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Israel Prepares To Reply To Rogers In Anticipation He Will Confirm Nixon's Statement

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--The deployment of Soviet SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles in Egypt--with Soviet personnel to operate them--shaped up today as Israel's chief argument in an urgent attempt to reverse what Israelis believe will be a negative decision by Washington on their request to buy more Phantom and Skyhawk jets at this time. The decision will be announced officially tomorrow by Secretary of State William P. Rogers. On the basis of remarks by President Richard M. Nixon at an impromptu White House press conference Saturday, the Israel Government has already drawn up a statement of reaction which Foreign Minister Abba Eban will make public following Mr. Rogers' announcement. Mr. Eban informed the Cabinet today of the general line the Israeli statement will take. The final formulation will be drawn up only after the full text of Secretary Rogers' announcement reaches Jerusalem.

Mr. Eban told the Cabinet he had consulted with Premier Golda Meir, who is on leave regarding the points Israel will make. He indicated that Mrs. Meir will see the final wording before the statement is issued. President Nixon strongly hinted Saturday that his administration will not approve Israel's purchase of 35 F-4 Phantom jets and 100 A-4 Skyhawks at this time but would reverse that stand on short notice if Israel's air superiority were in jeopardy. Israel's contention is that precisely this condition has come about with the delivery of the SAM-3 missile defense system to Egypt. Mr. Eban told the Cabinet that Israeli representatives abroad are stressing the new dimension introduced to the Mideast with the Soviet SAM-3s which are designed to shoot down low flying aircraft.

Deputy Premier Yigal Allon is also reported to have outlined some of the military and political implications of the Russian deliveries to Egypt at today's Cabinet meeting. On Friday night, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan referred to the missiles on a television interview. He said Israel's concern stemmed less from the physical presence of the SAM-3s on Egyptian soil than from the fact that the Russians are creating the foundations for a Soviet military establishment in the Mideast. He indicated that the presence of Soviet personnel would not deter Israeli efforts to neutralize the missiles. He warned that if Israel receives the "French treatment" from the U.S., the quantitative superiority of the Arab air forces next summer would be in the neighborhood of four to one. These arguments are presumably being stressed by Israeli representatives in Washington. President Nixon called the delivery of the SAM-3s to Egypt "disturbing" but didn't think it altered the Mideast arms balance. Foreign Ministry officials have linked the new Soviet missile deliveries to Egypt with a stiffening of Moscow's attitude on the Mideast.

(The London Sunday Observer placed the number of Russian "advisors" in Egypt at 6000, the highest estimate ever published in the local press. The Daily Telegraph reported that the Soviets have sent 1500 "instructors" to install and man the SAM-3 ground-to-air missiles just delivered to Egypt. According to the Telegraph, Israeli reconnaissance has pinpointed SAM-3 missile sites outside of Cairo and Alexandria and in the Nile delta. The Observer's correspondent, Robert Stephens, reported from Cairo that the number of Soviet personnel rose from 3500 to 6000. He said Russian moves were by no means simply military but reflected the Soviet's heavy economic and political investment in Cairo.)

Nixon Says No To Jets For Israel; Goldberg Criticizes Decision And Calls For Reversal

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Supreme Court Justice and just-announced Democratic candidate for the governorship of New York, disagreed Sunday with President Nixon's decision not to sell jets to Israel at this time. "The Soviet Union is heavily involved in the Middle East," Mr. Goldberg said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," and jets for Israel are "essential in terms of keeping the peace." Declaring himself in favor of a Mideast arms limitation, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and former Secretary of Labor nonetheless stated that "no imbalance should be permitted" and that "nobody should be encouraged to make war." Mr. Goldberg also compared the reported recent deliveries of Soviet SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles to Egypt with similar shipments to Vietnam, and suggested that they were antagonistic to peace.

