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Senators And Congressmen Assail Administration For Withholding Jets From Israel

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA)—Senators and congressmen from both political parties expressed criticism today of the Nixon administration for withholding the sale of jets at this time from Israel. Anti-administration feelings were heightened by the fact that the administration's policy of "abeyance," announced yesterday by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, came at a time when the Soviet Union has been caught red-handed in sending SAM-3's and additional personnel to Egypt. Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, denounced the Nixon administration for refusing to sell 125 jets to Israel. Speaking on the Senate floor, Symington said the decision "could create more interest on the part of Israel to join the nuclear club." He said that he regretted the decision, and felt it was not based on a true evaluation of the situation. "If the (military) balance was right in the past, how can it now be right, after the approval by France of 100 more planes to Libya, a government which recently demanded that this country get out of our large air base at Tripoli in their country and has expressed openly its sympathy with and support for the Communist satellite countries in the area," He said he was afraid that this decision was made by the same people who got us into war in Vietnam.

Jacob Javits, Republican Senator of New York, said that President Nixon's decision "leaves us about where we were." Javits said he was "disappointed" about the refusal to sell 25 Phantom jets and 100 Skyhawks to the Israelis, but "gratified" that Nixon was aware of the threat posed by Soviet SAM-3 missiles in Egypt and Israel's need for planes to replace those lost, and the President's decision to extend credit to Israel. He said that the decision was "more political than military," and that the assumption that refusing to sell planes to Israel would make the Arabs more favorable to the U.S. was "grave self-deception." He said he still favored an arms balance tipped in Israel's favor, as Nixon had promised during the presidential campaign.

Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, said on the Senate floor that the Nixon administration "is playing a very dangerous game in the Middle East" in refusing to sell jets to Israel. "The Nixon administration continues its shortsighted policy of seemingly rewarding our enemies and punishing our friends," Cranston said. He warned that the Soviet SAM-3 missiles being installed in Egypt will shift the balance of military power to the Arabs. "The administration continues to pour billions of dollars and hundreds of American lives into Southeast Asia to prop up corrupt, repressive dictatorships, but will not even allow our Israeli friends the right to purchase arms to defend themselves against Soviet equipped and Soviet trained Arab enemies in the Middle East," he said. "We must show the Arab nations and the Soviet Union that Israel does not stand alone now before it is too late—too late for Israel and too late for us."

Rep. Leonard Farbstein, Democrat of New York, scored the administration, declaring: "The so called balance (of power in the Middle East) of which the Secretary of State spoke in his statement does not exist." Mr. Farbstein said he deplored the decision not to sell jets to Israel on the grounds that the Israelis had air superiority in the Middle East. "The Secretary's statement is an inducement (to the Arabs) to try once again to drive Israel into the sea," Mr. Farbstein said. He claimed the Arabs might be willing to agree to a cease fire and peace negotiations if they knew that the U.S. stood squarely behind the Israelis. Rep. Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida, said that the Nixon decision would "encourage aggression against Israel and create a greater risk of war in the Middle East." Rep. Jacob H. Gilbert, Democrat of New York, said that waiting until Israel "reaches some arbitrary breaking point" before furnishing planes may bring aid too late to help Israel. Rep. Jonathan Bingham, Democrat of New York, said he would introduce legislation asking the administration to reconsider its decision.

U.S., British And Canadian Press Generally Critical And Warn Of New Mideast Danger

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA)—Influential newspapers in the United States, Britain and Canada were generally critical today of the Nixon administration's jet policy toward Israel and skeptical that withholding the Phantoms and Skyhawks would cool the ardor of the Arab nations or the Soviet Union to heat up the Middle East situation. Several noted editorially that withholding the jets at this time would be interpreted by the Soviet-Arab axis as a sign of weakness by the United States. The New York Times said the Nixon administration "has preserved a precarious option for peace in the Middle East" by holding planes in abeyance and offering extended economic aid. "The Israeli Air Force," The Times continued, "has demonstrated decisive superiority in the skies over all of her Arab neighbors in recent months. This advantage is in no danger of being upset in the near future... In the meantime, Washington's gesture of restraint provides an incentive to the Soviet Union to join in slowing down the dangerous Middle East arms race. It should demonstrate to the Arabs the sincerity of this country's desire for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." If, however, the Soviets and the Arabs take advantage of this new situation to increase their armaments, "it is clear... that the United States will stand firmly behind Israel in defense of her security."

