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U Thant Says He Will Seek Early Reactivation Of Dr. Jarring's Peace Mission

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 17 (JTA)--Secretary-General U Thant confirmed today that he would seek early reactivation of the peace-seeking mission of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, his special representative for the Middle East. Mr. Thant will meet Ambassador Jarring in Geneva tomorrow. He told a UN press conference today that he will discuss with him whether the time has not come for him to resume his mission. The Secretary-General said that reactivation of the Jarring mission would depend primarily on guidelines being drafted by the Four Powers - United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France - but he stressed that this was not exclusive.

He noted, however, that Dr. Jarring would be reluctant to return to the Middle East if this merely involved a resumption of his "fruitless" rounds of Jerusalem and the Arab capitals. Mr. Thant expressed optimism over the possibilities of Four Power agreement although he resolutely refused to set up a timetable or deadline on their deliberations. He said he had studied the American, Soviet and French proposals and had found "common denominators" in the three proposals which he said could be translated into guidelines.

Mr. Thant indicated that he was generally in agreement with the French thesis that it was not necessary to have a complete set of guidelines for Dr. Jarring to resume his negotiations but that he could proceed on the basis of agreement on one or two basic issues. He said "it is difficult to agree on all the basic issues but there are some basic issues on which agreement can be reached to formulate guidelines for the Jarring mission."

Violation Of Cease-Fire By Both Sides Intensifying; Agreement Now Completely Ineffective

The Secretary-General again expressed grave concern over the situation in the Middle East which he described as "heating up most dangerously." He said that his daily reports to the Security Council had shown that the cease-fire agreements which ended the Six-Day War in June 1967 had broken down completely and were now completely ineffective, particularly in the Suez sector. Both sides, he said, were committing breaches which have increased in number and intensity. He described as "unprecedented" in UN annals, public announcements from both sides of military actions in violation of the cease-fire.

Restoration of the cease-fire, Mr. Thant said, has been under consideration at all recent meetings of the Four Powers and will be on the agenda again for their next meeting on Thursday. One of the Big Four, he said, had presented "certain ideas" on the subject which were to be discussed. The Secretary-General said that he had been concerned with the cease-fire question and had asked Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, head of the UN observation mission in the Middle East, to return to UN headquarters for consultations. Meetings with Gen. Bull, he said, had been "very fruitful" and would be concluded today after which Gen. Bull will return to his Jerusalem headquarters.

The Secretary-General firmly ruled out any new approach to the Arab-Israeli issue which might involve scrapping the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, the basis for present peace efforts and for the Jarring mission. He emphasized that he would not take a new initiative under the UN charter, as his predecessor, Dag Hammarskjöld, had done in the Congo crisis. "It is up to the Security Council to take new initiatives if it deems that necessary," Mr. Thant asserted. He stressed that he would not take any initiative to supersede the Security Council's action.

U Thant Reaffirms Belief In Possibility Of Political Solution To Arab-Israel Dispute

He pointed out that "not one member of the Security Council has advocated that the Security Council should meet now. Each one realizes that a meeting now would not be productive." Under these circumstances, he added, it would not be appropriate for the Secretary-General to invoke Article 99 of the UN Charter to bring the Security Council into session. The Secretary-General declined to elaborate on what "new measures" he deemed were necessary to avert catastrophe in the Middle East. He said he had communicated his thoughts on this aspect of the situation to the Four Powers.

Frequently in the course of the questions and answers, Mr. Thant reaffirmed his belief in the possibility of a political solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. "I am not pessimistic about the outcome of the Big Four deliberations," he said at one point. "It would not be realistic to establish a timetable." Asked what would be the value of a limitation on arms shipments to the Middle East, Mr. Thant said that, in principle, he favored arms limitation, particularly of highly sophisticated arms. But he warned it would be misleading to leave the matter there, pointing out that no restriction of arms shipments was self-executing. "The test is its effectiveness," he declared, "and its impartial application. It could defeat its own ends if it gave a military advantage to one state or the other."

