Democrat, told the Cleveland Section of the National Council of Jewish Women that he was "in complete agreement that our government should continue to give complete support to Israel in order to assure direct negotiations and hopefully to secure peace and tranquility in the Near East."

Opposes Pressures Upon Israel For Unconditional Withdrawal

Sen. Young declared that the United States "must oppose all pressures upon Israel to withdraw unconditionally from any of the territories taken over by this valiant little nation during the Six Day War." He said this was important "in view of the massive shipment of arms, tanks and planes by the Soviet Union to Arab nations." Connecticut Democrat Thomas J. Dodd told the New Haven Jewish Community Council that the Western nations should step up delivery of modern arms to Israel to offset the 150 percent increase in strength provided to the Arabs by the Russians since the Six Day War. He criticized the French Government for its agreement to sell 50 Mirage jet fighters to Libya intimating that these war-planes would wind up in Egyptian hands.

The senator urged Secretary Rogers to make public the full text of the notes it transmitted to the Soviet Union detailing the American proposals for an Arab-Israeli settlement. The text of the Soviet rejection of the American proposals for an Egyptian-Israeli settlement has been released but Mr. Rogers indicated last week that the text of the American proposals would not be made public. Rep. Lowell Weicker, a Republican, told the Council briefing session that the United States Government should "stop making ever-expansive peace offers in hopes of enticing Arab nations to negotiate directly with Israel." He said the United States should "play down the oil factor" in the Mideast.

Consumer Goods Prices In Israel Skyrocket; Debate On Wage Hikes Intensity

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19 (JTA)--The price of consumer goods shot up in supermarkets, cooperatives and privately owned shops all over Israel today as Government and industry leaders argued over wage hikes and businessmen in general demanded that the government come up with some firm decisions on tax and tariff policies for the coming year. The price of 153 items sold on the retail level jumped by about 20 percent. The retail traders associations, which have held the price line at the request of Histadrut, announced that they could no longer absorb the higher prices demanded by wholesalers and producers and would pass them on to their customers.

An urgent meeting was held today between the Israel Manufacturers Association and Government fiscal officers. The industrialists proposed wage increases to be paid only in Government bonds. But there was argument over whether the rise should be 5.2 or 2.6 percent of the current wage levels. The manufacturers said they would have to increase prices considerably if they were required to pay additional wages in cash. But pressure for substantial wage increases continued to mount. A committee of economic experts working on behalf of various professional employees associations, reported yesterday that professional salaries have fallen 17 percent behind the salaries of executives during the past four years in which salaries were supposedly "frozen." The committee recommended 23-25 percent wage increases for all personnel grades on the professional scale, including doctors, engineers, nurses, technicians, pharmacists, journalists and other professionals who are not self-employed.

Price Break Due To Government Inaction

Today's break in prices was attributed to the prolonged deliberations on wage and price increases and on the failure of the Government to agree so far on a program of tax increases and other levies for 1970. The uncertainty caused by the indecision of the higher authorities affects importers and wholesalers who had been maintaining a more or less unified stand on prices in order to keep them stable. The price rises that went into effect today stemmed mainly from individual decisions.

Mark Moshevitz, president of the Manufacturers Association, cabled Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who is presently abroad, to see to it that no decisions on wage increases are taken in his absence. The cable was, in effect, a call to Mr. Sapir to come home and take action to end the uncertainty. But a Finance Ministry spokesman said today that Mr. Sapir would not cut short his tour. He was represented at today's meeting with the manufacturers by Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro who is Acting Finance Minister in Mr. Sapir's absence. Also at the meeting was Minister of Agriculture Haim Gvati who heads the ministerial committee charged with examining the new national budget.

Premier Golda Meir warned Israelis yesterday that they would have to tighten their belts in order to meet the financial burdens of defense which she described as the nation's number one priority. Addressing the Moetzet Hapaloth (Pioneer Women) convention in Tel Aviv, Mrs. Meir said, "We have to struggle, even with our friends, to sell us the weapons we need, and even when they agree to do us that favor, we must begin to pay because no one gives us gifts."

Israel's Labor Party Official Says Palestinian Arabs Exist As Infant Nation

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA)--A high official of Israel's ruling Labor Party, who says he speaks for Israel's "silent majority," has declared that his country must recognize that the Palestinian Arabs "exist as an infant nation." This radical thought, one of the most controversial that can be expressed in Israel, is in direct contradiction with that of Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Premier. The idea is expressed in an interview with Time magazine by 48-year-old Arie Eliav, newly elected Secretary-General of the Labor Party.

In the interview with Time correspondent Marlin Levin, Eliav also expresses another controversial suggestion--that Israel must not annex any more territories beyond Jerusalem. Describing himself as a "superdove," Eliav says: "My views are those of the silent majority. There hasn't been a show of hands yet, but I hope that one day there will be." Correspondent Levin's interview with Eliav discussing the radical proposals for unilateral Israeli concessions to the Arabs took place last week in Tel Aviv. Regarding the question of the Palestinian Arabs, Eliav says: "The first thing we have to do is to recognize that the Palestinian Arabs exist as an infant nation. It is there. We have to recognize them. The sooner we do it, the better it will be for us, for them, for eventual peace."

