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Knesset Warns Israel Will Take 'Emphatic Measures' Against Arab Air Terrorists

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The Knesset issued a stiff warning today that Israel would take "emphatic measures" against aerial terrorists and Arab countries sheltering them. It demanded that all governments and international organizations join to put an end to the kind of terrorism that took 47 lives in the crash of a Swissair jet Saturday and is "aimed at destroying civil aviation." Eight Americans and 16 Israelis were among the victims. The Knesset's resolution and a statement by Premier Golda Meir that preceded it will be distributed by Israeli diplomatic missions to governments all over the world. The Government is also planning to call an international conference of airlines and air transport groups serving the Middle East to discuss ways of insuring the safety of passengers and aircraft against terrorist assaults.

The Knesset did not specify what measures might be taken. But Mrs. Meir could barely contain her emotions when she demanded rigid steps by the world community "to check the outrageous activities, the uncontrolled and mean activities, of the Arab saboteurs." The 72 year-old Premier sharply admonished international airlines and governments for not taking steps to curb Arab air terrorists when they committed their first act in 1968, the hijacking of an El Al airliner to Algiers. Mrs. Meir contended that if firm action had been taken then, "we would not have reached the deterioration which culminated in the present situation." She said that Israel "would not accept the situation." "When the air routes to Israel are undermined, Israel will do everything in its power to defend them," she said.

At the same time Israel denounced the actions of at least 12 international airlines which suspended cargo and mail flights to Israel in the aftermath of the Swiss airliner's crash, which exploded in mid-air shortly after leaving Zurich's Kloten airport. Earlier, the Cabinet wound up a day-long session on the Swissair disaster with a call to governments, airlines and international pilots organizations to stop the "running amok" of Arab terrorists throughout the world.

Arab Terror Group First Claims Responsibility For Tragedy, Then Denies It

Within hours after the Swissair jet crashed, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed that its agents blew up the plane because "high ranking Israeli officials" were aboard. But the so-called unified command of ten Arab guerrilla groups went on Amman radio shortly afterwards to disclaim responsibility as expressions of shock and outrage poured in from all over the world. Israelis and most officials abroad tended to put more credence in the original boast than in the disclaimer. They noted that Arab terrorists have been attacking and seizing Israeli and other Israel-bound airliners ever since May, 1968 when an El Al jet was hijacked to Algiers.

Mrs. Meir referred to that incident in her statement released last night by acting Cabinet secretary Michael Nir. She said "the terrorist organizations, through their criminal acts, have removed themselves beyond the bounds of morality and civilized society." "Terrorist acts against planes and travellers to Israel began in 1968 when an El Al plane was hijacked to Algeria," Mrs. Meir said. "It has continued in mounting bloodshed and destruction. Not only Israelis and Israeli-planes but international planes and airports and citizens of all the world have been victims. But while the terrorist acts have shocked humanity, the international community to date has not yet adopted suitable means to combat the mounting attacks on civil aviation," Mrs. Meir said.

Israeli officials were bitter over the swift suspension of mail and cargo flights to Israel by foreign airlines. They said such actions were "playing into the hands" of terrorists and could only encourage them to commit new outrages. British Overseas Airways and British European Airways were among the first to announce temporary suspension of mail and cargo service to Tel Aviv. Scandinavian Airlines followed suit and cancelled its weekly Copenhagen-Tel Aviv passenger flight as well. Other airlines which imposed 48 hour bans on freight service to Israel included Swissair, Air France, Austrian Airlines and Royal Dutch Airlines. Spokesmen for several of the airlines indicated that the measures were temporary pending the establishment of tighter security arrangements. Passenger flights were generally unaffected because passengers and their baggage can be screened for weapons and explosives, but not cargo and mail bags. An Austrian Airliner carrying mail to Israel was rocked by a mid-air explosion Saturday shortly before the Swissair jet crashed. But the Austrian plane landed safely at Frankfurt. West Germany posted a \$4000 reward for the capture of two men, presumably Arabs who mailed a parcel containing explosives aboard the air liner.

