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Pompidou Fails To Meet With Jewish Leaders; Nixon Flies To N.Y. To Meet With Pompidou

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou of France failed today to keep an appointment with an American Jewish delegation and did not even notify the delegation in advance that he would not be available for the scheduled meeting. A joint statement by Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Philip Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the delegation was "appalled at this act of discourtesy."

The delegation, which had gathered from all parts of the country, was waiting for M. Pompidou at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel when it was informed by a radio reporter that the French President was not coming to the hotel to meet them but had gone directly to the United Nations where he was to have lunch with Secretary-General U Thant. Representatives of the delegation called M. Pompidou's party, which confirmed that the President would not meet the Jewish leaders. After the Jewish leaders insisted on the meeting, French officials called back and proposed they meet instead with Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann. The delegation declined.

Dr. Wexler termed M. Pompidou's action "an affront not only to the American Jewish community but to the gracious traditions of the people of France." Asked whether M. Pompidou's failure to keep the appointment was because of his resentment at the demonstrations which greeted him in Chicago, Westchester Airport and elsewhere, Dr. Wexler professed ignorance as to the reasons. But, he said, M. Pompidou seemed to be disturbed by the fact that Jews all over the world were worried about Israel and appeared to take the position that "the Jews, after going through the Holocaust, have no right to worry about the two and a half million Jews in Israel."

Jewish Leaders Had Wanted To Discuss Arms Embargo Against Israel With M. Pompidou

The joint statement said that "had M. Pompidou not rescinded his invitation after we had gathered to meet with him, we would have urged him to lift the arms embargo against Israel and to deliver to Israel the 50 Mirage jets bought and paid for. President Pompidou's anti-Israel, pro-Arab policy shocks the many friends of France, for we recall the genuine sympathy and friendship extended by the French public to Israel in the past. It is gratifying to know that even now, the majority of Frenchmen repudiate their government's one-sided policy and share our apprehension over the course pursued by the Pompidou regime." The joint statement stressed that "this course jeopardizes the cause of peace in the Middle East and encourages Arab refusal to accept a cease-fire and to negotiate a peace settlement with Israel." The statement appealed to American Jews, "despite M. Pompidou's rudeness," to act in "an orderly, peaceful and non-violent manner" in demonstrations here.

French sources said that Mme. Pompidou had been so frightened by demonstrators in Chicago Sunday that she refused to attend the U Thant luncheon. Extraordinary police precautions were taken by the New York police and the United Nations Security guards. Police barriers were placed all around the hotel and the United Nations was converted into a veritable fortress as thousands of demonstrators, most of them school youngsters, paraded across the street or in Hammarckskjold Plaza. M. Pompidou and his party were smuggled into the UN through the garage. Among the guests at the UN luncheon were Prof. Rene Cassin, Nobel Peace Prize winner, former president of the French Council of State and a leading figure in the French Jewish community. Mr. Thant and M. Pompidou spent an hour in private conference before their luncheon. A UN spokesman said the entire conversation was on the Middle East situation. He termed the talks "cordial and fruitful." Later, when M. Pompidou came down to the Security Council chamber, he spent a few moments in separate conversation with the ambassadors of each of the Big Four powers.

The Pompidous and their party were reported critical of the police, particularly in Chicago, for failing to keep demonstrators out of their immediate vicinity and M. Pompidou was said to have registered a strong protest with the State Department. President Nixon's unexpected decision to fly to New York to attend the dinner tonight in M. Pompidou's honor was described as an effort to soothe M. Pompidou's ruffled feelings and to dissociate the government from the demonstrations. Jewish leaders commented that French presidents, and particularly M. Pompidou, had had enough experience with strikes and demonstrations at home not to be unduly distressed by them, particularly when they were carried out in such an orderly and peaceful manner as the Jewish demonstrations during the Pompidou visit.

Meetings Throughout New York Held On Eve Of Pompidou's Arrival To City

Mayor John V. Lindsay had previously announced he would not be able to attend the dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight in honor of the Pompidous. The New York State chapter of the Jewish War Veterans said today it had "refused to knuckle under to White House pressure" and cancel a membership meeting at the hotel tonight. The meeting was scheduled several weeks ago, a JWV spokesman said, and Washington began to apply "great pressure" a week ago for cancellation of the meeting.

presumably to avoid a confrontation between members of the Jewish community and M. Pompidou. The meeting will be strictly limited to the 300-person capacity of the Jade Room, the JYW said, but an additional 1,000 veterans are expected to picket around the hotel in protest against M. Pompidou's anti-Israel policies.

