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U.S. Government And Jewish Organizations Condemn Arab Terror Against Airlines

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The United States Government today strongly condemned Arab acts of "terrorism against innocent civilians." The Israeli Government, through its Embassy here, issued a statement at the same time bitterly condemning the "international community" for allegedly remaining silent and taking no action to curb Arab terrorism aimed against Israel's airline and other airlines serving Israel. The U.S. statement, by State Department spokesman Robert W. Becker, followed the death of a Michigan woman yesterday in an Arab terrorist ambush of a busload of American Christian tourists near Hebron. It was also apparently aimed at last Saturday's crash of an Israel-bound Swissair jet at Zurich in which 47 persons--eight Americans among them--were killed. "Such irresponsible and indiscriminate acts can only make more difficult the search for peace in the Middle East which is our overriding goal," Mr. Becker said.

The Israel Embassy statement, in the form of a policy background paper titled "Atrocity in Zurich," stated "The victims of Zurich did not die at the hands only of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.) They died at the hands of a callous permissiveness that has for too long made Arab aggression against Israel a tolerable exception, a phenomenon to be condoned, an aberration to be tolerated." The paper specifically charged the governments of the Arab countries with "first degree murder" for encouraging, sheltering and supporting terrorists.

The Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations called on the international aviation community to "refuse to surrender to the Arab terrorists' blackmail campaign" against international air travel. A statement issued by Dr. William A. Wexler, president of the Conference, declared: "We deplore the action of certain airlines in suspending deliveries of cargo and mail to Israel. Punishing the victims of sabotage while rewarding the criminals can only further incite the terrorists." The statement added that "Arab fanatics cannot be halted by yielding to them but only by resistance against them. This means action by governments, by the United Nations, and by the international aviation community."

Arab Liberation Movement Seen As Facade For Cowardly Criminals

Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the national coordinating agency for the Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox branches of American Judaism, condemned "the Arab liberation movement as a facade for cowardly criminals who murder innocent civilians." He also urged those political and religious organizations "who have in the past uncritically glorified the Palestinian guerrillas that they search their consciences for having given encouragement, however indirectly, to the shedding of innocent blood." The Jewish Labor Committee and the Workmen's Circle telegraphed Secretary of State William P. Rogers to request an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council for action on "terror committed against civilian air travellers."

The American Jewish Congress urged that Arab countries whose governments protect and support terrorists be sealed off from world air traffic. The AJCongress national governing council issued a resolution declaring that "ultimate responsibility lies with the Arab governments that provide encouragement, funds, training, weapons, political support and refuge for the fanatics." Their resolution added, "Our own country must not be silent." Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, denounced the ban by several airlines on freight and mail flights to Israel and urged it be lifted immediately. Earl Morse, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said, "at a time when the indignant voice of a shocked mankind should reverberate throughout the world, we find, instead, relative silence among international heads of state and responsible religious leaders of all faiths. Such silence serves only to compound the tragedy perpetrated by sinister fanatics."

Switzerland Imposes Restrictions On Entry Of Arabs; Experts Say Bomb Caused Crash

BERNE, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The Swiss Government last night imposed severe restrictions on the entry of Arabs to that country. The measure was taken in the aftermath of Saturday's fatal crash of an Israel-bound Swissair jet. Switzerland, at the same time, called on the International Civil Aviation Organization based in Montreal to summon an emergency conference on air security and offered to host such a gathering. President Hans-Peter Tschudi, of Switzerland said at a press conference yesterday that hereafter Arabs would be admitted into Switzerland only on "humanitarian grounds" or where their visit was deemed to be "important to the Swiss national interest." He said the restrictions were not aimed against any Arab government or Arab citizens but only to weed out possible Palestinian terrorists bearing Arab passports.

