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Shooting Erupts Along Israel-Jordan Cease-Fire Line; Egypt And Israel Exchange Civilians

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--Heavy shooting erupted along the Israel-Jordan cease-fire line last night and this morning, ending a relative lull that had lasted for several weeks. Israeli tanks and mortars fired on a gang of saboteurs near Geshar in the northern Beisan Valley this morning. Several settlements in the Beisan sector came under mortar fire during the night. No casualties were reported. Bazookas and mortars were fired at an Israeli position near Umm Sidra pass on the Jordan river last night, beginning at 10 p.m. local time. About 20 minutes later another Israeli position was attacked near the Mandassa bridge. Israeli units returned the fire and reported suffering no casualties. Israeli security forces in the Gaza Strip are searching for saboteurs who attempted to blow up a tractor near Khan Yunis last night. An unexploded hand grenade was found near the vehicle. Israeli authorities returned 63 Egyptian citizens to Egypt today in return for 73 former residents of the northern Sinai and Gaza Strip. The exchange was carried out at Kantara under Red Cross auspices.

Unconfirmed Reports In Jerusalem Contend Dr. Jarring May Be Asked To Resume Mission

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA)--Unconfirmed reports circulated here today that the United Nations emissary, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, might be asked to resume his peace-seeking mission in the Middle East with no change in his mandate from the Security Council. Dr. Jarring began his mission in 1968 on the basis of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. Informed sources here said that Dr. Jarring may be called to New York for another talk with UN Secretary General U Thant over resuming his mission. He is currently back at his post as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow and reportedly turned down a request by Mr. Thant ten days ago to return to the Mideast. According to Israeli sources, Dr. Jarring said he would not resume his efforts unless the Four Powers--United States, Soviet Russia, Britain and France--formally announced the abandonment of their own attempts to find a Mideast solution.

Dr. Jarring suspended his mission almost a year ago when the Big Four began their deliberations in New York. Their intended purpose was to reach an accord in principle which would serve as a guideline for the UN emissary and strengthen his mission. Israel maintains that his mission is to bring Israel and the Arab states to the negotiating table. Israel opposes the Four Power effort as an attempt to impose a solution from outside the region. Informed sources here said some of the Big Powers have been pressing for a resumption of the Jarring mission and this is taken in Jerusalem as an admission of the failure of their own efforts to contribute to a solution.

Dr. Goldmann Denounces Soviet Anti-Zionist And Anti-Israel Campaigns

GENEVA, March 5 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, declared today that the Soviet Government has no right to deny the rights of its Jewish citizens because it disapproves of the policies of the Israel Government. He denounced "the current violent anti-Israel, anti-Zionist campaign organized by Soviet authorities" who are using "Soviet Jews to deny the plight of their community and to denounce Israel." In a statement issued here, Dr. Goldmann said, "In the name of Jewish communities in 65 countries, the World Jewish Congress strongly rejects the contention that the curtailment of the freedom of Jewish citizens in any country--in this case the freedom of emigration of Soviet Jews--can be justified by any acts of policy of the sovereign State of Israel."

The statement continued, "The desire of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel in order to live a full Jewish life and fulfill their national, spiritual and cultural aspirations, or who wish to be re-united with their kinsfolk abroad, stems from its tragic history of Jewish dispersion and persecution and is in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many Jews in the USSR have courageously asserted this desire, and world Jewry will not cease to demand from the Soviet authorities the implementation of the right of emigration and the granting of facilities for Jewish religious, cultural and communal life in the Soviet Union." Dr. Goldmann asserted that the current anti-Israel campaign "is the most convincing confirmation of the desire of a large number of the three million Jews in the Soviet Union to emigrate to Israel."

American Reform Rabbi Assails Israel's Chief Rabbi Of Ignorance Of Reform Movement

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--The leader of the American Reform rabbinate accused Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Isser Untermann yesterday of "abysmal total ignorance" of the Reform movement and charged Israel's Orthodox religious establishment with issuing distorted statements about it. Rabbi Roland Gittlesohn, of Boston, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, spoke to newsmen on the eve of the opening of his organization's 81st annual convention, its first to be held in Israel. The five day assembly in Jerusalem will be attended by 360 Reform rabbis from the United States.

