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Report That Pompidou May Cut Short His Visit; 10,000 Demonstrate In Chicago

NEW YORK, Mar. 1 (JTA)--CBS radio reported today that President Georges Pompidou, of France, said he intends to cut short his visit to the United States and omit his visit to New York City scheduled for tomorrow. The report could not be immediately confirmed. In Washington, a State Department spokesman said he had no information about the possibility of M. Pompidou cutting short his visit. But according to one news source, the French President reportedly told State Department officials that he would if there were any more demonstrations like the one he experienced in Chicago Saturday night where some 10,000 persons protested French Mideast policies.

An estimated 5000 persons staged a protest demonstration at Westchester County Airport today as President Pompidou arrived there from Chicago. He is staying over night at the White Plains home of Emil Mossbacher, chief of protocol of the U.S. State Department. His plans call for him to meet with a delegation of Jewish leaders in New York tomorrow and to attend a luncheon in his honor at the United Nations, given by Secretary General U Thant.

During M. Pompidou's visit to Chicago, an estimated 10,000 persons from that city and other Midwestern cities staged a massive but peaceful demonstration outside of the Palmer House where a dinner in honor of the French leader was held. Prior to the dinner, President Pompidou met for a half hour with a delegation of Chicago Jewish leaders who conveyed to him their deep concern over France's sale of Mirage jets to Libya. According to Jean Beliard, M. Pompidou's press aide, the President told the Jewish leaders that "it was in the interests of Israel to become a state in the geographical sense like all other states and that as long as Israel continued to be a religious state, it would be surrounded by hostile people." Two Chicago newspapers reported today that M. Pompidou had told the Jewish leaders that Israel must stop using racial and religious ties abroad to further its policies. But the Jewish leaders who met with the President have categorically denied that he made such a statement to them.

Jewish Leaders In Chicago Deny Pompidou Said Israel Must Sever Religious Ties Abroad

Spokesmen for the group--Raymond Epstein, president of the Chicago Jewish Welfare Board and Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen, president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis--told JTA that what President Pompidou said to them was that Israel is a state and quarrels and differences often arise between states but as far as France and Israel are concerned, these have nothing to do with religious issues. They said that M. Pompidou, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann and the French Ambassador to the U.S., Charles Lucet, went out of his way to stress that France's current posture in the Mideast was not affected by religious considerations nor is France, the French Government or its President in any way anti-Semitic. The alleged warning to Israel was front-paged by the Chicago Tribune and also appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times. It was attributed to M. Beliard who purportedly quoted President Pompidou's remarks to the Jewish leaders. The latter said they were not sure that M. Beliard was even present at their meeting with the French President.

M. Beliard also reported that the Jewish leaders had asked President Pompidou why the Arab countries would not agree to direct talks with Israel. He reportedly replied that as long as the current situation exists "such talks would be unacceptable" because they would be between "a conquering nation and a conquered nation." Mr. Epstein and Rabbi Cohen subsequently told JTA that M. Pompidou had told them that France's Mideast policies were based on considerations larger than the immediate question of the sale of 110 jets to Libya. He said further that France had taken precautions to prevent the use of the Libyan jets against Israel but if they proved inadequate, France would then reconsider its Mideast policies. Rabbi Cohen told JTA that the meeting with the French President was cordial but left the Jewish leaders "disappointed" because he indicated no change in France's policies.

The demonstration at Westchester Airport was organized by the Westchester Board of Rabbis and supported by major Jewish organizations in the area. It was termed a "very definite success" by Rabbi Ludwig Madelmann, chairman of the Westchester Board of Rabbis. "It exceeded all our expectations," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The demonstrators carried picket signs reading: "Water, Not Oil;" "We Work For Peace. What Does Pompi-do?"; and "Pompous Pompidou Pumps Pan-Arabian Petroleum." A number of signs were written in French.

