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Israeli Paratroopers Capture Egyptian Island; Remove Radar And Other Equipment

TEL AVIV, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Israeli paratroopers, supported by Naval and Air Force Units captured Shadwan Island today, an Egyptian radar outpost in the mouth of the Gulf of Suez. The action, punctuated by sharp skirmishing, ended with the surrender of the Egyptian garrison. Israeli forces suffered three dead and six wounded. The Egyptians lost 19 men on the island and an undetermined number of naval personnel when two Soviet-made Egyptian P-183 torpedo boats guarding the island were sunk by Israeli aircraft. An Israeli military spokesman said 41 Egyptians were taken prisoner on the island.

Shadwan is a barren strip of coral and rock with no civilian population. Israeli sources said there was no intention to hold the island. But as of 7 p.m. local time, Israeli forces were still there, reportedly removing the radar and other equipment. The landing took place at 9 a.m. local time and by 3 p.m. the paratroopers were in control of the southern part of the island with the Egyptians confined to its hilly northern end where the radar station and other equipment was located. Shortly afterwards, the Egyptians started to surrender, individually and then as many as 15 at a time, an Israeli military spokesman said.

Israel considered the sinking of the two torpedo boats an important "dividend" of the operation. They bring to six the number of Soviet-made Egyptian torpedo boats sunk by Israel since the June, 1967 war. The boats have been used to carry Egyptian commandos and high explosives on sabotage missions to the Israel-occupied east shore of the Gulf of Suez. An Israeli spokesman said the Shadwan radar station was used to spy on Israeli movements. The island lies midway between the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula and the Egyptian mainland, about 30 miles off Egypt's biggest Red Sea naval base at Ghardaka. It faces a 30 mile strip of coast that Israeli amphibious armored forces swept clean last year in a ten hour raid. An Israeli spokesman said today's operation was in line with recent Israeli air and commando strikes at Egyptian military targets outside the Suez Canal zone.

Three Israeli Soldiers Killed And One Civilian Wounded Identified

The three Israeli soldiers killed in the attack were identified as Lt. Itzhak Kotler, 24, of Kibbutz Givat Brenner, Sgt. Israel Barlev, 22 of Kibbutz Givat Chaim and Pvt. Chaim Isserowitz, 20, of Herzliya. An Israeli civilian, Joseph Klein, 40, was killed near Adullam in Judea today when his vehicle struck a mine. Klein lived in Neve Yeshayah.

Conflicting reports emerged from Israeli and Arab sources today on yesterday's Israeli armored assault into Jordan. According to an Israeli military spokesman, the Israeli force consisted of two tanks and a number of halftracks, supported by Air Force jets. Their mission was to mop up guerrilla positions in southern Jordan responsible for recent rocket attacks on the Dead Sea potash works. The Israeli spokesman said the force occupied Jordanian territory for 22 hours without encountering opposition from Jordanian forces. He claimed that five Arab saboteurs were killed in a clash near Tel A Safi and that a number of El Fatah vehicles were destroyed, including two jeeps armed with recoilless guns. The spokesman said all Israeli forces returned intact and described the action as a "neat operation."

Amman claimed today that 400 Israeli troops and a column of 80 tanks pushed into Jordan but were resisted by guerrilla forces who had been forewarned. The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram claimed today that the Israeli attack failed to clear the border area of guerrilla camps. It published a statement by El Fatah leader Yasser Arafat that "Our positions and bases remain where they have been. Indeed, our situation is very good." Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, said the Israeli attack was another attempt to force the Arabs into direct peace talks where Israel would not negotiate but dictate terms. Amman radio said that King Hussein of Jordan, visited the battle front and was satisfied that "our forces were in control of the situation."

Tunisia's Foreign Minister Says Direct Negotiations Only Way To Mideast Peace

BRUSSELS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The Foreign Minister of Tunisia declared here yesterday that a Middle East settlement could be achieved only between the Israelis and Palestinians and that the interference of outsiders was in itself a cause of the conflict. Habib Bourguiba, Jr., son of the President of Tunisia, said the Arab countries would never be able to eliminate Israel and will have to co-exist with it. He said Palestinian commandos might step up their guerrilla activities against Israel but would never be able to join the Israel Army in classic battle, and if they did they would be defeated. Bourguiba spoke on Middle East peace prospects at a conference of Catholics here. His remarks came close to endorsing Israel's repeated insistence that direct negotiations are the only way to peace.

He appeared however to exclude the Arab states from a role in such negotiations. Mr. Bourguiba said that whatever the ultimate settlement is -- a multi-racial state, a multi-national state, a federation or confederation -- the only way to reach it is between the parties concerned, the Israelis and the Palestinians.

