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Pres. Pompidou Asserts Israel Has Right To Exist; Calls For Big Four Parley

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--French President Georges Pompidou told a joint session of Congress today that France reaffirms "the right of the State of Israel not only to exist but also to security" from the Arab nations. He emphasized that a peace settlement in the Middle East must include a solution to the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees and a renunciation of force by Israel and her Arab neighbors.

"Who does not understand that there is no assured future for Israel outside a lasting entente with the world which surrounds it," M. Pompidou told the senators and House members. The entente, he said "implies renunciation of military conquest." This, along with the solution of the refugee problem, "in a situation where feelings and fanaticism are increasing daily should, to be quickly reached, proceed from the United Nations action and in particular from the four permanent members of the Security Council to define and propose the general conditions for a settlement and to provide guarantees for it," M. Pompidou said. The four Security Council members are the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France.

The French President, who arrived in this country Monday and is scheduled to visit a number of major cities before departing for Paris on March 3, has been assailed in this country for the sale of Mirage jets to Libya while imposing an embargo on Mirage jets to Israel that has been paid for. About half of the members of Congress attended the joint session. Those absent had announced in advance they would not attend as a protest against France's sale of jets to Libya. Congressional aides, invited by the Speaker of the House, attended the session and filled the empty seats of the protesting congressmen. Unlike yesterday, when a young student interrupted M. Pompidou's address to the National Press Club by shouting "murderer" and "French Hitler," there were no incidents during his address to the joint session. However, shortly after M. Pompidou began his address, New York Representative Lester L. Wolff left his seat and walked out of the chamber demonstrating his opposition to French Middle East policy. Wolff was the only Congressman to walk out during Pompidou's address.

White House Denies It Reached Decision To Sell More Planes To Israel

Focusing on the sale of jets to Libya, M. Pompidou asserted that Israel had achieved "undeniable success on the battlefield." But he added: "Who can not see the precariousness and, in the long run, sterile nature of the victories gained?" Most of his address was concerned with past friendships between France and the United States and the outlook for this country in Vietnam war which, he hinted, was similar to the war France had with Algeria.

Earlier in the day a broadcast by CBS stated that a decision had been reached by the White House to sell 25 additional jets to Israel. The United States has been selling jets to Israel and on Jan. 30 President Nixon said he would announce in 30 days whether or not the U.S. would sell additional planes. The CBS broadcast said this decision would be announced next week. Ronald L. Ziegler, White House Press Secretary, told newsmen "the matter is still under consideration and no decision has been made. There will be a full discussion of the situation before a decision is made."

(In Jerusalem the Israel Foreign Ministry gave no confirmation today to a CBS radio report in New York that President Nixon had already informed Israel of his decision regarding the sale to Israel of Phantom jet planes and other weapons. A Ministry spokesman was queried about the report.)

Egyptian Planes Attack Israeli Positions; Three Hand Grenade Incidents Reported

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A number of Egyptian Air Force jets attacked Israeli positions in the Suez Canal northern sector today but there were no Israeli casualties, officials said. The Egyptian foray followed attacks by Israeli Air Force jets last night against Egyptian batteries which had heavily shelled Israeli positions in the canal's southern sector near Tewfik. Israeli ground units responded to the shelling in an exchange which lasted for several hours. The air attacks brought a dwindling of the Egyptian shelling and its termination, officials said.

One Israeli soldier and eight local Gaza Strip Arabs were injured during the past 24 hours in three hand grenade incidents. A grenade thrown at an Israeli army vehicle yesterday east of Gaza missed and hit some Arabs. Seven were injured. The soldier was injured in the second grenade attack aimed at an Israeli civilian vehicle north of Khan Yunis. Later, a grenade was hurled at an empty Israeli bus in Gaza but caused no damage to the vehicle.

A group of civilian workers near Misgav Am in north Galilee was the target of small arms fire from Lebanon but suffered no casualties. A covering group returned the fire. Security forces shot and killed an Arab who violated a curfew imposed in the Hebron area after the killing Monday of an American tourist whose bus was machinegunned. The Arab was challenged and tried to run away. Three terrorist-owned houses in Hebron area villages were blown up yesterday.

Zionist General Council Told 1969 Receipts From UJA And UIA Totals \$215 Million

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The treasurer of the Jewish Agency told the Zionist General Council here today that 1969 receipts from the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal for Jewish Agency work here would amount to \$215 million. A.L. Dulczin, the treasurer, said this total compared to \$169 million in 1968. In 1967, year of the Six-Day War, the Jews of the world contributed \$346 million. The goal for the next two years, he said, is \$700 million - the equivalent of the totals raised in the past three years. Mr. Dulczin projected income for the year commencing next April at \$380 million, including \$14 million in repayment of loans extended by the Jewish Agency to immigrants.