The Nixon Administration's decision not to meet Israel's request for more war planes at this time is expected to be announced formally tomorrow by Secretary of State William P. Rogers. But President Nixon all but disclosed it in advance at an impromptu press conference here yesterday. In a lengthy statement on the Mideast and in reply to three questions from newsmen, the President hinted strongly at a negative reply to Israel's request made many months ago to purchase 35 more supersonic F-4 Phantom jets and about 100 more of the slower A-4 Skyhawks. However, the President did not rule out specifically the possibility that the U.S. might go along with at least part of Israel's request. He stressed that the decision, to be announced by Mr. Rogers was an interim one based "on our present appraisal of the balance of power in the Mideast" and indicated that it could be reversed on short notice if Israel's present aerial superiority over the Arabs seemed in jeopardy.

(Meanwhile, a plan to utilize NATO air power to guarantee future frontiers in the Mideast emerged in Brussels over the week-end. The plan calls for the deployment of about 250 fighter-bombers from

NATO countries on the fringes of the Mideast, to go into action in the event that either Israel or the Arab countries gained air superiority in a resumption of full scale warfare. The plan was authored by Sir Anthony Buzzard, a retired British admiral and former director of naval intelligence who is chairman of the British Council of Churches advisory committee on the Mideast. According to reports, the British and World Council of Churches have shown interest in the plan and so have a number of Labor and Conservative members of the British Parliament and French, Italian and Turkish diplomats and politicians. The plan has reportedly been favorably received by the Assembly of the Western European Union. In effect, its supporters say, it would establish a reliable external guarantee of the frontiers envisaged in the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution. Reports of the Buzzard plan made public so far do not indicate who would man the NATO aircraft should they be employed in a Mideast conflict. The plan appears to envisage the planes as a deterrent rather than an actual combat force.)

Nixon: Soviet Missiles To Egypt Disturbing But Not A Basis To Change His Decision

President Nixon referred to the reported arrival of SAM-3 missiles and Soviet technicians in Egypt as "disturbing." He said the reports were received after the decision on Israel's request for more jets had been made. However, those reports had not persuaded him to change his decision. He said that, "as of the present time, and considering our present evaluation, (they) do not indicate a significant shift in the balance." Mr. Nixon warned the Soviet Union however that any effort to upset the present balance would bring a swift U.S. response. He said that in the absence of a general Mideast settlement, the best way to deter an intensification of passions which could lead to a major war was keeping a military balance to discourage both sides from embarking on "an aggressive course." One newsman questioned the French sale of Mirage jets to Libya. Mr. Nixon said the French position was that its deliveries to Libya were not "for the purpose of transhipment, basically to the United Arab Republic." He noted that France was one of the participants in the Four Power Mideast talks and he believed it recognized the danger of any arms shipments to the area "which imperils the balance of power increases the danger of war." Mr. Nixon said, "I think that France, in its shipments over the next few years, will be guided by that principle as we are."

Some Washington observers saw in the Nixon decision a cautious first step toward limiting the arms race in the Mideast—one that could be quickly reversed if the Soviets, the Arabs' chief arms suppliers, were to ignore it. New York Times Washington correspondent Tad Szulc called it "the subtlest foreign policy maneuver thus far undertaken by the Nixon Administration and it is quite conceivable to its authors that it may end up an abominable failure." According to Mr. Szulc, "The United States regards the ultimate stakes in the Middle East as to be so high as to justify the risk of a temporary strategic error that can always be corrected by an emergency recourse to new options...Mr. Nixon is portrayed here as being ready to pay the price of anger on the part of both the Arabs and the Israelis in seeking to defuse the Middle Eastern crisis and prevent it from escalating into a Soviet-American confrontation," Mr. Szulc wrote.

Grenade Explosion In Bus Kills Arab And Injures Two Israelis And An Arab

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--One Arab was fatally wounded and another Arab and two Israelis were injured when a grenade exploded in a bus in Falastin Square in downtown Gaza this morning. All four were hospitalized. The dead man was identified as a laborer from a refugee camp. Ten Arab guerrillas were killed yesterday in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Sdom on the south shores of the Dead Sea. There were no Israeli casualties. An Arab guerrilla was killed by an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip last night. Israeli forces and Arab guerrillas exchanged fire across the Jordan River today. The guerrillas started the shooting by firing on an Israeli patrol near Tirat Zvi. Last night several shells were fired from Lebanese territory at Kfar Giladi and Tel Hai in Upper Galilee. An Israeli patrol was fired on east of Beth Yossef in the Beisan Valley. No Israeli casualties were reported in any of the incidents.