The last part of the press conference was devoted by Mr. Thant to a long and frequently impassioned defense of his policies and actions in a number of crises going back to the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from the Sinai Peninsula in 1967 - the action that largely precipitated the Six-Day War.

Egyptian Missile Bases Near Cairo Raided; First Deep Penetration Since Factory Bombing

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17 (JTA)--Israel's Air Force resumed its deep penetration of Egypt today with raids on missile bases 19 miles south of Cairo. Israeli jets also attacked Egyptian military positions in the central section of the Suez Canal zone for almost two hours today and attacked for one hour last night in the southern section of the canal zone. A military spokesman said that all Israeli aircraft returned safely from all missions. He said an Egyptian Air Force attempt to raid Israeli positions in the northern sector of the canal zone today caused no casualties or damage.

According to an Israeli spokesman the principal targets of today's air attacks were surface-to-air missile bases near Helouan and at Dahshour about eight miles to the south. The Soviet-made missiles are part of a protective screen surrounding Egypt's heavy industry complex south of Cairo. The raids came five days after Israeli bombers blasted a civilian metal factory at El Khanka near Cairo in a raid that Israel called accidental but which drew a denunciation from Soviet Russia and a sharp protest from the United States.

Premier Golda Meir said in the Knesset today that as long as Egypt continued to ignore the cease-fire, Israel would continue to bring the war to Egyptian territory. She said Israel regarded the cease-fire agreements that ended the June, 1967 Six-Day War to be a necessary step toward a political settlement. She maintained that Israel held out the promise of "an honorable settlement" to the Arabs if they decide on peace. She observed that instead, President Nasser of Egypt has opted for a war of attrition.

Israel Denies Claim That Its Troops Fought Major Battle With Arab Guerrillas

A military spokesman said an Israeli soldier was wounded last night in an exchange of fire with Jordanian forces in the Jordan Valley near the Allenby bridge. Israel denied a claim by two Arab guerrilla organizations in Amman, Jordan that they had fought a major battle against Israeli troops in the Jordan Valley last night. Israel said no such battle took place. The guerrillas said they attacked Israeli forces at four points along a 25 mile front and inflicted heavy casualties and damage.

An Israeli soldier was injured today when a tractor hit an anti-vehicle mine at Nahal Dikla. The tractor and a near-by truck were damaged. An Israeli patrol was attacked with gun fire and hand grenades near Bethlehem last night and returned the fire. There were no casualties. Beirut radio reported that a bomb exploded today at a farm research center run by the American University. No one was hurt. The attack was attributed to guerrilla organizations pressing for action against U.S. interests in the Middle East.

State Department Reaffirms U.S. Determination To Maintain Mideast Arms Balance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA)--The State Department today reaffirmed the United States determination to maintain a balance of power in the Middle East in the face of the Soviet Union's offer of arms to the Arabs. Carl Bartsch, State Department press officer, said that the U.S. had repeatedly tried to get the Soviet Union to agree to Mideast arms limitation talks, and had been repeatedly rebuked. He said President Nixon's statement last month, offering to "provide arms to friendly states as the need arises," is still the official administration Middle East arms policy.

The Soviet Union yesterday condemned "Israeli aggression" in the Middle East and promised "the necessary support to the Arab states in strengthening their ability to uphold their security and their just interests." The promise was contained in a brief statement issued by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. It did not specify the type of aid that would be supplied to the Arabs but observers believe that President Gamal Abdel Nasser is likely to receive the late-model Soviet Mig-23 fighters, a plane he has been seeking to counteract American Phantom jets supplied to Israel.

The Tass statement said, "The Soviet Union will render the necessary support to the Arab states in strengthening their ability to uphold their security, their just interests. It also said that "The policy of the Soviet Union is aimed to establish peace again in the area of the Middle East, to make national strife and wars a thing of the past. And our country will not weaken its efforts in this direction." Observers felt the statement indicated Moscow's continuing desire for a peaceful Mideast settlement and that the weapons supplied the Arabs would be more defensive than offensive in nature.