French Move To Sell Libya 50 More Aircraft, 100 Total, Stirs Anger In US

NEW YORK; Jan. 22 (JTA)--Reaction came swiftly today to France's announcement that it would sell 30 more Mirage jet fighters and 20 training planes to Libya in addition to the 50 Mirages previously scheduled for delivery to the militant leftist regime in Tripoli. The announcement was made in Paris yesterday by Defense Minister Michel Debre. United States Secretary of State William P. Rogers summoned the French Ambassador, Charles Lucet to the State Department to receive a sharp warning that the sale "could disturb the arms balance in the Middle East."

American concern was echoed by diplomats at the United Nations who said they saw no signs to justify recent French expressions of optimism over peace prospects in the Mideast. Paris sought to take the sting out of the earlier announcement of the sale of 50 Mirages to Libya with the claim that Four Power efforts to bring about an Arab-Israeli settlement will have been successful by the time the bulk of the planes are delivered.

But diplomatic and military sources here and abroad viewed the Libyan arms deal as a clumsy device for circumventing France's arms embargo against the belligerents in the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. They believe that most, if not all, of the French war planes will wind up in the service of the Egyptian and possibly the Syrian airforces. Military experts are virtually unanimous in their opinion that Libya's minuscule airforce has neither the technical capacity nor the qualified pilots to operate the highly sophisticated, supersonic Mirages. (This view was expressed in Jerusalem today where Israeli official circles are furious over the one-sided application of the French arms embargo. They are certain that the French planes will be used against Israel and point out that Libya has absolutely no need for such a preponderance of air strength for it is threatened by no outside power.)

Debre Says Embargo Against Israel Not Totally Enforced

M. Debre apparently sought to mollify world opinion and mute Israeli charges of one-sidedness when he indicated yesterday that France's arms embargo against Israel had not been totally enforced. He claimed that various weapons, including spare parts for Israel's existing fleet of 70 Mirages, were delivered to Israel even after then President Charles de Gaulle proclaimed a total embargo against Israel in the aftermath of its retaliatory raid on Beirut Airport at the end of 1968. The impression he gave was that the embargo affected only the 50 Mirages that Israel bought and paid for two years ago which France has refused to deliver.

The general impression gleaned from the remarks of Debre and other French officials seemed to be that the credibility of the French Government is not to be trusted either with regard to the arms embargo or its arms deals with the Arabs. Some French officials sought to explain the French credibility gap by observing that France had expected the other powers to follow its lead when it imposed the arms embargo on the Middle East belligerents. When the other nations failed to halt arms supplies to the region, France had the right to follow its own economic and strategic interests, they said.

American anger over the latest Libyan arms deal appeared to stem largely from the fact that Washington was not consulted beforehand by the French Government. But the State Department conceded that the U.S. was notified in advance of M. Debre's announcement yesterday, a departure from the earlier deal when the U.S. had to pry an admission from France after reports that 50 Mirages would be sold to Libya were leaked to the press.

AJCongress Condemns Sale Of Combat Aircraft

The American Jewish Congress condemned France's sale of 100 combat aircraft to Libya as "a shabby pursuit of influence and oil rights among the sheikdoms and dictatorships of the Arab world," and predicted that during French President Georges Pompidou's visit to the U.S. next month, Mr. Pompidou "may expect to see and hear at first hand such expressions of disapproval of French actions as we have sought to voice in this statement." The Congress called on the French leader "to repudiate his Middle East policy, to lift the arms embargo against Israel and to reassert the traditional French commitment to democratic and human values." The statement came in a resolution adopted by the Congress' policy-making National Governing Council.

Some American officials saw no immediate threat to Israel's air supremacy arising from the sale of 100 planes to Libya, even if the planes were diverted to Egypt. They pointed out that the Egyptian Air Force, heavily supplied by Russia, did not lack for planes but was short on trained pilots. On the other hand, it was pointed out, Egypt would gain an advantage from having Mirages flown from Libyan bases where they would not be vulnerable to the kind of Israeli air attacks that destroyed the Egyptian Air Force on the ground during the first hours of the June, 1967 war.

The New York Times branded the latest Franco-Libyan arms deal a "sell out in Paris," in an editorial published today. "This new arms deal with one of the most belligerent of Arab states sweeps away any lingering pretense that France seeks to help maintain some kind of balance and to promote peace in the Middle East," the Times said. "France has recklessly cast her lot with the Arab extremists, sacrificing whatever credibility she still had as a force for peace in the Big Four negotiations on the Middle East to a self-serving grab for influence, oil and markets in the Arab world." The Times called on the U.S. Government to make its displeasure plain to French President Georges Pompidou when he comes to Washington on an official visit next month. But U.S. officials have said that the French arms deals with Libya would not affect the tone of M. Pompidou's official reception though he might encounter demonstrations from pro-Israel groups in the large cities he visits.