Rally Planned In New York On Eve Of Pompidou's Arrival

A citywide rally sponsored by nine national Jewish organizations is scheduled in New York City this evening to protest France's Middle East Policy. The rally at Hunter College comes on the eve of French President Georges Pompidou's arrival in this city on his way home to France. Rally sponsors said the meeting was called to "convey to the President of France the profound opposition of Americans of different races and religions to his policy of arming a hostile Arab state, Libya, while renegeing on delivery of planes already sold to Israel." When M. Pompidou arrives in New York tomorrow morning he will receive a delegation of Jewish leaders at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The delegation will represent the American Jewish Committee, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations, the Rabbinical Council of America, Jewish War Veterans, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, American Jewish Congress, and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. Thousands of demonstrators representing adult and youth Jewish organizations in the New York metropolitan area are scheduled to march in front of the Waldorf Astoria later tomorrow evening where M. Pompidou will be attending a dinner given by the Franco-American societies of the United States. In San Francisco, M. Pompidou met Friday with 13 local Jewish leaders to explain France's much-criticized Mideast policy. Local demonstrations against Pompidou's visit were orderly. When he went to Stanford University for a visit he was greeted by some 350 placard-carrying students who sang Israeli songs and displayed posters reading "French Honor For Sale." The French President later accepted, without comment, a petition with 500 signatures urging an end to the French embargo on arms for Israel.

Israel Air Force Stages Three Attacks On Egyptian Positions Near Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, Mar. 1 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets staged three attacks on Egyptian positions inside and beyond the Suez Canal zone today and returned safely to their bases. A military spokesman said two morning attacks struck at military targets about 18 miles west of the canal. An attack launched early this afternoon blasted Egyptian positions and gun emplacements in the central section of the waterway. Israeli ground fire brought down an Egyptian MIG-17 in the northern section of the canal zone yesterday. The plane was one of a flight of eight Egyptian MIGs attacking Israeli positions on the east bank of the Suez Canal for the fifth consecutive day. Israeli fighters shot down three MIG-21s in a dogfight over Egyptian territory last Thursday.

Yesterday's attack was made by Israeli soldiers who scored direct hits on the low-flying MIG. It exploded in midair and fragments fell on the Egyptian side of the canal. There were no Israeli casualties resulting from the Egyptian air attack. A military spokesman reported today that there has been a substantial increase in terrorist activity along the Lebanese border. The report led observers here to predict some form of Israeli military action against Lebanon very shortly. On Friday night saboteurs from Lebanon damaged two electric pylons, an equipment shed and an automobile near the settlement of Metzudat Yeshar in Upper Galilee. In another incident, a house in Shemora settlement was blown up but its occupants were unhurt. The military spokesman said that terrorists encamped on the Lebanese side of the border can be expected to increase their forays with the approach of spring and improved weather conditions.

Israeli security forces blew up two houses in Hebron today. The buildings belonged to suspected terrorists, one of them a relative of Hebron's Mayor Sheikh Jaabari. An Army vehicle was attacked in the Hebron area yesterday but there were no casualties. Grenade attacks in the Gaza Strip Friday took the life of a 13 year-old Arab boy and injured 39 other persons, all but three of them Arab residents of Gaza. Israeli authorities announced today that the death toll for February resulting from military and terrorist activities totaled 21 Israeli soldiers and two civilians, one of them an American tourist. The heaviest loss of life was sustained on the Suez Canal front where 17 Israeli soldiers were killed during the month by Egyptian gunfire. They include two soldiers who subsequently died of their wounds, Sgt. Daniel Fissuti, 21, of Beth Shemesh and Corp. Aviv Shchori. Five Israeli soldiers were killed during the month in the Gaza Strip, three in the Jordan Valley and one in the Golan Heights.

Conversion Procedures For Non-Jewish Immigrants Converted Abroad To Be Relaxed

JERUSALEM, Mar. 1 (JTA)--The Israeli chief rabbinate, which refuses to recognize non-Orthodox rabbis, indicated today that it was willing to relax conversion procedures for non-Jewish immigrants who were converted to Judaism abroad by Reform or Conservative rabbis. The Ashkenazic chief rabbi, Isser Untermann, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that such persons would have to undergo a greatly simplified conversion process when they arrived in Israel. It would consist of a declaration of their willingness to accept "the burdens of Judaism" and immersion in a ritual bath in the presence of three Orthodox rabbis. Rabbi Untermann said that an American or Canadian woman migrant who was converted abroad by an "unrecognized" rabbi would be registered as Jewish by nationality under the amendment to the Law of Return which the Knesset is expected to pass shortly. However, he said, unless she submitted herself to the conversion process he described, "difficulties" would arise if her children wanted to marry Jews.