An Israeli car with sightseers was attacked from ambush near the Lebanese border yesterday but no one was hurt although the vehicle was hit several times. Several uninhabited buildings were damaged by explosions over the week-end at the Upper Galilee settlement of Avivim near the Lebanese border. There were no casualties but 900 head of poultry were killed when a shell struck a hen-coop. A 19-year-old Israeli soldier, Shmuel Hadad, was buried in Haifa over the week-end. He died of wounds suffered in the Suez Canal zone last Wednesday. A military spokesman said the encounter with saboteurs near Sdom resulted in the destruction of their jeep and the capture of rifles, bazookas and ammunition. Three Israeli soldiers were injured Friday when their vehicle hit a mine in the Kaliya area north of the Dead Sea. Israel is placing armored tractors in fields of settlements adjoining the Gaza Strip and all roads and field tracks in the area have been covered with tar as a precaution against road mines, officials reported Friday. They said some 30 cases of mine planting have been carried out in the area since the 1967 war. The developments were disclosed during a visit by Gen. Ari Sharon, commanding officer of the southern front.

Israel Will Not Free 11 Lebanese Soldiers Until Shmuel Rosenwasser Is Released

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Israel will not free 11 Lebanese soldiers captured in a recent raid until Shmuel Rosenwasser, a watchman seized last year by Lebanese guerrillas near Metuallah, is released, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel said in a radio interview. He said Israel holds Lebanon responsible for the watchman's safety and rejects the Government's contention that a terrorist band, and not Lebanese soldiers, seized the watchman and that therefore, the Lebanese Government is not responsible.

The National JWB Condemns State Department Mideast Policy; Calls For U.S. Aid

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--The National Jewish Welfare Board, ending its biennial convention today, passed a resolution condemning the State Department for its current Middle East policy, which it said "plays into the hands of the USSR by offering concessions that advance Soviet designs in the Middle East at Israel's expense." The 1000 delegates called for "essential military and economic aid" to Israel, "standing firm against Soviet pressures" and "using American influence not to draft the terms of a settlement but to bring both sides to the conference table." The convention passed another resolution urging Jewish centers and YM-YWHA's to "cooperate fully" with the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry's program to "ease the plight of Soviet Jews." It also called on the White House to recommend "peace and progress" as the 25th anniversary theme of the United Nations.

Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, told the delegates that no matter what setbacks Israel may face, "Israel will be strong and the people of Israel will continue to fight until peace is achieved." He asserted that Israel was asking nothing from its allies--no troops, no promises, no guarantees--but the right to buy weapons to defend itself. The Ambassador's declaration was made Friday, almost 24 hours before President Nixon's press conference yesterday in which he hinted that the United States would not sell jets to Israel at this time. Mr. Rabin stated that Israel "can take a setback but it will not reduce our fighting spirit, our belief, our determination to go on until peace is achieved."

Rabin: Setbacks Will Not Reduce Israel's Fighting Spirit; Outlines Peace Prerequisites

Focusing on the chances for peace or for war in the Mideast, Mr. Rabin offered four prerequisites for peace: Direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs; recognition of Israel's existence by the Arabs; Arab acceptance of Israel's continuation and open boundaries between the involved parties. "We don't believe peace can be maintained if people are not allowed to talk to one another," Mr. Rabin said. Of the Arab position, he commented: "I can't understand how so many people can hate so much for such a long time and go into three wars--and lose all three--with a country that 'does not exist.'" The Ambassador said that Israel would not accept any substitute for his prerequisites. He said they defined whether Israel had the right to exist as an independent country. "There can be no compromise," he said, "because no one has found a compromise between being alive and being dead."