Rabbi Gittlesohn referred specifically to a public statement by Rabbi Untermann that the Reform movement had changed the Jewish Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. He said he knew of only two out of 750 Reform temples that did not hold services on Saturday. The Israeli chief rabbinate is entirely Orthodox and refuses to recognize rabbis of the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism. Under Israeli law it has exclusive jurisdiction in matters of personal status in the Jewish community and does

not permit non-Orthodox rabbis to officiate at weddings and burials. Rabbi Gettelsohn said the Reform movement was not pressing at this time for equal rights in Israel "because we do not wish to add to the burdens and problems the people and government face today." He added, however, "We will never ultimately be satisfied until every Jew, whatever his interpretation of Judaism, may be accepted as a first class Jew to be entitled to practice whatever definition of Judaism as a religion that suits him--no definition at all if that is what suits him." In a broadcast interview earlier, Rabbi Gittlesohn sharply criticized President Richard M. Nixon for publicly apologizing to President Georges Pompidou, of France for demonstrations by American Jews against French Middle East policy. He said the Nixon apology implied that an American citizen may not justifiably criticize the head of another state. "It is not just a question of being a friend of Israel, but of an interpretation of American democracy," he said.

Weizman Warns Israel May Retaliate Against Further Terrorist Attacks On Airliners

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--Transport Minister Ezer Weizman warned yesterday that further Arab terrorist attacks on civilian airliners can be expected and if they do occur, Israel "may lose patience and retaliate." Gen. Weizman, a former commander of the Israel Air Force who joined the cabinet as a member of the nationalist Herut faction, said attacks on Israeli planes and on planes of other airlines serving Israel could affect many branches of Israel's economy. He said the State would not be able to tolerate such a situation "and we shall have to do something about it." Gen. Weizman addressed the opening session of the 12th annual aeronautical and astronautical conference at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Referring to Arab air terrorism, the latest of which took 47 lives in the crash of a Swissair jet bound for Israel Feb. 21, he said the world "must realize we are not dealing with fighters but with murderers." He said, "We are very patient, but if we lose our patience, then the angry Israeli will appear."

(The French newspaper Le Figaro published an interview yesterday with a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who pledged that his group would continue its assaults on aircraft serving Israel. The Popular Front claimed credit for the Swissair disaster. A hasty disclaimer was issued by the Arab guerrilla coalition in Amman of which the Front is a constituent.) Gen. Weizman told his audience that Israeli technology demonstrated its ability to create a superb airforce and also had the ability to produce tools for it. He said the strengthening of Israel's Air Force contributed to the development of the aircraft industry generally and to electronics and other fields of research.

Naturei Karta Apologize To France For Jewish Demonstrations Against Pompidou

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA)--The Naturei Karta, a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews who oppose the State of Israel on religious grounds, has apologized to France for the Jewish demonstrations in the United States against French Mideast policies. The group has only a few hundred followers here but it also has adherents among Orthodox Jews in the U.S. Its leader, Amram Blau, handed a note of apology to the French Consul General here yesterday.

Arab Countries Refuse To Support Resolution Condemning Air Piracy And Sabotage

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA)--The refusal of the Arab countries to support a resolution at a meeting of the Organization of African States condemning air piracy and terrorist acts against aircraft was seen here today as further evidence of Arab complicity in such acts. All of the Arab states, except Tunisia, demanded that the resolution be restricted only to African territory. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Arabs thus sought to exempt acts of sabotage and aerial hijacking in Europe and elsewhere. "It is clear," he said, "that this attitude will be taken as an encouragement on the part of terror groups to persist in violence against civil aviation."