Jewish Agency's Policy Toward Immigrants Of Mixed Marriages Will Not Change

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA)--The recent legislation amending the Law of Return will effect no changes in the Jewish Agency's policy toward immigrants of mixed marriages, the Agency's director general Moshe Rivlin said yesterday. Mr. Rivlin addressed a group of 35 visiting American journalists. He said the amendment stipulates equal rights for the non-Jewish spouses and offspring of Jewish immigrants and grants them automatic citizenship. This has been the principle applied by the Jewish Agency and the Government all along though it was not written into the law, Mr. Rivlin said. In cases where there are doubts, the Jewish Agency acts to facilitate conversions, he added.

Jewish Community In Japan Issues Plea On Behalf Of Soviet Jews

TOKYO, Feb. 17 (JTA)--The Jewish community of Japan has expressed its deep concern over the plight of their brethren, the 18 Georgian Jewish families, who have appealed to the UN Commission on Human Rights for assistance to leave the Soviet Union to be reunited with their families. In a cable to the Commission on Human Rights Rabbi Marvin Tokayer stated "the Jewish community of Japan joins with their co-religionists all over the world in urging prompt action by the relevant Soviet authorities, an appeal to the UN Commission to do your utmost to help these families fulfill their desire and aspirations."

Arab Terrorist Confesses He Planned To Hijack An El Al Airliner To Libya

MUNICH, Feb. 17 (JTA)--An Arab terrorist confessed today that he had planned to hijack an El Al airliner to Libya. He said the plan was conceived in Baghdad, Iraq and that he had instructions to kill everyone aboard if there was any resistance. The terrorist, who uses the name Mohammed Hadidi, is one of three Arabs captured after a fatal attack on El Al passengers at Munich Airport last week. The attack took one life and left 23 other persons wounded. It cost Hadidi an arm.

The Arab refused to give police his real name or to identify his superiors. He said however that his group received weapons as well as instructions from Baghdad. Hadidi said he was in charge of the plan. His two companions have refused to make statements. Police Chief Hermann Haring said today that three investigating teams were working night and day to track down the arsonists who set fire to a Jewish old aged home here last Friday causing the death of seven of its residents. Sympathy for the fire victims was expressed by deputies in the Bundestag today.

Wilson Says Britain Will Not Compromise Its Search For Solution To Mideast Crisis

LONDON, Feb. 17 (JTA)--Prime Minister Harold Wilson assured a group of Anglo-Jewish leaders yesterday that Israel's security was one of the points on which Britain will never compromise in its search for a solution of the Middle East crisis. Mr. Wilson received Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and six members of its executive committee at No. 10 Downing St. The meeting was arranged at the request of the Board of Deputies. Participants in the meeting said afterwards that there appeared to be no shift from Britain's position against the sale of arms to Israel and in support of the Four Power Mideast talks.

Eban Asserts Israel Will Cease Hostilities When Arab Countries Respect 1967 Truce

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 17 (JTA)--Israel will cease hostilities immediately if the Arab countries respect the 1967 truce, Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel told an audience of Dutch cabinet ministers and industrialists here yesterday. Mr. Eban was guest of honor at a dinner tendered by The Netherlands Government. The Israeli Foreign Minister will go to Belgium by train tomorrow and later will visit West Germany and Luxembourg. He was interviewed on local television today and addressed a luncheon meeting of the Association for International Affairs. Mr. Eban also had a lengthy discussion with Netherlands Foreign Minister Joseph Luns. He told a press conference afterwards that he had not asked Dr. Luns to act as a mediator in the Mideast conflict. Mr. Eban said that only the United Nations special envoy, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, could undertake that role.