(In Geneva today, Swiss Government officials said an investigation was under way to determine whether the "presumption of an act of criminal sabotage" was borne out by evidence found in the wreckage of the Swissair jet. The names of the American victims were given. They were: Thomas Lingefelter, of Huntington, Long Island; Melville Meyerson, of Stamford, Conn; Mr. and Mrs. S. Silver-shots, of Chula Vista, California; Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Ware, of Barrington Hills, Ill.; and Dr. and Mrs. Wettermann, of Hamden, Conn.)

Israel Is in Mourning For Air Victims; Bitter Anguish At Lydda Airport

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA)--All of Israel was in mourning today for the victims of Saturday's Swissair disaster. The chief military chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, flew to Zurich to help identify the bodies

of the 16 Israelis aboard the plane, some of whom were reportedly burned beyond recognition when the Swiss Coronado jet crashed in flames. Chaplain Goren will arrange for the return of the remains to Israel for burial. Those who cannot be identified will be interred in a common grave. Scenes of bitter anguish took place at Lydda Airport Saturday where the families of the Swissair passengers gathered in late afternoon, unaware that tragedy had struck. All of them apparently had missed the 5 p.m. radio news bulletin reporting the crash. A chill went through the crowd when a Swissair official invited all waiting relatives into the VIP room where he solemnly read the passenger list and announced that there were no survivors.

Each name was greeted with a scream of despair. A doctor was in attendance. No one required medical attention but tragedy was written on the faces of everyone at the air terminal whether or not they had relatives aboard the stricken plane. Deputy Premier Yigal Allon phoned the airport to confirm his fears that his old friend and associate, Hanoch Lev Kochav, was one of the victims. The 41 year-old Palmach veteran and law teacher served as director general of the Public Works Ministry when Mr. Allon was Minister of Labor. Another prominent victim was Prof. Hanoch Melvidzky, 58, head of the cardio-vascular department of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital in Jerusalem, a pioneer of open heart surgery in Israel. Other victims were: Michael Koren, 39, electronic engineer; Hanoch Lev Kochav, 41, former general director of the Labour Ministry; Mordechai Moneh, 41, architect; Raphael Neuberger, 43, chemical engineer; Benjamin Aboutoul, 44; Nathan Ellenzeig, diamond broker; Adella Ilan, 56, fashion expert; Marcel Attaya, 30, Swissair local employee; Ada Freudenberg, wife of Swissair local employee; Dr. Paul Horn, 64, textile expert and industrialist; Melani Horn, his wife, 60, president of Israel ORT; Mrs. Ruth Golan; Mrs. Herta Wurtmann, 70; Yerzy Brzezowski, 48, new immigrant from Poland; and Dr. Naim Kral Young, 33, surgeon.

Pro-Israel Members Of Parliament Assail Air Carriers For Suspending Cargo Service

LONDON, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The President of the British Board of Trade said in the House of Commons today that British airlines "expect to resume the normal carriage of cargo to Israel as soon as they are satisfied that all proper safeguards have been taken." The two main British air carriers, BOAC and British European Airways (BEA) have come under fire from pro-Israel MPs and others for suspending air cargo and mail services to Israel following the fatal crash of the Israeli-bound Swissair jet. Roy Mason, speaking for the Board of Trade, defended the airlines' action. He said the Government had no power to issue a specific directive to an airline and noted that passenger services to Israel were continuing normally.

Eric Lubbock, a Liberal MP, claimed that the BOAC and BEA suspensions meant that "piracy and terrorism were paying off." Emanuel Shinwell, a Labor MP criticized the Government for failing to denounce "this murderous crime" although it had condemned an Israeli bombing raid on an Egyptian metal factory two weeks ago. He wondered why only air service to Israel was restricted and not the Arab countries. Mr. Mason replied that only aircraft going to Israel were in jeopardy. Dr. Horace King, Speaker of the House, refused an application from Mr. Shinwell to hold an emergency debate on the suspension of cargo and mail service to Israel.