Tunisian Prime Minister Says His Country Supports Palestinian Arabs

PARIS, March 5 (JTA)--Prime Minister Bahi Labgham, of Tunisia declared here today that his country was "in complete solidarity with the Palestinians and will not change its line from that of any other Arab state." In an interview with Le Monde, he said the Tunisian Government will do whatever it can "in order to further the fight of Palestinian nationalists and support their stand to recover their occupied homeland." He stressed Tunisia's close ties with the West but insisted that this would not alter its stand in the Mideast conflict.

Congressman Urges U.S. Withdraw Aid To Pakistan Until She Removes Troops From Jordan

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA)--Rep. Seymour Halpern, Republican of New York, threatened yesterday that unless Pakistan withdrew support of Jordanian troops, he would "offer an amendment to the next appropriations bill before this Congress to withhold further (U.S. foreign aid) from Pakistan." In his speech to the House, Rep. Halpern declared, "It is my understanding that Pakistani troops, equipped with anti-aircraft devices and automatic weapons, are being developed in Jordan to shoot down the Phantom jets provided to Israel by the U.S." Halpern called Pakistan's entry into the fray "a dangerous new element to the crisis." He said he did not think the U.S. should support a government that works with pro-Communist forces against the American interests in the Middle East. "The time has come," Rep. Halpern said, "for our government to serve notice on Pakistan that her entrance into the Arab-Israeli hostilities will not be tolerated by the United States. We should consider the immediate suspension of aid already authorized if Pakistan is not immediately responsive." He said he was also concerned about Pakistan's relationship with Communist China because of that country's desire to cause an American-Soviet confrontation on the Middle East.

UN Human Rights Commission Adopts Resolution To Take Measures Against Nazism

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. March 5 (JTA)--Resolutions urging members of the United Nations to take measures for "the speedy and final eradication of Nazism" and to arrest and extradite persons who have committed war crimes, were adopted unanimously by the Human Rights Commission yesterday. The vote came after several days of debate on ways and means to combat Nazism and racial intolerance and the punishment of crimes against humanity. The original draft resolutions submitted by Poland and the Ukraine were broadened by several amendments, including one proposed by the United States to include the phrase "totalitarian ideologies and practices based on incitements to hatred and racial intolerance or any form of group hatred." The debate heard expressions of concern over resurgent Nazism from many delegates. West Germany was criticized for alleged tolerance of neo-Nazi movements and Arab delegates sought to link Nazism and Zionism.

The Israeli delegate, Moshe Leshem, commented after the vote that the struggle against Nazism should not be used to further political ends. He said that statements made during the debate on war crimes gave the impression that this was monopoly of certain nations. "One cannot help being taken aback by the expression of repugnance toward Nazism and its ideology on the part of countries which sympathized wholeheartedly with the Nazis during World War II," Mr. Leshem said. He then made a pointed reference to "rather unpleasant memories of Moslem SS units" and the pro-Hitler activities of the ex-Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin El Hussein. Mr. Leshem declared, "In any discussion of measures to be taken against Nazism and racial intolerance, and the revival of the ideologies which have been the driving force behind the heinous crimes committed by the Nazis, the accusing shadow of six million slaughtered Jews must lay heavily upon our minds. This is equally true when we consider the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity. We are not ignoring the fact that the Jews were not the only victims of the demented Nazi murder machine." Mr. Leshem stressed too that the act of blowing up civilian airliners should also be classified as a crime against humanity.

Some Of Russia's Most Prominent Jews Denounce Israel

LONDON, March 5 (JTA)--About 40 of the Soviet Union's most prominent Jewish citizens appeared at a Government-sponsored press conference in Moscow yesterday to denounce Israeli aggression, Zionist chauvinism and proclaim that there was no discrimination or repression of Jews in the USSR. The press conference was seen as part of the mounting anti-Israel, anti-Zionist campaign begun by Soviet news media two weeks ago after Israeli bombers attacked a civilian metal factory in Egypt, killing 60 persons and wounding 70. Israeli officials said the attack had been an error. An important feature of the campaign has been the solicitation of anti-Israel statements from Russian Jews, particularly those prominent in arts, letters and science and academic fields.