Mr. Rabin said that realistically, "Prospects for peace are very limited for the foreseeable future" because the Soviet Union was trying to keep things stirred up so that it would have reason to be in the Middle East. He said also that there will be no war "as long as we have the means by which to defend ourselves." Israel possesses that capability today, he noted, but unless it gets more weapons, the arms balance in the Middle East will be loaded in favor of the Arabs in two or three years."

UN Group Investigating Conditions In Israeli-Occupied Territories Criticized

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 22 (JTA)--The United States came strongly to the support of Israel in the United Nations Human Rights Commission Friday when Mrs. Rita Hauser, the American delegate, sharply criticized the limited scope of the Special Working Group of Experts investigating alleged violations of human rights in territories occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War. The commission is currently debating a draft report of the working group which condemns Israeli treatment of the civilian population in the occupied areas. Mrs. Hauser said the United States had abstained from voting for the special working group "because we did not believe the resolution was balanced in approach and in substance. This resolution was limited to human rights problems in the territories occupied by Israel, ignoring similar problems in other places in the area of conflict in the Middle East. This limited approach "was not consistent with the broader scope of the investigation undertaken in 1967 by the representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gussing."

This was a reference to the mission of Nils Gussing to the Middle East with instructions to report on the treatment of the Arabs in the areas occupied by Israel and on the treatment of the Jewish minorities in the Arab states. Mr. Gussing was given free rein to study conditions in the areas occupied by Israel but was denied the right to study the situation of the Egyptian Jews and limited in access to the Syrian Jews. The United States, Mrs. Hauser declared, "believes the protection of the human rights of all peoples in the Middle East should be a subject of concern to this commission. Those living in occupied territories have surely faced loss of liberty of person and of property; so too have people living elsewhere in the Middle East, in non-occupied territories, faced certain losses." The American delegate told the commission that "it is my Government's view that the minority population, including Jews of Syria and Iraq in particular, have suffered grievous denials of many of these and other rights and that accordingly, we here owe these minority populations our interest and concern just as we have interest and concern for the Arabs living in territories occupied by Israel."

Two Arab Terrorists, Accused Of Attacking El Al Airliner In 1968, Go On Trial

ATHENS, March 22 (JTA)--Strict protective security measures were in effect here Saturday at the opening of the trial of two Arab terrorists accused of attacking an El Al airliner on December 26, 1968. The defendants--Mahmoud Issa Mohamad, 27, and Hussein Suleyman El Yamani, 20--were brought to the courtroom in separate cars escorted by plainclothesmen and uniformed police, and only persons with special passes were admitted inside. In another aspect of the case, the ambassadors of Egypt, Syria and Iraq, while present in court, were denied permission to sit as defense counsel and were relegated to the front row of the public benches.

22 Congressmen Urge U.S. To End Program Of Training Arab Military Officers

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--A bi-partisan group of 22 Congressmen is supporting a resolution to be introduced in the House tomorrow demanding the immediate end to U.S. military aid to the Arab states. The resolution was drafted by Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, a New York Democrat seeking his party's senatorial nomination. He has charged that "the continued training and equipping of Arab soldiers" by the U.S. "is unconscionable at a time when Israel's very existence is threatened." He urged the sale of U.S. military equipment to Israel. According to Rep. Ottinger, the U.S. is training 589 Arab military officers this year under a program which has provided more than a billion dollars to Arab regimes during the past decade. The Ottinger resolution calls on the President to "take immediate steps to terminate every form of military assistance to any belligerent Arab nation, including those harboring or assisting Arab terrorist groups or guerrillas."