The problem of terrorist assaults on civilian aircraft arising from the Middle East conflict was discussed also at a Cabinet meeting at No. 10 Downing St. today. A spokesman for the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that the new rash of terrorist attacks on airliners and their passengers could lead to a general strike of pilots unless prompt and effective measures are taken to end them.

The Israel Embassy here said that no replies have been received so far to Ambassador Aharon Remez's telegrams to the chairmen of BOAC and BEA urging them to rescind their ban on mail and cargo service to Israel. The Ambassador described the ban as "submission to terror." Representatives of 53 British and foreign airlines that use Heathrow (London) Airport met today on the problem of air sabotage and arranged to meet again tomorrow. No decision was reached on the ban or on new safety measures it was learned. The IFALPA spokesman told JTA that the matter of combating terrorist attacks on civilian airliners would be the main item on the organization's agenda when it meets here March 11-18. The British Zionist Federation issued a statement denouncing the Swissair sabotage and aerial terrorism generally. Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits said yesterday, "Such brutal disregard for the sanctity of human life can only be stopped by immediate and concerted action."

An American Woman Is Killed And Two Wounded When Tourist Bus Ambushed By Guerrillas

TEL AVIVI, Feb. 23 (JTA)--An American woman was killed and two others were wounded today when Arab guerrillas ambushed a tourist bus near Hebron, about 20 miles south of Jerusalem. The victim was identified as Mrs. Barbara Ertle, 31, of Grandville, Michigan, the mother of two. Her husband, the Rev. Theodore Ertle, was sitting beside her when machinegun bullets ripped through the vehicle carrying a group of American Christian tourists. Severely injured and hospitalized were Miss Lucille Draper, 53, of Buffalo, New York and Miss Tabea D'Amico, of Atlantic City, N.J. They were taken by helicopter to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem where Miss Draper underwent surgery. She is a sister of the Rev. Irving Draper, of Alden, N.Y., leader of the ten-day "Bible Land Tour." Zvi Greenberg, an Israeli guide, suffered slight injuries. Israeli jets resumed the bombing of Egyptian military positions in the Suez Canal zone today after a two day lull. A half hour attack this afternoon hit artillery batteries and other targets in the southern section of the waterway. A military spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were wounded today in an exchange of fire with Egyptian forces in the canal zone.

Pompidou Arrives in U.S.; One Thousand Protesters Stream Into Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou, of France, arrived here today for a nine-day official visit beclouded by the crisis and conflict in the Middle East and France's sale of military jets to Arab regimes. M. Pompidou landed at Andrews Airforce Base and was whisked away to Camp David Maryland, the presidential retreat, to be greeted by President Richard M. Nixon. Administration officials were reported to be concerned lest demonstrations protesting France's Middle East policy create unpleasant incidents during the presidential visit. As far as President Nixon and his advisors are concerned, M. Pompidou's visit is seen as an effort to repair Franco-American relations which suffered some severe strains during the tenure of former President Charles DeGaulle. But the Middle East is almost certain to figure in the talks between President Nixon and President Pompidou, a region in which their respective policies diverge.

A protest rally against French Government policies in the Middle East was staged here today, sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. An estimated six thousand persons from eastern U.S. cities were expected to participate in the rally but only about a thousand were present. Most of those on hand were either from the Greater Washington area or Pennsylvania. The demonstrators gathered in Lafayette Park directly across from the White House at noon and then marched in groups of about one hundred to the George Washington Monument grounds about a quarter of a mile away. Bearing placards that read "French Design for Peace is a Mirage" and "Viva La France a Bas Pompidou" the demonstrators milled about for a short while until several groups, both young and old alike, began traditional Israeli folk dances and songs.

Speakers Deplore French Middle East Policy; Call For Peace

Theodore R. Mann, President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia, presided at the rally, where protesters sang the national anthem and Hatikva, Israel's national anthem. Rabbi Nathan Abramowitz, President of the Washington Board of Rabbis, offered the opening prayer in which he called upon the Lord to "give strength and guidance in Israel's struggle for peace." Among the other speakers were U.S. Senator Richard Schwieker, Republican of Pennsylvania; Victor G. Reuther, international labor leader of the United Auto Workers of America; and the Reverend Walter E. Fauntroy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The speakers deplored France's Middle East policy, especially the recent sale of some one hundred Mirage jet fighters to Libya, noting how easy it would be for the aircraft to reach Egyptian hands. The rally took place just about three hours before French President Georges Pompidou arrived here.