President Tschudi said that holders of passports from Arab states would have to apply in advance for Swiss visas and all applications would undergo the closest scrutiny. The measure applies to holders of Algerian, Tunisian and Moroccan passports even though those countries have visa waiver agreements with Switzerland. The other Arab countries have no such agreements but in the past Swiss authorities have followed a liberal policy towards tourists and transit passengers from all countries. Palestinian Arabs, unable to possess national passports, travel under passports issued by the various

Arab countries. The stringent security measures, approved by the Swiss Cabinet, met with general approval here today. But some Swiss circles voiced concern over taking measures against countries which are not proven to have been implicated in the Swissair disaster. Experts investigating the wreckage of the plane said that evidence obtained so far pointed to a bomb, apparently in one of the mail pouches. Dr. Hans Scholtz, chief engineer of Swissair, said he was convinced that a bomb caused the crash and said he expected to have conclusive proof within a few days. Dr. Max Frei-Sulzer, chief of the Zurich crime laboratory which is analyzing powder burns found in the wrecked cargo compartment, said, "I'm already convinced it was a bomb." He also said he would "have complete proof" in a few days.

Airmail From Europe Fails To Arrive In Israel Despite Assurances It Would

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA)--No airmail from Europe arrived in Israel today despite assurances from several airlines that deliveries would continue. At least a dozen international carriers suspended mail and cargo service to Israel following last Saturday's fatal crash of a Swissair jet. The airlines said the measure was temporary and several announced yesterday that they were rescinding the ban. But planes of the West German Lufthansa, the British BEA and Swissair landed at Lydda Airport today minus their mail bags. The captain of the Swissair flight refused to take outgoing mail but agreed when informed by postal authorities that he was acting contrary to his company's instructions.

Passenger traffic to and from Israel was unaffected by the air transport crisis. Local agents for major airlines, solicited by the Ministry of Transport, said there was no rush to cancel flight reservations to Israel. Planes leaving Israel are booked to capacity. Incoming planes are less than full. This was attributed to the seasonal lag although only yesterday the Ministry of Tourism announced that a record number of tourists arrived in Israel during the first six weeks of the new year. Lydda Airport reported yesterday that incoming air freight and mail was about normal despite the suspension of cargo and mail service. Airport officials said that strangely enough, airlines that had announced a ban continued to deliver freight and mails while others that made no announcement suspended deliveries. Israel made strong representations to the International Postal Union yesterday against any delays in foreign mail deliveries. The Israeli spokesmen pointed out that IPU statutes require all signatory countries to forward foreign mails with the greatest possible speed.

House Of Commons Leader Pledges Arrangement To Outlaw Air Terror; Ground Crews Strike

LONDON, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The leader of the House of Commons pledged today that the Government "will give full support to international arrangements designed to outlaw terrorism and violence on the world's airways." But Opposition members of the House took exception to a further statement by Fred Peart that there have been no new developments in the air transport crisis that followed the fatal crash of a Swissair jet. Reginald Maudling, a deputy leader of the Conservative Party, said he was not satisfied with yesterday's statement on the matter by Roy Mason, President of the Board of Trade. He asked Mr. Peart, "how can you say there has been no change when ground crews have blacked out Arab airline flights at Heathrow (London Airport) and there is a threat of a world-wide pilots' strike?" Mr. Maudling referred to a decision by BOAC ground-crews at Heathrow to stop servicing Arab and Israeli aircraft using the field because of "inadequate security" and to a statement by a spokesman for the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations that the present situation could lead to a general strike.

London Airport ground crews voted a total work stoppage today against all Arab airlines using the field and a partial work stoppage against El Al, Israel's national airline. Israel reacted to the work stoppage by lodging an appeal through the International Transport Workers Union for the London ground crews to distinguish between countries which aid and shelter terrorists and countries whose nationals and planes are the intended or actual victims. El Al was reportedly planning to hire independent technicians.

Israel's Charge That Airlines Bowing To Intimidation Is Disputed By Pilots' Group

The British Airline Pilots Association retorted sharply to Israeli charges that airlines were giving in to Arab blackmail by refusing to carry cargo and mail to Israel. Gordon Hurley, a spokesman for the British Pilots Association, disputed the contention of Israeli Ambassador Aharon Remez that the cargo and mail ban constituted "capitulation to intimidation." Meanwhile, representatives of 53 international airlines using Heathrow met for the second time in two days to discuss measures to combat aerial sabotage. No decisions were reported to have come out of the two hour meeting.