The New York Post, however, said "the U.S. has adopted a policy that threatens to alter the balance of political power," and "both the Arab nations and Moscow will privately interpret the decision as a sign of irresolution, temporizing and weakness to be exploited without delay." Such an attitude by the Soviets and Arab "might well be a dangerous miscalculation," the Post noted, but the Nixon

decision "may tragically compound" it. The Daily News of New York stated: "Everyone knows the Kremlin is striving for domination if not ownership of the whole Mideast. Israel is the free world's best and bravest friend in that area. Therefore, it is to our interest to keep Israel equipped with plenty of the best and newest weaponry, and too had about delicate and tricky balance-of-power considerations."

The Atlanta Constitution declared itself "in sympathy with Mr. Nixon's intention...to wind down the tensions in the Middle East" but said "it makes no sense to...deny the purchase of jet planes to Israel while France and Russia continue to arm the Arab nations." Such a policy, it said, "may severely undermine the confidence of that beleaguered nation." The Philadelphia Inquirer asked whether Secretary of State William P. Rogers intends "to wait until the opening by the Arabs of a fourth ground war before the U.S. agrees to sell some planes--possibly too late to be of any help?" Middle East air power, it commented, "is unbalanced in favor of the Arabs and is becoming more unbalanced every day."

Administration Jet Policy Tamed Grotesque Illusion, Calculated Risk

The Montreal Gazette declared: "President Nixon's decision against the sale of more jetfighters to Israel at this time is paradoxically a setback to the cause of peace in the Middle East." Further, the paper asserted, "there is a continuing danger that the Israeli Government, resolute and full of a sense of heroic mission, will lose all patience with international diplomacy and decide that the nation has no choice but to wage another all-out war simply to go on living." President Nixon's decision was "ill-advised," the paper said, because "Israel is the country whose existence is threatened and Israel is the country that has constantly been prepared to negotiate with its neighbors... Washington is following a grotesque illusion when it tries to promote and maintain a balance of power in the Middle East by itself."

The London Evening Standard said the Nixon Administration's decision would not undermine Israel's self-confidence but it warned of a "clear danger" in the erection of missile sites in Egypt manned by Soviet crews. It asserted that "Israel does not yet know how effective they are and will be tempted to put them out of operation. They may well be protected by Russians and if so, the Mideast crisis could be put on a far more perilous course. The need for negotiation has never been so strong." The Telegraph called the Nixon administration's Israeli-jet decision a "sensible" one, but also a "calculated risk." President Nixon, it commented editorially, is "playing it cool," but Egypt, supplied with new Soviet armaments, may choose not to follow suit but to "suffer a rush of blood to the head and embark on measures which would in effect restart the war." The Soviet Union, too, the paper noted, may interpret the decision as a sign of American weakness and exploit it dangerously. The Times suggested that the Israeli attacks near Cairo (which Israel has called unintentional) may have cost her the new American planes and gained the Egyptians the new Soviet SAM-3 missiles. The Nixon decision is thus a "stinging reproach" to Israel. The Times-Jerusalem concluded that Israeli reaction to the taradown has been relatively calm because the Army and Air Force are confident, perhaps over-confident, of their military superiority over the Arabs.

Israeli Press And Jewish Leaders Here And Abroad Caution Against Hasty Conclusions

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA)--Reactions in the Jewish press and by Jewish organizations here and abroad to the United States' official no-sale policy on jets to Israel "are generally critical of the Nixon Administration for preserving an arms imbalance favorable to the Arabs. The criticism was tempered, however, by the con-current announcement by Secretary of State William P. Rogers that the U.S. would offer Israel economic aid and replacements for downed jets. Three major Israeli daily newspapers noted this morning the positive aspects of Washington's decision against immediate Phantom and Skyhawk sales to Israel. Davar, Haaretz and the Jerusalem Post, while recognizing the "disappointment and concern" expressed by Foreign Minister Abba Eban, pointed out that Soviet failure to similarly limit arms shipments to the Middle East could serve as an excuse for the United States to meet Israel's plane request at a later date, and to blame the U.S.S.R. for the escalation.