Although that figure is small, it was considered significant that some of the immigrants who were aided by the Jewish Agency in their resettlement in Israel were already capable of making some contribution of their own to the immigrant absorption effort. Sixty percent of the new budget is earmarked for the needs of immigrants including immigration, primary absorption, housing, welfare, health and education. The budget is based on a forecast of 60,000 immigrants during the coming year. Immigration movements now exist in 21 countries, Mr. Dulczin said, and there are 114 immigration centers. Total immigration since statehood has exceeded 1,300,000, including 93,000 youths and children trained in Youty Aliya institutions.

Mr. Dulczin disclosed that during the coming year, the Youth Aliya organization would handle some 3,000 retarded youths aged 13-18, who have not yet reached elementary school levels. Describing Jewish Agency educational activities abroad, Mr. Dulczin said these currently involve 560 school inspectors, principals, teachers, kindergarten teachers and instructors from Israel. He said efforts would be made to establish high schools so as to provide for continuation of Jewish education. Mr. Dulczin spoke enthusiastically of a new project undertaken by the Jewish Agency, the sale of quality Israeli products abroad. He said an experiment in this direction had been attempted in Philadelphia and the community there had responded enthusiastically. Mr. Dulczin, a Minister Without Portfolio in the Israel Government, has announced his resignation from the Jewish Agency treasurership to take effect following adoption of the 1970 budget.

UN Civil Aviation Agency To Meet; Supported By U.S. And Swiss Governments

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A conference of a United Nations civil aviation agency was scheduled for today in Montreal, with United States and Swiss Government backing, to grapple with the difficult problem of finding means of preventing Arab terrorist attacks on commercial airliners. The U. S. State Department indicated that it planned to deal with the anti-Israel aspects of assaults on such planes by the approach of international talks through aviation officials.

State Department press officer Carl Barch said that the United States has no plans to halt commercial flights to Israel in the wake of a Swissair plane crash which killed all 47 passengers and crew members, and an explosion in an Israel-bound Austrian airliner which caused no fatalities. Both have been attributed to Arab terrorists. Mr. Barch said the State Department had instructed Charles Butler, U.S. representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN specialized agency with headquarters in Montreal, to seek a meeting of the ICAO. He added that "we expect some results" from the ICAO meeting "but we don't know just what they will be." He also said he had no information on whether the United States was taking any specific steps to strengthen security of international flights.

Work Stoppage Against El Al Halted By British Ground Crews At London Airport

LONDON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--British ground crews at London Airport halted their work stoppage against El Al and eight Arab airlines today and resumed servicing the liners. The crews had stopped work on the planes for "security reasons" following the destruction by a bomb of a Swissair liner bound for Tel Aviv last Saturday with the loss of 47 lives and the attempted bomb destruction of another Tel Aviv-bound airliner.

The ground crews are employed by British Overseas Airways Corp. Their services to El Al planes have been restricted to "push and start" with El Al technicians doing all the necessary servicing. The Arab lines, however, have been dependent of the British crews for full service. An El Al spokesman said this afternoon that all El Al flights were leaving London on schedule.

The executive board of the International Federation of Airlines Pilots Associations met in London today to consider what action the pilots could take to prevent attacks on civilian aircraft. They heard a report from their president, Capt. Ola Forsberg, on his unsuccessful efforts to obtain United Nations action. Capt. Forsberg flew to New York for a 50-minute meeting Tuesday with UN Under-Secretary-General Ralph Bunche. He reported after the meeting that he saw little hope of UN action. Capt. Forsberg said the pilots would consider a strike unless there was considerable improvement in the security situation. His board, meeting in secret here, is expected to reach a decision on action by the federation's 46,000 members some time Thursday.

A spokesman for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) demanded that governments take stern action against politically-motivated attacks on civilian aircraft. He said that in countries where the death penalty existed, it should be imposed for murder through such attacks.

Roy Mason of the Board of Trade announced that Britain would take part in an emergency meeting March 3 of the European Civil Aviation Administration to tackle "violent interference with Civil Aviation." He said such acts as hijacking, attacks on grounded aircraft and sabotage could be dealt with only internationally.