In a related development, the Guild of Pilots and Navigators here demanded that the Government bring the issue of air safety before the United Nations. (In Brussels today the Belgian Airline Pilots Association demanded that their government take energetic action to prevent air piracy and terrorism.) A British European Airways (BEA) flight from London to Athens was cancelled today when passengers refused to board after learning that the plane would continue to Tel Aviv. They were transferred to another flight. The BEA captain said later that it would have been foolish to take any risks, especially as there were seven children among the passengers.

Egyptian Planes Attack Israeli Positions; Israeli Soldier Killed In Action

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA)--Egyptian Air Force jets attacked Israeli positions in the southern section of the Suez Canal zone today but caused no casualties. A military spokesman said the planes appeared to be Soviet-made Sukhoi-7 bombers. Israel Air Force jets staged a one-hour attack on Egyptian positions in the southern section of the canal zone last night and returned safely to their bases. An Israeli officer, Lt. Shmuel Avrahami, 23, of Jerusalem, was killed last night in an exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces in the canal zone. An Israeli civilian and two soldiers were wounded in further shooting today.

Head Of Pilots' Group Meets With Dr. Bunche On Airline Attacks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 24 (JTA)--Captain Ola Forsberg, president of the International Federation of Air Pilots Association, had a 40 minute meeting today with Under-Secretary General Ralph Bunche on the recent epidemic of attacks on airlines. Capt. Forsberg flew in from Amsterdam yesterday to seek UN action in this situation. Emerging from his talk with Dr. Bunche, Capt. Forsberg described the meeting as "generally disappointing" over the possibility of affirmative UN action. Capt. Forsberg is flying immediately to London. A meeting of his organization is scheduled for tomorrow. He said he would have "specific recommendations" to make at the meeting but declined to divulge what they would be.

Secretary General U Thant will cut short his visit to his home in Burma and is scheduled to return to New York tonight. At the airport in Rangoon this morning, Mr. Thant told correspondents that "reports and cables from Headquarters require my urgent and personal attention." He mentioned then the forthcoming meeting of the Big Four on Friday, adding that he had decided to return to New York "to see how I can best contribute towards a successful outcome."

Student Arrested For Screaming 'Murderer' And 'French Hitler' At Pompidou

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA)--An 18 year-old Atlantic City, New Jersey girl momentarily disrupted French President Georges Pompidou's address to a National Press Club luncheon today. The girl, who identified herself as Eve Berger, a student in international communications at American University in Washington, jumped to her feet shortly after Pompidou began his speech and screamed "murderer" and "French Hitler." United States Secret Service agents and Washington police immediately ejected Miss Berger from the women's gallery of the Press Club ball room. She was hauled off to jail for questioning. It could not be immediately learned whether any charges will be filed. The French President continued his speech unruffled, outwardly at least, by the brief incident.

His speech lasted for only seven minutes and dealt with the close ties France has with the United States even though at times there may be a difference of opinion. Following the speech M. Pompidou was asked what steps he thought should be taken to bring peace to the Middle East. He replied "no one person has that solution but peace should be achieved in the shortest possible time." Pompidou suggested a possible approach: a Four Power conference on the Middle East. Concerning France's sale of Mirage jets to Libya, he asserted that the only Mirage fighters in Middle East skies were those belonging to Israel. He said he wouldn't be surprised if he saw Egyptian or even French advisers in Libya. Whether this was a veiled threat remains unclear. Pompidou ended his responses to questions about the Middle East by declaring that "the capital of France is not in Cairo nor is it in Tel Aviv. We are not against Israel. We seek peace in the area."