Orthodox Jewish Group Hails Court Decision On Public Funds For Church-School Program

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--Dismissal by a three-man federal court in New Haven of a suit challenging the use of public funds for church-related school construction was hailed by an Orthodox Jewish organization and opposed by one which had been a plaintiff in the case. The judges ruled that grants under the federal Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 to four Connecticut colleges and universities with ties to the Catholic church did not "discriminate against non-sectarian institutions." Attorneys for the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union, which had joined in the case in the belief that the church-state separation clause was involved, said the decision would be appealed. Leo Pfeffer, of the American Jewish Congress, who served as chief counsel for the plaintiffs, said that the case of Tilton vs. Finch, apparently was not "ripe for immediate appeal" to the Supreme Court and that "we plan to make such an appeal." Julius Berman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), said the Orthodox agency "heartily approves" the decision of the Hartford judges. He said that, if an appeal is made to the Supreme Court, COLPA would file, "on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish community," a friend of the court brief in support of the Hartford decision.

A Russian Jew, Seeking To Emigrate To Israel, Cites Jan. 13 As Ominous Date For Jews

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--An ominous date in the life of the Soviet Jewish community--January 13--is cited in a letter from a Russian Jew to the Moscow daily Pravda which the newspaper did not publish but which has reached the offices of the American Jewish Congress here. The letter, signed by Chaim Rabinovich, a 55-year-old engineer seeking to emigrate to Israel, denounced the current Soviet anti-Zionist campaign and particularly the use of Jewish citizens to attack Israel. Mr. Rabinovich, who gave his address as 66 Izmailovsky Boulevard in Moscow, noted that it was on January 13, 1953, that the "infamous campaign that became known as the 'doctors' plot'" was launched and that prominent Jewish citizens attacked the Jewish physicians. On January 13, 1970, he noted, the names of Soviet Jewish citizens were again published in Pravda to attack Israel and Zionism. On January 13, 1948, American Jewish Congress officials recalled here, Solomon Michaelis director and star of the Yiddish State Theatre in Moscow, was murdered by Stalin's secret police.

In his letter to Pravda, Mr. Rabinovich said that after he had applied for emigration to Israel he was "transferred to an inferior position, not in my profession." When his application was rejected he applied again. This time, he wrote, "the possibility has arisen concerning my dismissal from the plant." As a result, he continued, "a family of four persons will live on my wife's pension (invalid--2nd grade) amounting to 39 rubles. 'Yet no matter how difficult things may be, I shall not give up my desire to live with my people.'" Declaring that as a Jew he could not be neutral concerning Arab threats to destroy Israel, he wrote that "In the 21 years of its existence, Jews from all countries rushed there to build their state. From the Arab countries alone 400,000 Jews emigrated. From the USSR too there has been a partial emigration to Israel. Comrade Kosygin publicly stated in Paris, in 1966, that the Government of the USSR does not impede the unification of families. Yet, I have submitted my emigration documents several times and been refused each time."

In the United Nations, the urgency of the plight of Soviet Jews and the need for support for their requests to emigrate to Israel were conveyed to Secretary General U Thant in a 40-minute meeting Friday evening by Yosef Tekoah, the Israel Ambassador to the United Nations. The envoy provided additional information to the Secretary General on expressions by Soviet Jews of their wish to receive permission to emigrate. A general discussion of the problem took place during the meeting, it was indicated. UN officials said it was "purely coincidental" that Ambassador Yacob Malik of the Soviet Union was scheduled as Mr. Thant's next appointment, immediately after the Israeli diplomat.

Jewish Weekly Newspapers Adopt Various Measures To Deliver During Postal Strike

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--American Jewish weekly newspapers, unable to reach their subscribers by the customary mail deliveries owing to the strike of postal workers in a number of Eastern cities, adopted various means of getting this week's editions distributed. The Jewish News of Newark, N.J. distributed quantities of the edition to synagogues in the Newark area for free distribution. Advertisements in the daily press advised News subscribers that they could pick up copy at the News office in downtown Newark. The Jewish Standard in Jersey City, N.J., informed its subscribers through advertisements in the daily press that they could obtain copies of the paper at its publication office. The paper also planned to set up home delivery by messenger, if the strike continues. In New York, major Jewish organizations arranged messenger service to pick up their copy of the JTA Daily News Bulletin each morning. JTA wire services were expanded to provide bulletin and headline services to a number of papers which in the past relied on mail deliveries of news copy.