Arafat Denies That Any Arab Group Was Responsible For Swiss Airline Tragedy

LONDON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Yasir Arafat, commander of the El Fatah, has denied that any Arab commando group was responsible for the crash Saturday of an Israel-bound Swissair jet and added that the Arab commando groups were "seriously viewing the entire question of attacks on international airliners." It was reported here from Amman. The Amman Radio quoted Arafat as asserting at a news conference yesterday in Amman that the review was being done by "the Unified Command of the commando organizations," described here as a body to formulate policy for the 10 groups of Palestinian guerrillas. It reportedly was formed when the guerrillas felt they needed a united front during their confrontation two weeks ago with King Hussein of Jordan.

Arafat's statement reportedly was considered as confirmation of reports that El Fatah, the largest guerrilla group with the widest support from Arab governments, was pressuring the Unified Command to stop guerrilla operations in foreign countries. It was reported that opposition to the El Fatah effort may come from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine which has attacked planes of El Al. Arafat was also quoted as suggesting that "a non-Arab" terrorist group might be responsible for the Swissair sabotage.

U Thant Urged To Take Effective Action To Prevent Further Airline Disasters

MONTREAL, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Monroe Abbey, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, has sent a telegram to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant urging strong and effective measures be taken to prevent acts of terrorism such as the one that caused the crash last Saturday of the Swiss airliner in which 47 persons were killed. Meanwhile, Air Canada has imposed a temporary delay in the shipment of all unaccompanied baggage earmarked for Israel. According to reports here, airline officials want a 24 to 48 hour "screening" of such baggage to make certain it does not contain any dangerous material.

In a separate telegram to Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. Abbey and Samuel Chait, president of the Federated Zionist Organizations of Canada, stated: "We request that the Canadian government press for the capture and prosecution of those responsible for this (the Swiss airliner explosion) reprehensible act and, further, to condemn any government which knowingly harbors organizations waging terror against innocent people."

(In Ottawa, members of Parliament have expressed concern with the mounting Arab terrorism against civilian air travel and have called upon the government to condemn the attacks. Robert Stanfield MP, leader of the opposition, said there is an increasing international concern about the vulnerability of airlines to sabotage. "I want to know if the government is taking steps to improve safety regulations in civilian aviation to protect lives?" Donald Macdonald, president of the Privy Council, replied that "the government shares with other governments a strong feeling that action must be taken to assure safety of civilian air flights. Meetings are scheduled for later this week to discuss this problem. We will make clear that acts of this kind must be condemned.")

University Institute Calls For Withdrawal Of Support To Arab Refugee Camps

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University yesterday responded to the explosion of the Swiss jet airliner by condemning the Arab terrorists for their "dastardly conduct" and called upon "all welfare organizations that support Arab refugee camps to withdraw support unless firm guarantees are given that the camps will not be used for training in hatred and violence." A statement issued by Monseigneur John Oesterreicher, director of the Institute, Father John Flannery, co-director, and the entire staff of the Institute, expressed "pain and horror in our hearts" at the "brutal deeds of Arab terrorists against civilians in no way involved in the Arab-Israel conflict."

Efforts Being Renewed To Reorganize Terrorist Attacks In Israel After Recent Setbacks

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A police chief reported today that there were indications of efforts at reorganization for renewal of terrorist acts in Israel and in the occupied territories after setbacks in recent months caused by the seizure of several saboteur groups. North district police chief Mordechai Ron, in reporting this, added that there was a strong inclination to hit back at the terrorists but that "objective difficulties" hindered counter-operations. He added it would be playing into the hands of terrorist gangs if Israel took indiscriminate reprisals against the law-abiding majority of Arabs.

Earlier this week Israeli police uncovered two Israeli Arab terrorist cells, one in Nazareth and the other in Western Galilee. The Nazareth ring was also active in the neighboring village of Ilut. Its members have been charged with conspiring to commit sabotage and collecting funds for terrorist organizations. The ring in Western Galilee was uncovered after police discovered an abandoned pick-up truck near the Lebanese border, containing explosives and activating devices. Fourteen suspects from nearby villages were detained for questioning.

Israel's Prime Minister Says Russia And Egypt Are Equally Enemies Of Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Soviet Union must be considered as much Israel's enemy as Egypt, Premier Golda Meir told the Knesset yesterday, confirming that she had made such a statement in an interview with New York TV station WPIX. Replying to a question from Uri Avneri of the maverick Haolam Hazeh party, she said Soviet arms were flowing to Egypt in "tremendous quantities" even though the Soviets know they are meant for Israel's destruction. She charged also that Soviet military experts were serving in Egypt, advising Egyptians in their "aggressive policy." She also said that the Soviet Government was making announcements hostile to Israel.