Time notes that Mrs. Meir is on record as saying that there is no such thing as either a Palestinian nation or people. As for the annexation of territories, Eliav says: "We have annexed Jerusalem. That is a fact that cannot be undone. But we should not annex any more territories." In the interview Eliav also responds to the Israeli hard-line claim of all of Palestine on the basis of historical rights: "True, our forefathers lived here and in Jordan. But so did the Arabs. The solution has to be that two states can live equally together. There is ample place for a Jewish state as big as Holland, with ten million people, and an Arab state as big as Belgium with nine million. I think we should recognize a legitimate Arab national movement."

Eliav also argues in the Time interview that of Zionism's three principal goals, only one has been attained--the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine. The other two, providing a refuge for all Jews who want or need one and creating a model society based on the Jewish heritage, have not been completely fulfilled.

State Department Report Claims Anti-Semitism In Poland Has 'Abated'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 (JTA)--The State Department disclosed Monday that the U.S. Government has been interceding with Poland on behalf of Polish Jewry and has now concluded that the anti-Semitic campaign has "abated." The Department's report was elicited by Rep. Frank Horton, New York Republican, who has been pressing for action to relieve the plight of Jews in Communist nations. Colgate S. Prentice, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, wrote to Rep. Horton.

Mr. Prentice said that "on numerous occasions we have made clear to the Polish Government our concern over reports of anti-Semitic activities. The anti-Semitic campaign which reached its heights in Poland during the first half of 1968 has abated; since that time Jews wishing to leave Poland have by and large been able to do so. Our embassy in Warsaw is continuing to observe closely events in Poland, and our missions at Vienna, Geneva and other European capitals are also reporting such information as is available to them on the emigration of Jews from Poland."

The official said the State Department was "continuing to facilitate in any way we can the immigration of Polish Jews who wish to come to the United States. We treat their visa applications as sympathetically and expeditiously as possible." Rep. Horton is chairman of the Mideast Policy Committee of the "Members of Congress For Peace Through Law" organization. Commenting on the State Department letter, he said he would continue efforts to help Polish Jewry because he is continuing to receive distressing reports. He said he was "saddened by the overt anti-Semitism that has pervaded Communist Poland. This is a dangerous sign, and one whose impact should not be missed by the world community."

Assistance For Soviet Jews Severely Limited

Mr. Prentice also responded to Rep. Horton's query on the Jews of the Soviet Union and measures to assist them. The State Department said that "extreme Soviet sensitivity to what it regards as interference in its internal affairs severely limits the utility of diplomatic initiatives or statements by U.S. officials on behalf of Soviet citizens. In the case of Soviet Jews, there is an added danger that such statements will only reinforce existing prejudices and suspicions." Mr. Prentice pointed out that "the existence of Israel has made Soviet Jews vulnerable to official attack on grounds of divided loyalty and they are suspect of having ties with Western Jewry in general." He saw no indication that the USSR was "prepared to abandon efforts to promote the religious and cultural assimilation of Soviet Jews into atheistic Soviet society. We will continue to express the U.S. Government's concern over this question in every effective way possible."

SS Officers, Accused Of Shooting Thousands Of Jews In World War II, On Trial

MUNICH, Jan. 19 (JTA)--Four former SS officers accused of shooting thousands of Jews in southern Russia during World War II, went on trial here today. The prosecution says the killings were exceptionally brutal and has asked Soviet authorities in Moscow to permit Russian witnesses to come to Munich to testify. The defendants were said to have operated with a special group in the areas of Nikolayev and Sinferopol in the wake of the advancing Nazi armies in 1941. Maj. Johannes Zapp, now 65, who commanded the group, is charged with participation in 15,330 cases of murder. He is the chief defendant. Former SS Sgt. Leo Recker, 57, is accused of participating in 5000 shootings. Former SS Lt. Karl Noa, 59, is charged with aiding in the deaths of 1700 Jews but former Lt. George Moehlmayer, 58, is accused in only two cases. According to the prosecution, the victims were shot in the neck at point blank range. In many cases babies were shot in their mother's arms. The trial is expected to last three weeks.

Izvestia Charges South African Government Exporting Tanks To Israel

LONDON, Jan. 19 (JTA)--The Soviet Government organ Izvestia, charged Sunday that the South African Government has begun to organize the export of tanks to Israel, marking "a new stage of their cooperation." The paper says the South African tank is a 65-ton giant "armed with a heavy gun and designed according to the model of the British new tank." This is an apparent reference to Britain's new Chieftain tank which Israel has been trying to buy but which the British Government will not allow to be sold to Israel.

The paper accused the United States, Britain, the Federal German Republic and Japan of helping in the military buildup of South Africa and said "the close economic ties" between the South African Republic and these powers were in violation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions. It said that both Israel and South Africa "have much in common both in their aggressive foreign policy as well as in their views on the internal situation in each of the countries. Whereas the Pretoria racials preach apartheid, their Israeli colleagues are seized with blind hatred for the Arab peoples."