(French officials said in Paris today that M. Pompidou anticipated conversations of "complete frankness" with Mr. Nixon. These are likely to include France's impending sale of over 100 Mirage jets to Libya, a country experts say neither needs nor can operate the aircraft. M. Pompidou, it is believed, will endeavor to convince the Nixon Administration that France's Mideast policy is not aimed against Israel, that it is designed to re-establish a French presence in the Mediterranean area and serve as a counter-weight to Soviet penetration of the region.)

West Germany Takes Intense Security Measures To Protect Eban During His Visit

MUNICH, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Intense security measures surrounded Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban as he arrived yesterday at Munich Airport and later attended memorial services at the site of the Dachau concentration camp. The visit is Mr. Eban's first to West Germany--the first by any ranking member of the Israeli Government. The precautions were taken in view of the rash of Arab terrorist attacks in European cities during the past two weeks. Mr. Eban was greeted by Lord Mayor Joachim Vogel at the airport. He was driven in a bullet-proof car while helicopters hovered overhead. Few details of his itinerary have been disclosed. Mr. Eban will fly to Bonn tonight. Tomorrow he will commence his round of meetings with President Gustav Heinemann, Chancellor Willy Brandt and West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel.

Canadian Jewish Congress Scores Lufthansa For Tours That Include Passion Play

MONTREAL, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress has protested to Lufthansa, the German airline, over advertising for air tours which include the Passion Play this year at Oberammergau. In a telegram to the airlines office in Cologne, Monroe Abbey, CJC president, said that the organization was "deeply distressed and resentful" over the airline's promotion in Canada of the tour. The telegram noted that the play, staged every ten years, "has been condemned as an anti-Semitic libel by Christians and Jews in Germany and throughout the world." The telegram said that the CJC national executive had scheduled a meeting on March 1 to discuss the matter and to plan "protest action throughout Canada." The CJC said it was unable to understand "why Lufthansa continues to sponsor tours in connection with this manifestly anti-Semitic production which is in defiance of the spirit of reconciliation and ecumenism manifest in the Federal German Republic."

Immigrant Girl Whose Mother Professes No Faith To Be Registered As Jewish

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA)--An immigrant girl whose father is Jewish but whose mother professes no faith will be registered as Jewish by nationality, the Ministry of Justice announced yesterday. The ruling was made in the case of Nelly Miller, 23, a member of Kibbutz Nahshon, who has served in the Israeli Army. It stemmed from the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of Lt. Commander Benjamin Shalit that a person may be registered as of Jewish nationality even if not Jewish by religion. An amendment to the Law of Return which will restrict Jewish nationality to persons born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism has yet to pass its final reading in the Knesset. In the meantime, the Shalit ruling applies, according to Deputy States Attorney Yoram Barsela.

National Committee For Labor Israel Lauds Nixon's Foreign Policy Statement

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Some 900 delegates from the eastern seaboard attending the mid-winter conference of the National Committee for Labor Israel adopted a resolution yesterday lauding President Nixon's foreign policy statement submitted last week to Congress. The resolution singled out President Nixon's reaffirmation of American intentions to maintain "a careful watch on the balance of military forces and to provide arms to friendly states as the need arises." The resolution scored the Soviet Union and France for providing "tremendous quantities of material" to the hostile Arab states and to others equally hostile to Israel.

Dr. William Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and international president of B'nai B'rith, saluted Histadrut on its Golden Anniversary. He said that "Histadrut is the life, breath and guts of the State of Israel. It is a unique labor movement doing a complete job of welfare, education and medical protection for the people of Israel." Dr. Wexler cited Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute that has forged links between Israel and 81 developing nations.