West German Foreign Minister To Visit Israel Whether Arabs Like It Or Not

BONN, Feb. 24 (JTA)--West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel said last night that he would visit Israel next fall and didn't care whether the Arabs liked it or not. Dr. Scheel spoke after accepting an invitation to Israel extended to him by Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Mr. Eban arrived here yesterday on an official visit at Dr. Scheel's invitation. He attended a dinner given in his honor by the West German Foreign Minister. Earlier Mr. Eban conferred for an hour with Chancellor Willy Brandt and also had talks with Dr. Scheel, Finance Minister Alex Mueller and Economics Minister Karl Schiller.

Dr. Scheel was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent whether he was concerned over unfavorable Arab reaction to his projected trip to Israel. He replied, "I do what I please. Our relations with Israel have nothing whatever to do with our relations with the Arabs. They will have to get used to this attitude of mine. I visited India but did not visit Pakistan and nobody worried about it," he said. Mr. Eban and his entourage appeared to be satisfied with their talks so far with West German leaders. About 200 Arab and left wing German students demonstrated outside the Chancellery during his meeting with Mr. Brandt but attracted little attention. Erich Mende, a former leader of the Free Democratic Party, said as long as there is no peace in the Mideast, "Germany must make it clear that her support for Israel is not open to negotiation."

Trial Of Arabs Charged With Attack On El Al Plane In 1968 To Re-Open March 21

ATHENS, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The postponed trial of two Arabs charged with murder in the fatal attack on an El Al airliner here in December, 1968, will re-open on March 21, it was announced today. The trial was "postponed indefinitely" last week when a dozen key witnesses failed to appear in court on the opening day. The postponement drew angry protests from the Israel Government. The two Arabs machinegunned the Israeli airliner at Athens airport killing one Israeli passenger and injuring a stewardess. Meanwhile Olympic Airlines, Greece's international air carrier, announced the "temporary suspension" of cargo and mail flights to Israel. The suspension stemmed from Saturday's fatal crash of a Swissair jet believed to have been sabotaged by Arab terrorists. Olympic, owned by tycoon Aristotle Onassis, has three flights a week to Tel Aviv.

Zionist General Council Begins Meeting; Jews Urged To Support Israel's Existence

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The chairman of the Jewish Agency today exhorted Jews all over the world to support Israel's policies even if it meant opposing the policies of their own governments. Aryeh L. Pincus made that claim on Jewish loyalty to Israel in the course of his keynote address at the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) meeting that opened here. Mr. Pincus praised world Jewry for identifying with Israel through contributions of money and support for immigration and human needs. "Such identification," he said, "means among other things an absolute commitment to support Israel's policy and help create a favorable image, even if her policies clash with those of governments in countries where Jews live."

B'nai B'rith Presents Two Awards; Speakers Discuss American And Russian Jews

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith presented its 1970 Jewish Heritage Award for "excellence in Jewish literature" to the late Soviet writer Isaac Babel. The award was presented Sunday to Nathalie Babel, the author's daughter, at the annual meeting of B'nai B'rith's national commission on adult Jewish education at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Mr. Babel, who was imprisoned by Soviet officials in 1939 and died while in custody, is the first person to be chosen for the B'nai B'rith award posthumously. The Jewish service organization also presented the first B'nai B'rith Book Award, a \$500 prize given for a single outstanding work on Judaism or Jewish life published during the preceding year, to Ronald Sanders' "The Downtown Jews," which describes Jewish immigration to and life on New York's lower East Side.

Professor Leonard J. Fein, associate director of the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies, told the B'nai B'rith meeting that large numbers of Jews in the United States are ignorant of Jewish tradition, history, precepts, customs, and other issues involving Judaism. Professor Fein based his conclusions on a continuing study of the changing Jewish community in the Boston area and information gathered from lecturing to Jewish groups throughout the country. And yet, he said, the picture was not entirely bleak, "there is ferment and dissatisfaction among the young, due to the effect of the Israeli-Arab war of 1967, the predicament of Jews in the Soviet Union and to the recent experiences of the black community which are being translated into the Jewish community."