Youths To Picket Airline Offices And Arab Center To Protest Airline Terror

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Declaring its "outrage at the murder of 47 innocent people bound for Israel, the shooting of passengers at the Munich airport, and the machine-gunning of tourists in Israel," the Ad Hoc Committee Against International Arab Terrorism will conduct a series of demonstrations today and tomorrow. Protest leaders, noting the "shocking silence of the world community," demand a total international air boycott of Arab states and will picket offices of airlines flying to Arab lands. The protest actions will culminate in a mass demonstration tomorrow at the Arab Information Center. The participants will then march to the Isaiah Wall at the United Nations for a memorial ceremony.

Tomorrow's rally, according to protest leaders, is to "mourn the innocent victims of Arab crimes, to protest against Arab governments that harbor such criminals, and to arouse world public opinion, the United Nations and responsible governments throughout the world to demand an immediate international air boycott of Arab countries aiding terrorists." The Ad Hoc Committee includes students and faculty at Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University and members of the National Council of Synagogue Youth, Young Judea, Bnai Akiva and Hashomer Hatzair in the New York City area.

Rabbinic Body Of American Reform Judaism To Hold Annual Convention In Israel

BOSTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--For the first time the official rabbinic body of Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, will hold its annual convention in the State of Israel, March 6-10 in Jerusalem. CCAR president, Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, Boston, stated that the convention has suspended its normal business procedures so that the entire program can be devoted to learning and exchanging ideas with Israeli scholars, educators and political figures. He hoped that the meeting would serve to strengthen the ties between the two Jewish communities, emphasizing the CCAR's 1969 convention declaration, "their ordeal is our ordeal, their destiny is our destiny." The CCAR vice-president, Rabbi David Polish of Evanston, Ill., the convention program chairman, said that as a result of the Israeli Supreme Court's Shalit decision, two Israeli authorities would discuss the question of "Who is a Jew." He stressed that, "we are not coming to propagandize but to express our solidarity with Israel and her people."

AJCongress Lauds President Nixon For Urging Ratification Of Genocide Treaty

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today expressed its "profound gratification" to President Nixon for his "statesmanlike and far-seeing action urging Senate ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention." In a telegram to the President, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, of Cleveland, president of the Congress, said Nixon's "initiative will, hopefully, bring our country's national policy into conformity with the ardent wish of men the world over to end for all time the mass murder of human beings for racial, religious or ethnic reasons."

Dore Schary Appointed New York Cultural Commissioner By Mayor Lindsay

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay and Parks, Recreational and Cultural Affairs Administrator August Heckscher today announced the appointment of Dore Schary as Commissioner of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Schary, a well-known Broadway and movie writer, producer and director, is honorary chairman of the Anti Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and has long been active in numerous civic and cultural organizations. He will assume his new position on May 1.

Arab Group Shouting 'El Fatah' Disrupts Meeting Of Clerics

TORONTO, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A public meeting, called by Evangelicals, Catholics, Liberals and Protestants, drew 500 persons at Yorkminster Baptist Church but was disrupted by an Arab group which shouted, heckled, chanted "El Fatah." Nine policemen were required to restore order. One Arab ripped pages from the Bible and threatened a member of the five-man panel. "When you return Jerusalem El Fatah will get you" was the greeting given to main speaker, Reverend Douglas Young of Holyland Institute, Jerusalem. The attack was prompted by remarks Rev. Roland Decorneille, an Anglican, aimed at the anti-Israel record of A.C. Forrest, editor of the United Church Observer. On Tuesday 1,000 Jewish students of the University of Toronto and York University and Jewish day schools marched in downtown Toronto picketing the French consulate on the occasion of French President Georges Pompidou's visit to America. Youths carried a coffin.

Gov. Rockefeller To Address United Hias; Will Receive Group's Liberty Award

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller will be the featured speaker March 8 at the 86th annual meeting of United Hias Service, the Governor's office has announced. The Governor will receive the UHS's "Liberty Award" at the meeting in the Hotel Roosevelt here. The New York Association for New Americans, a group that aids Jewish immigrants to the Greater New York area, will receive a "special tribute" at the meeting. In addition, reports will be given on the wave of Jewish refugees from Poland since 1968 and the situation of refugees from the Middle East, North Africa, Cuba and other countries in Eastern Europe.

Pickets Surround French Consulate In Protest Against France's Mideast Policies

CHICAGO, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Massive picketing surrounded the French Consulate here yesterday in protest against France's Middle East policies. Julian Jablin, a local publicist speaking for the pickets, said the demonstration was Chicago's "welcome" for President Georges Pompidou of France, who is in Washington on an official visit and will come to Chicago later this week. At the height of the three-hour demonstration as many as 2,000 pickets marched according to Mr. Jablin. He said that altogether some 5,000 pickets participated.