At a protest rally at Hunter College last night, sponsored by 11 major American Jewish organizations, the 2,200 persons attending adopted unanimously a resolution assailing French policy as "anti-Israel," "pro-Arab" and "one-sided." The resolution stated: "We heard him (M. Pompidou) call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, and to settle the refugee problem (in his speech last week to the joint session of Congress), but we heard no parallel call to the Arab states to come to the negotiating table, to end their consistent demand for the destruction of the Jewish state, to control the terrorists who prey on civilian life in the air and on the ground, or to play their proper role in the solution of the refugee problem."

Yesterday, some 200 youths picketed the French Consulate in New York, carrying signs reading "France Kills Freedom" and "Israel Must Live." After half an hour, they shifted to the French Cultural Services Center, five blocks away. There were additional rallies in Queens. Rabbi Meyer Cohen, executive director of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, in a telegram today to Pres. Pompidou, called French Mid-East policy "hostile" and "one-sided" and said that "this situation constitutes tragedy for Israel and tragedy for France."

Nixon Apologizes To Pompidou For The Demonstrations That Flared Across The Country

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA)--President Nixon has apologized to French President Georges Pompidou for the "few citizens who have acted in a discourteous manner and in a disrespectful manner to a state visitor." In a direct slap at the anti-Pompidou demonstrators in Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Stanford University, White Plains and New York, Nixon said they "do not represent the American people and this country's attitude toward France." According to Presidential Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, Nixon called Pompidou last night and personally apologized for the demonstrations that have upset Pompidou's visit. He also stated his intention to go to New York tonight to attend the Franco-American Society dinner honoring Pompidou. Nixon was not originally scheduled to attend. The dinner is being given by William Burden, former Ambassador to Belgium.

Ever since his arrival in the U.S. last Monday, M. Pompidou has been hounded by demonstrators angry about France's sale of 110 Mirage jets to Libya and her refusal to deliver the jets Israel ordered and paid for. Mr. Ziegler told the press conference Nixon was going to attend the dinner to "underline the deepening and improving relations between France and the U.S." Mr. Ziegler said the President asked that his thoughts be passed on "to all American citizens." A State Department spokesman said today that the French President did not blame the U.S. government for the demonstrations, and felt the government performed well under the circumstances to try to assure the success of the visit.

Mrs. Meir Says Anti-Pompidou Demonstrations In U.S. Were Not Prompted By Israel

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said yesterday that demonstrations in the United States against President Georges Pompidou, of France, were not of Israel's making. "The United States is a democratic country and people who demonstrated there against him probably thought that what they are doing was proper," Mrs. Meir said. The Premier spoke at a question-and-answer session with students. She refused to answer questions on how Israel might react to the Arab terrorist campaign against civilian air traffic, presumably responsible for the deaths of 47 persons in the crash of an Israel-bound Swissair jet at Zurich Feb. 21. "Don't ask me when, how and where we shall react," Mrs. Meir said. She added that the Israel Government wants action to be taken by foreign governments, airlines and pilots' organizations. She said they must be made to realize that the problem is not Israel's alone.

Three Israeli Soldiers Wounded In Clash With Arab Saboteurs; Two Saboteurs Killed

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with Arab saboteurs in the Golan Heights early today. Two Arab saboteurs were killed last night in a skirmish with an Israeli patrol in the Jordan Valley south of Damiya bridge. No Israeli casualties were reported in that encounter. Israeli authorities today described the situation along the Lebanese border as "particularly grave." They reported 23 incidents in less than two weeks, most of them inside Israeli territory. A military spokesman said it was apparent that Lebanese authorities reached an agreement with guerrilla bands whereby the latter are permitted to deploy along the Israeli frontier but must refrain from shooting across the border. According to the spokesman, Beirut believes the Israelis will not fire on Lebanese territory if they are not fired on from it.

Only four of the reported incidents involved shooting from behind the Lebanese line. The rest were acts of sabotage committed by guerrillas who managed to infiltrate into Israeli territory. The latest occurred this morning when a water pipe was sabotaged barely 20 yards from the Lebanese border. Arab guerrilla bands were hitherto concentrated in the eastern section of the borderland near the junction of the Israeli, Syrian and Lebanese borders. But they have recently established bases further west. In contrast to the Lebanese situation, Israel's frontier with Jordan has been relatively quiet. Only 37 incidents were reported last week compared to an average of 70 a week during December and January. The lull was attributed here to the difficulties the guerrillas have experienced recently with Jordanian authorities. It permitted settlements in the Beisan Valley to complete their bomb shelters. One of them, which will also serve as a community center, was dedicated at Kfar Ruppin yesterday. It was named for the late Arthur Ruppin, a pioneer Zionist leader.