The Honorable Jacob Barmore, member of the Israeli Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and Dr. Wexler were principal speakers at the conference luncheon, which was chaired by Leon H. Keyserling, Washington economist and president of the National Committee. The conference, said Mr. Keyserling, had been called "in view of the critical situation in the Middle East which requires that the American public become fully aware of the dangers facing Israel." He announced the convening of an Assembly of American Friends of Histadrut in Israel on June 26th. The Assembly will hear addresses by Israeli President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Golda Meir, and Histadrut Secretary-General Yitzhak Ben-Aharon.

In a report submitted to the meeting of the Board of Directors, Dr. Sol Stein, Executive Director, stated that the organization has raised \$4,030,000 in cash and long-term commitments since October 1st, for the health, educational and social welfare activities of Histadrut in Israel. Dr. Stein, noting that the campaign was running nearly fifty percent ahead of the comparable five-month period of last year, reported that \$1,787,000 had been raised in cash through the Israel Histadrut Campaign, and \$2,243,000 in deferred income through the American Histadrut Development Foundation. The latter sum does not include \$1.2 millions committed to the Foundation by participants in the Foundation's annual conference last week in Miami Beach. Following its business session the Board adjourned to the newly renovated auditorium of Histadrut House, and dedicated it in the name of Joseph Schlossberg, a founder of the National Committee for Labor Israel 46 years ago, and dean of the American Jewish labor movement. Mr. Schlossberg will be 95 years old next May 1.

Rep. Ottinger Warns Administration's Mideast Policy Encourages Arab Attack On Israel

YONKERS, N.Y. Feb. 23 (JTA)--The Nixon Administration's new Middle East policy would impose a settlement "that settles nothing except the Arabs' right to attack Israel with impunity," Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, New York Democrat charged here. Speaking at Congregation Agudas Achim, Rep. Ottinger also described that policy as one of seeking to avert a Soviet "monopoly of influence" among the Arab states which possess "most of the material resources that we and other great nations have always coveted in backward areas." Rep. Ottinger declared that such a goal could be achieved only at the price of "the destruction of Israel and the extermination of its 2,500,000 Jewish citizens." He also warned that "if Israel is forced once again, as in 1957, to surrender the fruits of a dearly-won victory, the Arabs will once again put off real peace negotiations, secure in the knowledge they have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

52 National Groups Urge Senate Support For Ratification Of Genocide Treaty

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Their hopes buoyed by President Nixon's message urging ratification of the long-pending Genocide Convention, supporters of the treaty will gather in Washington March 3 and 4 to open a campaign for prompt Senate action. Herschel Halbert, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Human Rights and Genocide Treaties and Director of the International League for the Rights of Man, said, "We commend the President most heartily. The United States has deferred much too long its adherence to this treaty to which 75 other nations already are parties. For the first time in almost two decades," he added "there is real reason to hope for Senate ratification."

Among other encouraging indications he cited recent endorsements of ratification by Secretary of State Rogers and Attorney General Mitchell and a report of a section of the American Bar Association urging reversal of that influential body's twenty-year opposition to the treaty. The genocide pact has never been brought to the Senate floor. President Nixon's call for ratification is the first such Presidential initiative since the pact was originally submitted to the Senate by President Harry S. Truman in 1950.

Delegates representing the 47 national religious, labor, veterans, civic and other organizations that comprise the Ad Hoc Committee for the Human Rights and Genocide Treaties will come from all parts of the United States to attend the Washington meeting, Mr. Halbert said. "We intend to demonstrate to Senator Fulbright and to other members of the Foreign Relations Committee that there is firm and widespread public support for ratification of the treaty," he declared.

Yigal Allon And John Lindsay Principal Speakers At Israel Bond Conference

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York and Yigal Allon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Culture of the State of Israel, will be the principal speakers at the International Inaugural Conference for Israel Bonds, meeting here from Thursday through Sunday, it was announced by Samuel Rothberg, Inaugural Conference Chairman. The Conference will launch a drive to sell a record total of Israel Bonds during 1970.