One of the most vocal participants in yesterday's press conference was Deputy Premier Veniamin E. Dymshits, the highest Jewish office holder in the Soviet Union. The proceedings were chaired by Leonid I. Zamyatin, chief spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is not Jewish. He opened with a statement that Soviet Mideast policy rejects guerrilla programs for the destruction of Israel but supports the guerrillas in their effort to liberate Arab lands occupied by Israel. All of the Jews present were among the 52 Jewish signatories of a recent statement denouncing Israel, Zionism and United States imperialism. One prominent Soviet Jewish jurist, Dr. Mikhail Strogovitch, said Russia would continue to restrict immigration to Israel as long as Israel continued its present policies. Dr. Strogovitch said "We don't want to increase the aggressive armed forces of Israel at the expense of the Soviet people."

U.S. Said To Be Considering Variety Of Factors Before Deciding On More Planes To Israel

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA)--The ability of Arab forces to make effective use of advanced Soviet weaponry may be one factor used or being considered by President Richard M. Nixon in formulating his decision on Israel's request for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. That criteria was mentioned by an unidentified top White House official at an informal meeting with newsmen at the Overseas Press Club yesterday. But White House assistant press secretary Al Woods told JTA, "If that is a factor, it is only one factor. The studies have been made and the options outlined and it is all on the President's desk at the moment." Mr. Woods added that "I think it safe to say that until we make an announcement that any story would be really speculative."

Speculation has been rampant since March 1, the deadline set by President Nixon at his Jan. 30 press conference for announcing his decision on Israel's request to purchase more American warplanes. That deadline passed with no announcement by the White House. Some sources here said the Administration will avoid a specific commitment to Israel as to the number of planes to be sold and when but would commit itself in principle to supplying Israel with the weapons necessary to maintain its superiority over Arab forces. Officials have been quoted as saying that at present Israel's superiority seems assured and that the U.S. would act in ample time to preserve it if it appeared to be in jeopardy.

French Government Spokesman Denies Pres. Pompidou Made Remark Attributed To Him

PARIS, March 5 (JTA)--Leon Hamon, French government spokesman, said yesterday President Georges Pompidou did not say in Chicago that Israel was using its racial and religious ties abroad to further its policies. He cited a denial by Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen, president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, who was a member of a Jewish delegation that met with M. Pompidou in Chicago. Rabbi Cohen reported the French leader said Israel must become a state like any other state but did not refer to racial or religious issues.

AJ Committee Lauds Switzerland For Actions In Aftermath Of Airline Explosion

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee has sent a message of appreciation to the government and people of Switzerland, applauding their recent conduct "in the face of the unprovoked violations of Swiss neutrality by Arab terrorists and their wanton disregard for the property and rights of civilian airlines and their brutal taking of innocent human life," it was announced today by Philip E. Hoffman, Committee President. A Swissair plane bound from Zurich to Tel Aviv crashed February 21 after a midair explosion in which all 47 persons aboard were killed, and Arab terrorists have been suspected. Switzerland has called for an international emergency conference on air security. The AJC message declared that "had all other governments taken equally vigorous action, the latest tragedy might well have been avoided," and expressed the hope "that the Swiss example will prompt other nations and international bodies to live up to their responsibilities."

Chief Rabbi Of Denmark To Arrive In U.S. Next Week On First Visit To This Country

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--Rabbi Bent Melchior, recently elected Chief Rabbi of Denmark, succeeding to the post vacated by the death of his father, Rabbi Marcus Melchior, is scheduled to arrive on his first visit to this country on March 12th, it was announced here by the United Synagogue of America. Sponsored by the World Council of Synagogues, of which he is a leading member, Chief Rabbi Melchior's visit will take him on a cross country tour of the major Jewish communities with a view to acquainting himself with all the facets of Jewish life in this country. During his stay in New York, the 41-year-old rabbi will be honored at a luncheon reception by the World Council of Synagogues on Wednesday, March 18, at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Born in 1929 in Copenhagen, Rabbi Melchior is the third generation of his family to occupy the office of Chief Rabbi. In 1947-49 he worked for the Haganah in Europe and upon the proclamation of the Jewish state he volunteered for military service in Israel's Defense Forces during the War of Liberation. Since 1950 he occupied many high positions in the Zionist movement, including those of Secretary of the Zionist Federation and editor of a Zionist publication. He was also head of the U.J.A. and president of Mizrahi of Denmark.