Professor Max Hayward, Fellow of St. Anthony's Oxford University and visiting scholar at Columbia University's Russian Institute, told the meeting that Jewish writers in the Soviet Union are condemned to live "in a curious limbo, a kind of psychological twilight in which their relation to Russian society has been deliberately distorted." Despite the fact that the Jewish contribution to Russian literature of the century "is enormous, in fact, central to the literature of the country in the last 50 years," Professor Hayward said, writers of Jewish origin were being systematically suppressed, were particularly vulnerable to persecution and had even paid with their lives for expressing opinions. He listed particularly, as the three giants of the century, Boris Pasternak, the poet Ossip Mandelstamm and the author Isaac Babel.

Taking part in the panel discussion were authors Maurice Samuel and Elie Wiesel. Mr. Samuel said that "in the Soviet Union the Yiddish writer is compelled to become part of the system of emasculation and obliteration of Yiddish." Mr. Wiesel said that Jewish writers in the 1930's had the choice of remaining in Russia or leaving. "Most chose Russia because they thought they could bring concepts of Judaism and Communism together. They were wrong. Even those who tried to live as Communists died as Jews."

AJCongress Charges Chicago Contempt Procedure Denied Right To Fair Hearing

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA)--Judge Julius Hoffman's handling of contempt charges against the "Chicago Seven" defendants and two of their lawyers denied them "the right to a fair hearing" on those charges, the American Jewish Congress stated today, adding: "It is manifestly unjust to require the defendants to remain in jail pending appeal" of the contempt sentences. In a statement, George Soll of New York, chairman of the Congress' Commission on Law and Social Action, stated that contempt charges should have been heard by a judge not involved in the case; those held in contempt should have been given the usual notice of the charges against them and time to prepare their defense; and "substantial questions" raised concerning the validity of the contempt sentences should preclude jailing the defendants pending their appeal on those sentences.

Mr. Soll, noting that the American Jewish Congress "does not at this time express any views on either the allegedly contumacious conduct in question or on the conduct of the (conspiracy) trial by Judge Hoffman," declared, however, "We can best protect the liberties of all Americans by insuring that the guarantees of fair trial are applied to every person charged with crime, no matter how we may view their beliefs or their conduct."

Abraham Rattner's 'The Gallows Of Baghdad' To Go On View At New School Art Center

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA)--The first American showing of Abraham Rattner's monumental series of paintings, "The Gallows of Baghdad" will go on view at The New School Art Center on Thursday. Rattner, who taught at The New School for Social Research from 1948 to 1951 and now makes his home in Paris at the age of 75, painted the 36 gouaches, one oil and two oil tryptics in the exhibition within a period of two months after he heard over the radio that 16 persons, including nine Jews, were hanged as spies for Israel in the public square of Baghdad amidst the delirious jubilation of a large crowd of onlookers. "What exasperated me was not the hanging per se" Rattner recalled in a discussion with Paul Mocsanyi, Director of The New School Art Center. "After all, history knows many hangings since the book of Esther. It was the rejoicing of the crowds, their fanatic exaltation, this ugly, vicious outburst of inhumanity that inflamed and infuriated me."

Black Reporter Recommends Kibbutz Way Of Life As Example To Black Communities

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA)--An American Negro journalist has recommended Israel's kibbutz way of life as an example for the black community in America. Dick Edwards, writing from Israel in the New York Amsterdam News, declared, "If the Israelis can make deserts bloom, it seems as if blacks with more fertile land and water, could follow the blueprints of the kibbutzim and carve out the good life in America. All it takes is togetherness." Mr. Edwards was one of a group of ten American Negro journalists invited on a fact-finding tour of Israel recently under the auspices of the Israel Government and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He wrote that of all the things he saw in Israel, "the most dramatic and useful to blacks in America is this community way of living which we would do well to imitate. The people who formed these communities came to Israel with a rag and a bag, but they had a will to be self-supporting even though it meant conquering some of the poorest land in the world. With their bare hands and sheer determination these immigrants made the desert bloom."