Nixon Delays Announcement Of More Planes To Israel; Request Still Under Study

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA)--The 30-day deadline which President Richard M. Nixon set for announcing a decision on Israel's request for additional Phantom jet aircraft came and passed today with no word from the White House. There was no indication that any decision had been reached. Authoritative sources said the various options available to the President were still being studied. Mr. Nixon said at a press conference Jan. 30 that the U.S. "Will consider the Israelis' arms requests based on the threats to them from states in the area," and a decision would be made in 30 days. Five days earlier the President said in a message to American-Jewish leaders that the U.S. was prepared to supply military equipment to friendly governments, like Israel's, "to defend the safety of their people." The delay in announcing a decision on the Phantoms was attributed by sources here to events in the Mideast since Jan. 30 and to technical and diplomatic analyses which have complicated the President's decision-making task.

Congressman Leonard Farbstein said today he was certain the United States would accept Israel's order for additional Phantom jets and other military equipment whenever there appears any indication or likelihood that Israel's deterrent strength in the Middle East is endangered. The New York Democrat was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to comment on the White House delay in announcing a decision on Israel's request for more Phantoms. Rep. Farbstein said the U.S. would sell more jets to Israel because that country "is the West's only buffer against domination of the Middle East by the Soviet Union."

Arkia, Israel's Domestic Airline, Suspends Mail Flights To Town Of Eilat

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--Arkia, Israel's domestic airline, has suspended the carriage of mail to the town of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba until it is satisfied that adequate security measures have been taken against possible sabotage. The airline acted apparently after consultations with Israeli internal security services but the mail ban took postal authorities by surprise. Arrangements were made to ship the Eilat mail by truck. Internal air freight and passenger flights were not affected by the ban. The Israeli public learned of it in a terse radio announcement which was not repeated on later news casts. There was no official explanation. But sources here speculated that internal security agents may have warned Arkia after spotting a potential weak link in the domestic postal service or may have learned of a plot to blow up a plane.

The Knesset legislative committee meanwhile is preparing a draft law that would put air piracy in the same category as piracy at sea. Under the law, anyone suspected of air crimes against Israel's airlines or aviation centers anywhere in the world would be tried in Israeli courts under Israeli law, even though the act was committed abroad. The draft law reportedly proposes a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for air pirates. But in the long run, Israel is depending upon vigorous international action by governments and civil aviation authorities to end what has been described as a wave of terror against commercial aviation.

Israeli Official Says There Is Evidence Terrorists Caused Swiss Airline Explosion

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that evidence uncovered by Swiss authorities confirmed that Arab terrorists were responsible for the fatal crash of a Swissair jet near Zurich on Feb. 21 and the mid-air explosion that forced an Austrian airliner to make an emergency landing at Frankfurt on the same day. Both planes were bound for Israel and were believed to have been carrying time bombs in their mail compartments. The crash of the Swissair plane took the lives of 47 passengers and crew members, including 16 Israelis and eight Americans. The Foreign Ministry statement was prompted by reports from Zurich linking the Austrian and Swiss-air explosions. West German police in Frankfurt have arrested a Palestinian Arab, 27 year-old Jaser Qasem on suspicion of having helped mail the bomb that exploded in the Austrian airliner. Qasem and an accomplice picked up with him; Issa Abdullah Touboul, 30, of Jerusalem, were linked with two other Arabs suspected of masterminding the Austrian and Swissair bomb plots.

(Memorial services for the victims were conducted at the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport in New York yesterday and simultaneously at the airport's Catholic and Protestant Chapels. About 1000 persons attended the services at the synagogue which is maintained by the New York Board of Rabbis. According to Rabbi Eugene J. Cohen, the airport suspended all take-offs while Cantor David Koussevitzky chanted the Kaddish--prayer for the dead. He said a message of condolence was received from Dr. Walter Berchthald, president of Swissair in Zurich. The congregation was addressed briefly by Capt. John Ferguson, chairman of the air safety committee of the American Airline Pilots Association.)

Zionist Council Adopts Resolutions; Welcomes New American Zionist Federation

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--The Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) ended its sessions here today after adopting the major resolutions recommended by its various committees. These included approval of direct elections by secret ballot for delegates to the next World Zionist Congress to be held here in 1971, a new membership drive and a resolution on the expansion and restructuring of the Jewish Agency. The Council also welcomed the new American Zionist Federation into the World Zionist Organization. Today's session was preceded by a memorial meeting for Dr. Joseph Schechtman, a veteran leader of the Zionist-Revisionist movement and former member of the Jewish Agency Executive who died in New York yesterday. The membership drive will require every Zionist to declare his adherence to the so-called Jerusalem program, the official Zionist platform which asserts that Israel is central to all Jewish life. The resolution stipulated that youngsters under the age of 25 would not have to declare their party affiliation when applying for membership but older persons will be required to do so.