Soviet Ambassadors To Brazil And Mexico Refuse To Receive Jewish Delegation

SAO PAULO, Feb. 17 (JTA)--The Soviet Ambassador to Brazil, Sergei Mikhailov, refused yesterday to receive a local Jewish delegation protesting the treatment of Jews in Soviet Russia. The delegation, representing the Confederation of Brazilian Jews, intended to present him with a document citing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention Against All Forms of Racial Discrimination. A spokesman for the Confederation said the document was mailed to the Soviet Embassy after the delegation was turned away. He said the Confederation would bring the matter of Soviet treatment of the Jews to the attention of Brazil's Foreign Minister.

(In Mexico City, leaders of Mexican Jewry tried to confer recently with the local Soviet ambassador but he refused to receive them to talk about the petition by 18 Jewish families from Soviet Georgia to leave for Israel. The memorandum of the delegation was published in the Mexican press in order to explain the situation of Soviet Jewry to the Mexican people.)

Bnei Israel Synagogue Celebrates The 120th Anniversary Of Its Founding

BOMBAY, Feb. 17 (JTA)--The Bnei Israel Synagogue in Panvel, a Bombay suburb, has marked the 120th anniversary of its founding. The celebration was addressed by A. Moses, chairman of the Central Jewish Board of India and H. Cynowicz, president of the Jewish community of Bombay. The Indian Order of Merit was presented to a member of the congregation, Ezra Mir, a pioneer of India's film industry.

Carl Stokes In Jerusalem Blames U.S. News Media For Heating Up Black-Jewish Relations

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA)--Mayor Carl Stokes, of Cleveland, blamed the American news media yesterday for creating the impression of a serious conflict between blacks and Jews in the United States. Mr. Stokes, who took office three years ago as the first Negro to be elected mayor of a major American city, spoke on a television interview. He is on a one-week visit to Israel as a guest of the Jerusalem municipality. Mr. Stokes said that an example of how the news media exacerbated a local situation was the New York City teachers' strike in the fall of 1968. He said that dispute was an economic one. "Most of the teachers were Jews and when the blacks tried to get some teaching posts, the media made this into a full blown conflict. Were it not for the press and television there would have been no 'black anti-Semitism.' You get a black nut and a Jewish nut each claiming to speak for his whole community and the media blow it up out of all proportion," Mayor Stokes said.

He also blamed the media for publicizing the Black Panther movement which he said had only a handful of genuine supporters. The Panthers are a militant Negro group which has adopted an intense anti-Israel and anti-Zionist stance and declared its solidarity with Arab guerrillas harrassing Israel.

Mr. Stokes maintained that there is no conflict between Jews and Negroes in the U.S. He said most Negroes know that the Jews have been their most steadfast partners in the struggle for civil rights. Mr. Stokes won election in 1967 with heavy support from Cleveland's Jewish community of 80,000.

S.Y. Agnon, Outstanding Hebrew Novelist Of His Generation, Dies At The Age of 82

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA)--Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Israel's Nobel Laureate for literature in 1966, died today in a nursing home in Gadera at the age of 82. Mr. Agnon suffered a stroke six months ago and never fully recovered. His death was attributed to a heart attack. He will be buried in Jerusalem tomorrow. Mr. Agnon, who shared the Nobel Prize with Nelly Sachs, a German-Jewish poetess, was regarded as the outstanding Hebrew novelist of his generation.

His works are taught in Hebrew schools all over the world and have been translated into 16 languages. He infused his writing with the wealth of Jewish scholarship he possessed and a remarkable knowledge of Jewish folk lore which stemmed from a traditional education in Eastern Europe and his Hassidic background. Agnon's works were filled with words and images from the Bible, Talmud, Gaonic literature, medieval Hebrew poetry, Hassidic tales and rabbinic responsa. He knew as well the classic Hebrew poets and the Hebrew writers of his own generation. Although he drew heavily on tradition, he was considered a modern writer and an astute observer of the condition of modern man.