24 Victims Of Swiss Airline Explosion To Be Brought To Israel For Burial

JERUSALEM, Mar. 1 (JTA)--Twenty-four coffins containing the remains of victims of the Feb. 21 crash of an Israel-bound Swissair jet will be brought here from Zurich tomorrow night on a special Swissair flight. The coffins will lay in state in the plaza of the Jerusalem convention center prior to burial on Tuesday. Funeral arrangements are in the hands of a special cabinet committee consisting of the Ministers of Defense, Police, Transport and Religious Affairs. Premier Golda Meir will deliver a eulogy. Of the 47 passengers and crew members who perished, 16 were Israelis and eight were Jews of other nationalities, including American. None of the remains was positively identifiable. But Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the chief chaplain of Israel's armed forces who flew to Zurich to identify the Israeli victims, arranged for the burial in Israel of 24 remains, the number of Jews known to be on the plane. According to chief rabbi Isser Untermann, the presumed remains of the air crew will be given Christian burials in Switzerland.

It was not clear today whether the families of the non-Jewish victims or the families of the American Jews killed in the crash were consulted on the Israeli burial plans. (The plane carried a number of West German businessmen bound for the Israel fashion fair. German newspapers have not mentioned the possibility of any victims being buried in Israel. A German television broadcast yesterday said they presumably would be buried in Switzerland.)

Soviet Authorities Designate Day Of Protest Against 'Israeli Aggression'

LONDON, Mar. 1 (JTA)--Soviet authorities have designated tomorrow as a day of protest against "Israeli aggression" in the Soviet Union. The announcement climaxed a mounting anti-Israel campaign in which some Soviet Jews, including Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, have denounced Israel and assailed reports that Soviet Jews want to emigrate there as "Zionist propaganda." The campaign, started some weeks ago with official encouragement, is being conducted mainly in the press. Newspapers have published anti-Israel letters from persons with obviously Jewish names. Two Soviet generals, both Jewish, have added their voices to the campaign with statements of support for the Arabs and warnings that Israel might one day find its army in retreat.

The officially sanctioned campaign is apparently Moscow's counter-attack against claims made in Israel and by Jews in western countries that there is a rising Zionist or pro-Israel movement among Jews in the USSR. In recent months, letters purportedly written by Jews in Moscow, the Georgian Republic, Riga and other centers which assail Soviet treatment of Jews, have found their way into Israeli and Western hands. The Soviet authorities are obviously concerned over the impression these letters and charges of Soviet anti-Semitism are making abroad. The anti-Israel campaign has received tremendous publicity in the two main Soviet organs widely read abroad--the Government newspaper Izvestia and the Communist Party organ, Pravda. The papers have urged Soviet Jews to speak out against Israel and Zionism. The United States has been attacked as Israel's chief supporter.

One prominent Russian Jew to speak out was Aron Vergelis, editor of the Soviet Union's only Yiddish language journal, Sovietish Heimland. Mr. Vergelis called Zionism "the enemy of the Jews" because it creates "friction between them." Lt. Gen. David A. Dragunsky, chief of the Soviet military school, said in a Pravda article Saturday that "From the bottom of my heart I protest against the policy of the Israeli aggressors, against the imperialist, predatory designs, against the activity of those who are dragging the people of Israel into the abyss of war." Gen. Dragunsky, a distinguished tank commander whose family was tortured and killed by the Nazis in World War II, warned Israeli Premier Golda Meir that she was "playing with fire" and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan that his armies might be defeated. "I should like to remind him (Dayan) that the military dictionary... knows such words as defense, retreat and flight. It might well be that the Israeli Army will have to use them some time," he wrote.