Hospital Sets Up Facility To Serve Kosher Meals To Jewish Students; First Of Its Kind

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--The Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh is setting up a cafeteria-style dining facility to serve kosher meals twice daily to Jewish students attending the seven universities in the Pittsburgh area, Rabbi Bernard Pouko, president of the Religious Zionists of America, disclosed here. Rabbi Pouko said that, to the best of his knowledge, this arrangement by a Jewish hospital was the first of its kind. He said he expected the kosher facilities for students to be in operation in about a week.

He explained that he had been asked what he could do about the problem in Pittsburgh, which is his home city, by Yavneh, the campus affiliate of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. The problem for observant students in the area stemmed from the fact that there are no kosher restaurants in Pittsburgh. Acting in his capacity as chairman of the Rabbinical Board of Greater Pittsburgh, Rabbi Pouko told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he approached officials of the hospital, which provides kosher meals from a rabbinically-supervised kitchen for patients requesting kosher food. Arrangements were made to set up a cafeteria-style facility for the students, which will operate seven days a week. Arrangements have also been made so that students will not have to handle money for payment during Sabbath eating at the hospital.

April 11 Set As 'Temple Emanu-El Day;' Mayor Lindsay Praises Temple As Vital Force

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay, in recognition of the 125th anniversary of Temple Emanu-El has proclaimed April 11, 1970 as "Temple Emanu-El Day" in New York City. At City Hall today, Deputy Mayor Robert M. Morgenthau greeted officials of the Congregation and presented Mayor Lindsay's proclamation. The proclamation, in part said, "from its inception the congregation has been a vital force in the life and spiritual growth of this city. The physical presence of this hallowed institution, largest Jewish house of worship in the world, a designated landmark and shrine for visitors from all over the world, has continually served the entire community, regardless of race, color or creed--as exemplified by the hospitality enjoyed by 1,350,000 allied servicemen during World War II."

N.Y. Board Of Regents Supports Blaine Amendment Repeal; PEARL Warns Of Danger

ALBANY, N.Y., March 2 (JTA)--The New York Board of Regents has voted 11-2 to support repeal of the controversial Blaine Amendment, which prohibits state aid to parochial schools. The Regents, which voted 10-5 on the same issue three years ago, aligned themselves with the repeal bill approved last month by the State Assembly, which would provide New Yorkers with the constitutional right to fight private-school aid in court. The Senate version of the bill would make such suits possible by means of a separate, non-constitutional law. Repeal of Blaine still requires action by the next legislature and then approval by the voters in a referendum.

In New York, the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) predicted that repeal of Blaine could cost the state's taxpayers a billion dollars a year in support of religious schools. That sum, it said, would be the price of "parity"--the same expenditure per pupil in parochial schools as is spent in public schools. William Haddad, executive co-chairman of PEARL, said that such "parity" was the "real goal" of many who advocate Blaine's repeal. He warned of "the dangers to religious freedom and to public education" if the bill is upheld by the next legislature. The New York Chapter of the AJCommittee urged the legislature not to consider any private-school-aid bills pending the results of the referendum.

Religious Leaders Send Letter To U.S. And Arab Officials Calling For Mideast Peace

PHILADELPHIA, March 2 (JTA)--An appeal for peace to the heads of 15 nations at war in the Middle East has been sent jointly by the Archbishop of Philadelphia, John Cardinal Krol; the president of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Elias Charry; and the executive director of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, Dr. Rufus Cornelsen. Copies of the open letter were also sent to President Richard M. Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and the United Nations Secretary General U Thant. This was the first time, according to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, that the city's three major religious leaders had formulated a mutual statement of concern on an international moral issue. In the letters the three religious leaders declared:

"We appeal to you to desist forthwith from military conflict and to begin direct negotiations with one another to seek an unimposed peace so that the people of the Middle East can develop their full creative potential. This is civilization's only proven way of bringing about a peace which is just and will endure. We speak in the name of God and out of compassion for humanity. We are brothers. Common to our faiths--Islam, Christianity and Judaism--is the imperative that we live as brothers." The addressees included Israel Prime Minister Golda Meir, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Jordanian King Hussein and other heads of state of Arab nations.

Dr. Joseph B. Schechtman, World Zionist Leader, Dies At The Age Of 79

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--Dr. Joseph B. Schechtman, president of the United Zionists Revisionists of America and chairman of the World Council of the Zionist Revision Movement, died yesterday at the age of 79. Co-founder with Vladimir Jabotinsky of the Revisionist Zionists, and his official biographer, Dr. Schechtman has for many years been one of the outstanding world Zionist leaders and a leading writer on Zionist affairs. Funeral services for Dr. Schechtman will be held at the Riverside Memorial Chapel on Wednesday. Following these services his body will be flown to Israel, where the Jewish Agency will conduct funeral services. Born in Odessa, Dr. Schechtman was active in Zionist affairs from his early youth. He came to this country in 1941. At the time of his death he was a member of the World Zionist General Council (Actions Committee).