French Government Sources Say Embargo Against Israel Will Not Be Lifted

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--French Government sources indicated today that France has no intention of lifting its arms embargo against Israel, despite its impending sale of 100 fighting and training planes to Libya. The Government's stand was reiterated against a rising clamor of French opinion opposed to the arms deal with Libya and France's one-sided application of the embargo against Israel. The newspaper *Combat* accused the government of prolonging the Mideast conflict by selling weapons to Libya. The paper said editorially, "This is another step on the road of treason and crime and all members of the (Premier) Chaban-Delmas Government are accomplices."

The newspaper *Le Monde* said it was "odious" the way the Government tries to make people believe that the arms sale to Libya will not in the least affect its impartiality in the Middle East conflict. The Libyan arms deal and the embargo against Israel were bitterly denounced at a rally last night of the French-Israeli Friendship Association, headed by the veteran resistance leader, Gen. Pierre Koenig. Nearly 5,000 persons packed the Sports Palace for the rally while several thousand more jammed the streets outside to listen to the speeches over loudspeakers. One speaker was Jean Lacanuet, president of the Democratic Center faction. (Reports from London today said that Britain and Libya have opened talks on defense cooperation involving a contract to sell Libya 188 Chieftain tanks, regarded as the world's finest armored weapon. Britain has refused to sell Chieftains to Israel.)

State Department Official Blames Israel For Continuing Belligerency

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Officials of the National Petroleum Council disclosed that Rodger Davies, Senior Assistant Deputy Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, denounced Israeli reprisal policies at a meeting of the council that was held yesterday. The disclosure came today when rumors had spread that the State Department official had put the main burden of responsibility on Israel for the continuing belligerency. He was quoted as stating that the pursuit of peace was made more difficult by the Israeli policy of retaliating on a "7 to 1" basis.

Eban Quoted Saying Palestinian Arab Nation Exists; Remark Similar To Eliav's

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--French political circles are making much of a statement attributed to Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban that "the Palestinian Arab nation exists and it matters little what the state is called--Palestine or Jordan." Those remarks were contained in an interview with Mr. Eban published today in the newspaper *Figaro*. If correct, they appear to place Mr. Eban's position close to that of Aryeh Eliav, the newly elected secretary general of the Israel Labor Party who has described himself as a "super dove."

Mr. Eliav is under fire in Jerusalem for stating, in an interview published in *Time* magazine this week, that a "Palestinian state" exists in embryo and Israel will have to recognize it. Mr. Eliav has been assailed by some of his party colleagues for expressing views contrary to official Government policy. Premier Golda Meir is on record as denying the existence of a "Palestinian nation" or "Palestinian people." According to the *Figaro* interview, Mr. Eban said, "Once the peaceful borders of Israel are determined, the destiny of the Arab nation should be determined by the Arabs, not by Israel." Mr. Eban also declared that France can no longer play the role of a peace-maker in the Middle East because of its arms sales to the Arabs and its position identical to that of the Soviet Union.

Report Rosenwasser Captive In Jordan And In Satisfactory Condition

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Red Cross representatives said today that an Israeli farmer kidnapped by Arab guerrillas nearly a month ago is being held captive in Jordan and was in satisfactory condition. The representatives confirmed reports that 54 year-old Shmuel Rosenwasser of Metullah was visited by a Red Cross emissary. But they wouldn't say whether the visit was arranged through the Palestinian Red Crescent, an organization set up by El Fatah not recognized by the International Red Cross. Israel is demanding Rosenwasser's return from Lebanon and refuses to deal with El Fatah. Rosenwasser was seized and dragged across the Lebanese border while on night guard duty at Metullah in northern Israel. Lebanese authorities denied that he was in Lebanon and until the Red Cross visit he was believed being held in Syria. Israel nevertheless holds Lebanon responsible. It has offered to return a group of Lebanese soldiers and civilians captured by an Israeli raiding force in exchange for Rosenwasser.

Top Leadership Of American Jewish Community To Meet On Peace In The Mideast

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The top leadership of the American Jewish community will gather in Washington on January 25 for a two-day National Emergency Conference on Peace in the Middle East. More than 500 delegates representing 24 constituents of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as well as leaders of Jewish communities throughout the country, will meet to express their "deep concern and apprehension" over recent U.S. policy statements on the Middle East. During the two-day parley they will be joined by legislators, clergymen and others concerned with what has been described by Jewish spokesmen as a "serious erosion" in State Department policy on Israel. Rabbi Herschel Schacter of New York, retiring chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, will chair the two-day meeting.

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Says Egypt May Accept Latest US Mideast Proposals

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The Foreign Minister of Luxembourg said in a broadcast on the French radio today that Egypt has not definitely rejected the latest American peace proposals for the Middle East. According to Gaston Horn, who just returned from a visit to Cairo, Egyptian officials believe progress could be made toward a settlement if Israel would make a reasonable response.