New York Board Of Rabbis Offer Gov. Rockefeller Help In Ending Gravediggers Strike

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--The New York Board of Rabbis today offered to help Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller further measures he has taken to end the seven-week strike of grave-diggers in New York City. In a telegram to the Governor in Albany, Rabbi Harold I. Saperstein, president of the Board of Rabbis and Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, executive vice president said: "The New York Board of Rabbis commends you on steps taken in the Legislature to enact laws providing for equitable procedures by which disputes interfering with cemetery burials may be obviated. The indignities visited upon the defenseless dead and the pain and anguish heaped upon thousands of bereaved men, women and children who see their loved ones deprived of their final resting places because of contrary disputes is shameful, immoral ferocity. The New York Board of Rabbis is ready to help in any way you deem possible." Gov. Rockefeller signed into law today a State Legislative measure approved yesterday that would give the striking gravediggers 48 hours to return to work or face compulsory arbitration in the wage dispute which is now deadlocked. Officials of the striking union said they would not return until they receive a "just settlement." Orthodox Jews have been permitted, under court order, to bury their own dead. The New York Board of Rabbis, however, said the situation has become a tragedy and intolerable for non-Jews as well.

Prof. Cassin Invites American Jews To Congress Of Alliance In Jerusalem

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--Professor Rene Cassin, President of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and the recipient of the 1968 Nobel Peace Prize, addressed the annual meeting of the American Friends of the Alliance Israelite Universelle. He invited the members of the organization and American Jewish leaders generally to attend the first world congress of Friends of the Alliance Israelite Universelle that will take place during June 1970 in Jerusalem. The centenary of the Alliance agricultural school, Mikveh Israel, will be celebrated at one of the sessions of the congress. Marcel Franco, president of the American Friends and vice president of the Central Committee of the Alliance, reporting on the school networks of the Alliance in Israel and other countries of the Mediterranean area, stated the schools have an enrollment of over 20,000 and continue to play a vital part in Israel, as well as among the Jewish communities of the Moslem world.

Sen. Pell Tells Senate That Air Sabotage Must Not Be Allowed To Continue

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA)--Sen. Claiborne Pell, Rhode Island Democrat, told the United States Senate yesterday that the Feb. 21 Swissair sabotage that killed 47 persons, seven of them U.S. citizens, has "outraged decent opinion the world over" and that such "vicious acts must not be allowed to continue." He urged the U.S. to consult with other affected countries to consider such "strong measures" as "the immediate suspension of landing rights of airlines based in states which harbor airline saboteurs and hijackers and support them with funds and arms;" an "international airline boycott of these states;" "immediate" aid to provide security for Israel-bound planes, and pleas to airlines that have suspended all flights to Israel to reconsider. Sen. Pell, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the Swissair tragedy held a "frightening potential for escalation" of Mideast warfare into "the most serious threat to world peace," and that Israel's objections are "not to be taken lightly." The entire situation, he declared, is "totally unacceptable."

Dulczin Predicts Latin American Jewish Communities' Funds To Israel Will Double

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--A belief that in 1970 the Jewish communities of Latin America will double the amount of funds for Israel over that raised last year was expressed by Leon Dulczin, Israel Minister Without Portfolio and Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, in an interview here today. He was in New York on his way to Montevideo where he will be a principal guest speaker at the Latin American Conference of Keren Hayesod. The conference, opening tomorrow will be attended by several hundred representatives of 14 Latin American countries.