Lawmaker Urges That Pres. Pompidou Be Asked To Reconsider French-Arab Policy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 (JTA)--Rep. William S. Broomfield, Michigan Republican, urged Monday that when President Georges Pompidou of France visits Washington in February he be asked by the U.S. to reconsider "the one-sided French policy of pouring arms into the Arab states." A member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Broomfield suggested that in view of the new French policy "the United States respond favorably to Israel's application to purchase additional Phantom jets and other arms required by Israel to maintain a suitable deterrent capacity." He told the Executive Department that "not only the Soviet Union but now France is irresponsibly arming Arab states whose proclaimed objective is the renewal of fullscale warfare against Israel."

Anticipated Trouble On Dr. King's Birthday Closed Several Hebrew Day Schools

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA)--A number of Hebrew Day Schools in New York were closed on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday last week, the JTA has learned. Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of Torah Umosrah, said that the schools were closed to avoid trouble that might arise from people who would be offended if they were open. "The schools did not close because of direct threats," he told the JTA. "They closed because of anticipated difficulties." There are no figures available on exactly how many schools did close.

Rabbi Jacob Spiegel, an administrator at the Esther Schoenfeld High School on the lower East Side, said that his school decided to close not because of threats, but because they didn't want their students, most of whom come from other neighborhoods, to travel throughout the city and face possible harassment. He cited the experience of some of the school's students on Christmas and New Years Day, when many clerks in the City's transit system would not allow them to use their school bus and subway passes, claiming that it was a holiday.

"If we could have such trouble on Christmas and New Years," the Rabbi said, "days on which everyone should know that Jewish students attend classes, we felt that on such a sensitive occasion as Dr. King's birthday it would be best to close." Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, Assistant Director of the Williamsburg YMHA, said that as far as he knew most schools in Williamsburg were open on Dr. King's birthday, but that students were told not to carry books to school, so as not to "offend the sensibilities of those who felt they should be closed." Rabbi David Schwartz, administrator of Flatbush Yeshiva said that the school was closed "for the same reason that all the other schools were closed: We thought it would be administratively better." He declined to elaborate further.

Purdue U Students And Alumni Say University's Policy Virtually Bars Jews

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. Jan. 19 (JTA)--Students and alumni of Purdue University complained today that recent modification of the university's admission policy which virtually barred admission of Jewish and other minority students from the New York metropolitan area has been nullified by administrative practices. An admissions policy of some 20 years' standing which restricted admissions from the New York metropolitan area to the sons and daughters of Purdue alumni, was modified last November to govern admissions in 1970. The restriction on admissions from the metropolitan area was removed and, instead, statewide quotas were established for New York and New Jersey based on "the approximate percentage of the population of New York and New Jersey to the total population of the nation."

No such restriction is applied to any other state or part of the country except the overall limit on out-of-state students to 25 percent of the student body. Under the policy modification, 120 applicants could be admitted this year from New York and 44 from New Jersey. Rabbi Gerald Engel, director of Purdue's Hillel Foundation, wrote to alumni who had expressed concern over the university's restrictive admissions policy that the new policy "has been nullified by a special admissions procedure." The Student Senate is expected to take up the question after the examination period.

Officials Deny Policies Are Discriminatory

University authorities staunchly deny that its restrictive policies were intended to be discriminatory of any minority group. Letters from alumni questioning the admissions policy are being answered by John W. Hicks, assistant to President Frederick L. Hovde, who makes this denial very strongly and describes the policy modifications as intended "to remove the least shadow of doubt" as to the University's intentions. Mr. Hicks points out that the blanket restrictions applying to the New York metropolitan area have been removed "and the director of admissions is authorized to admit a quota of students from the states of New York and New Jersey, based on their academic standing with preference still extended to sons and daughters of Purdue alumni as in the past."

But critical students and alumni pointed out that prospective applicants from the two states are discouraged from filing applications. Harlan White, director of admissions, advises applicants from New York and New Jersey of the preference being given children of alumni and advises them that the few remaining places will be available to other applicants only after April 1. "This letter," Rabbi Engel told the JTA, "perpetuates the myth that children of alumni from this area have come to Purdue in large numbers. However, the Fall 1969 record of admissions to undergraduate schools from New York and surrounding counties indicates that almost no children of alumni came from this area."

Bar-Ilan University Sets \$35 Million Goal For Expansion Program

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (JTA)--A \$35 million dollar capital expansion program for Bar-Ilan University, the only American university under religious sponsorship in Israel, was outlined last night by its chancellor, Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein, at the university's 15th anniversary celebration, in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The more than 500 Jewish communal leaders from the United States, Canada, South Africa, and Israel who attended the dinner were addressed by former United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and Congressman John J. Rooney of New York.

Dr. Lookstein, a noted New York Orthodox leader, outlined the 35 million dollar development plan which will see its student enrollment double to 9,000 within the next five years. The expansion program calls for the construction of 12 new edifices on the campus, including buildings for the departments of chemistry, physics, life sciences, social sciences, psychology, literature and languages and Jewish studies.