Virtually all the press comment here contained warnings against concluding from the White House decision that the U.S. has ended its special relationship with Israel. The papers observed that Rogers, at his press conference yesterday had for the first time committed the U.S. to replacing Israeli plane losses in combat or in training, assuring "prompt delivery." Dr. William Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith told Israelis today not to be dismayed by the Nixon administration's decision. He said America was committed to the defense of Israel and "it is too late to reverse this situation." He told guests at a luncheon in Tel Aviv marking the close of sessions here of the B'nai B'rith governing council that "you are not alone. World Jewry and American Jewry in particular is with you." Dr. Wexler described the decision announced by Rogers as "a temporary decision" and said Israelis should not be overly excited by it. He asserted that "if the United States wants to have a foothold in this area (the Middle East) Israel must survive."

(In New York, Jacques Toroznyer, president of the Zionist Organization of America, today attacked the Nixon administration's decision as tending "to deprive Israel now of the tools for self-defense against the constantly increasing buildup of the Soviet-Arab war machine." Mr. Toroznyer urged President Nixon "to re-appraise the situation" in "the sober light" of the Soviet SAM-3 missile deliveries to Egypt in recent weeks. As a result of yesterday's decision, the ZOA leader declared, the Arabs will be "encouraged by this show of American lack of determination.") (Minister without portfolio Shimon Peres, who as former Premier David Ben Gurion's Deputy Minister of Defense was responsible for much of the equipment procurement of the Israeli defense forces, was quoted in Amsterdam today as declaring that the American decision not to sell jet planes to Israel at this time did not constitute a danger to Israel, and expressed the belief that one result would be greater unity among Israelis.)

Tass: Decision Changes Nothing; Arabs: Decision Is Collusion Between U.S. And Zionism

LONDON, March 24 (JTA)—The Soviet press agency Tass, it is reported, said Monday night that the Nixon Administration no-sale decision on jets to Israel essentially "changes nothing" in the Middle East conflict because "On the basis of previous contracts on the delivery of arms, Israel receives all it wants from the United States, including the Phantom jet fighter-bombers that are being used for barbarous raids on the inland areas of Egypt." Tass made its remarks before Secretary of State William P. Rogers' press conference on Monday, but after President Nixon's preliminary comments last Saturday. "The President," Tass noted, stressed twice that this delay (in jet sales) is temporary. "The United States' negative decision was expected in Cairo, according to reports reaching here, and thus Egyptians were putting their major energies today toward condemnation of the American resolve to provide Israel with \$100 million worth of economic aid. Cairo radio called the arrangement a "conspiracy"; Damascus radio said the aid would be going to "Zionist gangs in Palestine," and Baghdad Radio called the announcement "obvious collusion between American imperialism and Zionism." All these pointed out that the jet-withholding decision was "temporary." In addition, Lebanese Information Minister Osman Dana said he regretted the aid announcement. Egyptians also reacted unfavorably to Mr. Rogers' endorsement of the enforcement of the Middle East ceasefire and the U.S. attempt to balance the Mideast arms race and halt arms deliveries to the area.

Israeli Air Force Conducts Almost Five Hour Sorties On Military Targets in Egypt

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA)—Israeli Air Force planes carried out one of the longest attacks on military targets in Egypt today, singling out radar installations, artillery batteries and anti-aircraft gun positions. All planes returned safely after sorties that continued for almost five hours. The radar station attacked was at Ein Soubah, some 50 kilometers south of the town of Suez. Other targets were along the southern and central sections of the canal, to a depth of 25 kilometers westward into Egypt. Seven Syrian soldiers were killed in a clash Monday night in the Golan Heights north-east of Birkat Ram when an Israeli Army patrol intercepted a Syrian force attempting to infiltrate behind Israeli positions. An Arab terrorist was killed in another clash near Bouquana in the Golan Heights. A Russian-made Kalashnikov rifle was recovered near his body. There were no Israeli casualties in both clashes.