Agnon used the initials S.Y. to sign his works. His family name was Czaczkes. He was born in Buczaca, Austria-Hungary, in 1888 and settled in Israel, then Palestine, in 1909. Except for a sojourn in Germany, 1920-24 where he lectured on Hebrew literature and a few brief visits abroad, Agnon lived in Jerusalem. He was the recipient of the Bialik Prize for literature in 1934 and 1937, the Ussishkin Prize in 1950 and the Israel Prize in 1958. He was made an Honorary Citizen of Jerusalem in 1962. Agnon's writings were set in Eastern Europe and in Israel. His novel, "Only the Other Days" is an Israeli story. "The Bridal Canopy" is a tale of the East European "shtetl." "A Visitor for a Night" is a transition story. Agnon also published an anthology of prayers for the High Holidays, titled "Days of Awe."

Leading Figures In American-Jewish Literary World Saddened And Shocked

Chaim Potok, a prize-winning novelist who writes on American-Jewish themes told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "A great man was just lost to the world, there is always a big gaping void when a man of that stature passes away." Mr. Potok, author of "The Chosen" and "The Promise" is editor of the Jewish Publication Society in Philadelphia and has reviewed several of Agnon's works for national publications. He said of the Hebrew author, "He carved a unique path in the world of contemporary literature. When unique voices are stilled, all of us are the losers. As a writer myself I feel particularly saddened by this news."

Theodore Schocken, president of Schocken Books which has published Agnon's works since 1931, told the JTA: "For me this is the passing of a lifelong friend. He met my father before I was born 55 years ago and was a frequent visitor in our home in Germany. He tried to teach me to write Hebrew poetry. I was in Stockholm when he got the (Nobel) Prize. It was a wonderful occasion for him, his wife and children. He was a modest man, a humble man. The prize made no change in him." Mr. Schocken said his company would publish a new collection of 21 Agnon short stories in May.

Israel Spokesman Says UN Human Rights Group Report Biased; Report Concedes One-Sidedness

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 17 (JTA)--A spokesman for the Israeli Mission to the UN told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the preliminary report released yesterday by a UN investigative team collecting information about alleged violations of human rights by Israel in occupied territories was a biased report. "The report concedes that the evidence it received was one-sided," the spokesman said, "and we agree with its own estimate." The group, established by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, heard testimony last year in New York, Geneva, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The group was not recognized by Israel and was not permitted to enter the occupied territories.

In its report, the investigative team stated that "the evidence received was one-sided, nevertheless, the group was able to make an evaluation of such evidence." It conceded, however, that it was not in a position to verify the allegations juridically. Its full report will be issued later this month. The spokesman for the Israeli Mission said Israel's refusal to cooperate was based on the one-sided nature of the investigation. Israel has maintained that it would cooperate with an investigation of conditions in the occupied territories only if a similar inquiry were carried out into the conditions of Jews in the Arab states.

The group consisted of representatives of Austria, India, Peru, Senegal, Tanzania and Yugoslavia. H.S. Amerasinghe, Permanent Representative of Ceylon, served as its chairman. The investigative body recommended that Israel apply the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the protection of persons in time of war to the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and that it investigate allegations of torture, looting and pillage leveled against Israeli authorities. It said that the largest number of allegations of violations of the Geneva Convention by Israel related mostly to the period immediately following the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. It said it did not have sufficient evidence to state with absolute certainty that the alleged violations continued with the same intensity after that period.

B'nai B'rith Women Urges France To Reverse Mideast Policy And Deliver Jets To Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith Women has asked France to deal honestly with Israel and deliver the 50 jet planes Israel ordered and paid for, it was announced yesterday. Mrs. Michael Shapiro, international president, said that the organization adopted a resolution at its February board meeting, condemning France's sale of 110 jet fighters to Libya. B'nai B'rith Women also asked France to reverse its Middle East policy on the eve of French Premier Georges Pompidou's visit to the United States. The resolution charged that France's new Middle East policy and the sale of the planes had "upset the balance of power" and "may well ignite a new world war."