Rep. Podell Asks Congress To Boycott Pres. Pompidou When He Visits The US

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Rep. Bertram L. Podell, New York Democrat, today asked congressional leaders not to honor President Pompidou of France by inviting him to address a special joint session of Congress when the French president visits Washington next month. Citing the latest actions of the Pompidou government in setting up an air force training center for the Arabs at the former U.S. Wheelus Airbase in Libya and the massive supply of jets to anti-Israeli elements, the congressman said he would "boycott such a special session."

The congressman made known that he and other members of Congress just returned from Paris and were "distressed by the unfriendly and inhospitable treatment" accorded them by the Pompidou government. He said, "I see no reason why this Congress should pay homage to a foreign president who is undermining world peace through prejudiced policies." Rep. Podell said that "President Pompidou has shown contempt for President Nixon's efforts to reduce regional tensions and I do not understand why the administration is inviting him." He said that Mr. Pompidou made a "mockery" of Big Four pretensions of peace-making. He said the latest disclosures that the French air force will turn Wheelus base into a training center for Arab air forces was "an affront to the American people" who built the base and paid for it. Americans were shocked by "irresponsible" French arms shipments and "French policy calculated to woo Arabs at the expense of the United States and Israel," he said.

Rep. Cramer Seeks Reversal Of French Arms Policy

Rep. William C. Cramer, of Florida, disclosed that he will ask President Nixon to seek a reversal of the "dangerous new French policy of pouring arms into leftist Arab states" when President Pompidou of France visits the White House in February. Rep. Cramer, a member of the Republican Congressional leadership group that visits the White House weekly for conferences with the President, deplored the "one-sided" sale of French jets to Arab states. He said "France has an overwhelming moral obligation to heed American concern about world peace in view of the U.S. aid to France in two world wars, unpaid billions in war debts, and present pursuit of our assistance in stabilizing the franc." Cramer said that France had become a "merchant of death" and announced that he would ask Mr. Nixon to tell Mr. Pompidou the U.S. deplores the new French role and will respond by providing more U.S. Phantom jets to Israel to prevent an imbalance.

Pres. Nixon's State Of The Union Message: Move From Confrontation To Negotiation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA)--President Richard M. Nixon told Congress today in his State of the Union address that the United States would continue reducing involvements abroad under a new policy of disengagement. It was clear that his intention to move "from confrontation to negotiation" pertained to the Middle East as well as other areas. While avoiding specific mention of Israel, Mr. Nixon said the U.S. and the USSR must resolve differences on a basis of "mutual self-interest" rather than "sentimentality." Mr. Nixon envisaged a "new relationship" with the Soviet Union to preserve peace. It was apparent that this would be achieved by reduced American responsibility to countries not protected by American treaties. Nations will be responsible for their own defense under the emerging Nixon philosophy. His main emphasis was on domestic needs and improving the quality of American life. Today's message will be supplemented by a special statement on foreign affairs which the President will send to Congress early in February.

AJCommittee Urges Pres. Nixon To Approve \$19.7 Billion Health-Education Bill

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee, which has been conducting seminars on welfare in seven states, urged President Richard M. Nixon today to approve the \$19.7 billion health and education appropriations bill just passed by the Senate. Marvin H. Riseman, chairman of the AJCommittee's Domestic Affairs Committee, said, "We share the President's concern regarding inflation. However, we should not resolve this serious problem at the expense of the health and education of the American people." Mr. Nixon has criticized the Senate bill as inflationary and has indicated that he will veto it.

AJCommittee president Philip E. Hoffman said yesterday that his organization's support of the measure was in line with its recently stepped up activities in the welfare field. The AJCommittee voiced strong approval of the Nixon welfare proposal and supported it in hearings before the House Ways and Means Committee last November.

The human relations agency has organized welfare committees in its chapters in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Dallas, Miami and in New Jersey and California as a means of keeping the welfare issue in the forefront of public discussion, Mr. Hoffman said. The AJCommittee's National Committee on Social Welfare has given top priority to efforts to explain the Nixon welfare proposals to the public. The organization plans to issue a series of pamphlets on various aspects of public welfare issues.

ADL Asks Pres. Nixon To Halt Federal Funds For Road To Gerald L.K. Smith Shrine

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith appealed directly to President Richard M. Nixon yesterday to prevent government financing of a road leading to the "Christ of the Ozarks" project, a shrine promoted by "the notorious anti-Semite, Gerald L.K. Smith," in Eureka Springs, Ark. In a telegram to the President, Dore Schary asked that he direct Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans and Transportation Secretary John Volpe to withdraw \$182,000 of U.S. funds allocated for the road. Earlier direct representations to Mr. Stans and Mr. Volpe failed to forestall the grant.