Soviet Rabbi Accuses Jewish Capitalists In U.S. and Israel Of Hiding Truth About Soviet Jews

Col. Gen. Aleksandr Tsirlin, a doctor of military science, apparently Jewish, wrote in Izvestia that "The claims of Zionist leaders, holding power in Tel Aviv, to represent Jews of the whole world, is a mean ideological subversion." He attacked the theory of the "exclusiveness of the Jewish nation advocated by Zionists" which he likened to Hitler's racist concepts. He pledged unswerving Soviet support to the Arab peoples "in their just fight against Israeli aggression."

Rabbi Levin, who visited the United States with official permission in 1968, was quoted by Izvestia as accusing Jewish capitalists in Israel and the U.S. of trying to keep the truth about the Soviet Union from Jewish workers. While he did not deny outright that anti-Semitism existed in the USSR, Rabbi Levin said "Only the revolution in Russia, only Soviet power opened to them (the Jews) all roads to happiness equal to citizens of any other nationality of our country." Referring to his American visit, Rabbi Levin said according to Izvestia that "There is no doubt that in certain circles in the U.S.A. mainly among big capitalists and rich Jews, it would be disadvantageous if the Jewish workers in America knew the truth about the Soviet Union."

UN Commission On Human Rights Discussing Measures To Be Taken Against Nazism

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Mar. 1 (JTA)--The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has begun discussion of measures to be taken against Nazism and racial intolerance. Previously, the commission had adopted two resolutions on racial discrimination, one denouncing the apartheid policy of South Africa and the other calling for a comprehensive review of measures and decisions taken to eliminate racial discrimination to evaluate their effectiveness. Marc Schreiber, director of the UN division of human rights, reported to the session that 11 governments had signed and ratified the convention on the statute of limitations for punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The convention was opened to signature in 1968. The war crimes question is on the agenda for the current session of the commission.

Jury Sentences Three Former SS Members To Terms Ranging From 7 Years To Life

MUNICH, Mar. 1 (JTA)--A Munich jury sentenced three former SS members to terms ranging from seven years to life and acquitted a fourth defendant on charges of wartime murders of Jews. Paul Johann Zapp, 65, was convicted of killing 13,419 Jews. Eugene von der Recke, 66, received a 13-year term for complicity in the slaughter of 5,000 Jews and Karl Noa, 59, received a seven-year term for aiding in the killing of 867 Jews. The trial lasted four weeks and concluded Thursday.

British Airlines Pilots' Group To Refuse To Let Members Fly Anywhere In Mideast

LONDON, Mar. 1 (JTA)--A spokesman for the British Airline Pilots Association said today that the organization might declare the entire Middle East a "hostile area" and refuse to let its members fly there. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a decision would be made Tuesday when the BALPA executive meets. He said they were still "unhappy" over security measures taken at London Airport since the fatal Swissair crash of Feb. 21. A spokesman for British airlines said the companies would try to avert a ban on Mideast flights before the BALPA executive meets. It would affect British Overseas Airways (BOAC) which has 22 flights a week to and from Tel Aviv and Cairo and British European Airways (BEA) with 14 weekly flights to and from Tel Aviv and Beirut.

Yigal Allon Tells Israel Bond Conference Peace Is Fundamental Aim Of Israel

MIAMI BEACH, March 1 (JTA)--Major General Yigal Allon, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, told more than 2,000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada assembled here for the International Conference for Israel Bonds, that "peace always was, is and will be the fundamental national aim of the State of Israel." He said that Israel was willing to respect the cease-fire lines until "defendable frontiers, acceptable to all, will be determined." But he warned that "all provisional arrangements between Israel and the Arab countries have only assured a permanent and prolonged war."

Asserting that Israel has no objections to the participation of a third party in paving the way to direct negotiations with the Arab countries, General Allon charged that the persistent refusal on their part to enter into such negotiations was a calculated attempt "to fix in the minds of the international community of nations the idea that Israel is some sort of 'pariah' with whom we should not come into contact, with the exception of one form of contact--on the battlefield." Underscoring the need for greatly increased economic aid through the Israel Bond campaign, the Deputy Premier declared: "Israel must build her society as if she were not living in a state of perpetual danger, and yet she must look to her security as if full-scale war was unavoidable."

Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York, told the conference that Israel's existence was being jeopardized by "the reckless acts of great powers, seeking political profit at the expense of the world's security." Condemning talk of "even-handedness" in American policy in the Middle East, Mr. Lindsay observed that the assumption by the United States of the role of a "benevolent neutral" among the great powers would be tantamount to "an abdication of our moral responsibility." Mayor Lindsay assailed the Soviet Union which he said was determined to win for itself a foothold in the Middle East, "regardless of the cost in human lives and suffering." Deploping recent developments in America's position, the Mayor asked who would balance the massive Soviet shipments of arms to the Arabs and who would stand by "a surrounded, outnumbered small nation" if the United States, Israel's traditional ally, assumed the posture of neutrality. "Our policy must be to preserve peace in the Middle East," Mr. Lindsay declared. "Yet today that goal can only be achieved by insuring that Israel is immune from attack."

Mrs. Meir Says Israel's Economic Development Depends On Increased U. S. Aid

Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel, in a message to the conference Friday, declared that in the present crisis her country could not maintain its economic development without increased American financial support. Asserting that the Six-Day War has continued for almost three years, the Israel Premier said that the people of Israel were determined, despite their overwhelming defense burden, to build for the future "because they do not want Israel to become a country only of war and battle." "We cannot do it alone," Mrs. Meir said. "If we want the country to develop, if we want properly to absorb the new immigrants that are coming in, if we want to maintain our progress in education and culture, if we want Israel to go on building at the same time as it is defending itself, we must have your help, and we hope that you will be with us."

At an earlier session, delegates of the Zionist Organization of America heard New York Congressman Ogden R. Reid, former American Ambassador to Israel, urge the administration to grant the request made by Prime Minister Meir last September for additional Phantom fighters in light of the recent French sale of Mirages to Libya. Mr. Reid said that Israel is at a six to one disadvantage in supersonic aircraft and the proposed French shipment of planes to Libya "only makes this ratio worse." The New York legislator called for a return to "quiet diplomacy to facilitate direct talks" and urged that the United States do nothing "to preempt Israel's bargaining position."

A history-making initial sale of \$76,580,000 in Israel Bonds Saturday launched the biggest campaign for economic aid to the State of Israel since it proclaimed its independence 22 years ago. The announcement of the record-breaking result was made by Samuel Rothberg, National Campaign Chairman. This year's drive will seek to achieve an unprecedented goal of a \$250 million sale of Israel Bonds which provide the investment funds for major industrial and agricultural projects, the exploitation of natural resources, the construction of housing and highways and the development of harbor and sea and air transportation facilities.

AJCongress Announces Plan To Sell White Owned Stores In Ghetto To Blacks

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA)--The Interracial Council for Business Opportunity and the American Jewish Congress today announced joint sponsorship of "Project Transfer," a pioneering program that has been operating quietly for nearly a year to arrange the orderly sale of profitable businesses in New York City ghetto areas from white to Black owners. A dozen white-owned businesses are now in active negotiation for sale to new Black owners and four sales have already been completed, it was reported at a meeting in Harlem today of black lawyers, accountants and prospective buyers. The stores range in net income from \$15,000 to \$40,000 annually and nearly all have employees in addition to the owner. Many of the buyers are persons who have worked in the stores in managerial roles, it was noted. Project Transfer was funded in January 1969 by the Ford Foundation.

Martin V. Waters, president of the New York ICBO and Jerome J. Steiker, Project Transfer chairman for the American Jewish Congress, said the American Jewish Congress, through a volunteer consultants' group of businessmen, attorneys and accountants, finds white-owned profitable businesses in New York City that are available for sale and evaluates them as to their financial worth and future possibilities. Mr. Steiker noted that "only solid businesses with growth potential are considered." The Interracial Council for Business Opportunity double-checks the businesses, locates potential Black buyers, and helps the buyer during and after the sale.