(Conflicts between Arab terrorists operating on Lebanese soil and the Lebanese Army resulted today in skirmishes between Army and guerrilla units in the Sabra quarter south of central Beirut. Army units were reported to have surrounded a school building and sports stadium where guerrilla snipers had taken refuge.) Salim Ibrahim Kasem, 27, an Israeli Arab living in Tirah village, was sentenced today to 25 years imprisonment following his conviction for having carried out acts of sabotage. Kasim, who expressed regret for his deeds during his trial and admonished Arabs to reject the urgings of inciters, admitted to three sabotage attempts. He told the court that he had placed explosives in Raanaana which were discovered and defused before they could do any damage; had placed the explosives which damaged an electric pylon near Raanaana, and had secreted explosives in Tel Aviv. A cleaning woman found the explosives there and police removed them before they could do any damage.

France's Grand Rabbi Asserts Right Of French Jews To Have Links With Jews Elsewhere

PARIS, March 24 (JTA)—Dr. Jacob Kaplan, Grand Rabbi of France, reaffirmed today the right of French Jews, "as free and equal citizens," to express their political opinions and "to have moral and religious links with other Jews wherever they may be." Dr. Kaplan thus challenged French Government spokesmen and supporters who have attacked French Jewish leaders for their criticism of the French Government's anti-Israel policies and, particularly, the decision of the Pompidou Government to sell jet planes to Libya, an avowed enemy of Israel. Writing in *Le Monde*, leading Paris daily, Dr. Kaplan declared that French Jews "do not automatically espouse without consideration of merits, Israel's policies and positions. In this particular case," he said, "France's Jews, together with the overwhelming majority of France's citizens, feel that the current French policy of supplying planes and arms to Libya jeopardizes Israel's very existence."

The Grand Rabbi's reaffirmation and defense of French Jewry was in the form of a reply to an article which *Le Monde* published last month. Written by René Massigli, prominent French diplomat and former Ambassador to Britain, that article accused French Jews of having a "double allegiance" and Dr. Kaplan of being guilty of "intrusion into temporal affairs." Dr. Kaplan strongly affirmed his right to take religious and moral positions on matters which he said affected the conscience of the nation, such as Biafra, Israel or Vietnam. He pointed out that Catholic and Protestant churchmen did the same thing and asked M. Massigli: "Are we to be forbidden to do so only because, in this particular instance, we hold views favorable to Israel?" M. Massigli's article created a furor in France and the angry argument that followed it contributed to the feeling of many French Jews that they would be better off being silent on the issue.

Two More Jordanians Arrested In Connection With Arab Terrorist Activities

BONN, March 24 (JTA)—Two more Jordanian nationals have been arrested in Munich in connection with Arab terrorist activities, a spokesman for the Security Group, Bonn's special criminal police, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. They were not identified, so as not to impair further investigations. Two other Jordanians were arrested on similar charges ten days ago, one in Munich and one in Berlin. Significantly, the Jordanian Embassy here has made no effort to intervene on their behalf. The police did not disclose whether the new arrests were in connection with the attempt to hijack an El Al plane on Munich's airport or the destruction by arson of a Jewish center and home for the aged in Munich.

Dr. Goldmann Urges Creation Of A Neutralized Israel To Ensure Its Survival

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA)--In an article in the April issue of Foreign Affairs Quarterly, Dr. Nahum Goldmann has proposed a radical alteration of Israel's position in the world as a means of ensuring its survival and fulfilling its unique destiny in Jewish history. The veteran Zionist leader urged the creation of "a neutralized Israel, outside the sphere of power politics" whose boundaries and security would be permanently guaranteed by the world community of nations--including even the Arab states. Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organization, wrote that his proposed solution "at first glance may seem utopian." But, he said, his experience led him to the conclusion that Israel cannot continue to exist in a perpetual state of war with its neighbors and as an object of Big Power confrontation without nullifying the very ideals and purposes behind its creation, alienating the most idealistic elements of Jewry, losing the sympathy of progressive forces all over the world and eventually succumbing to the numerical superiority of its enemies.

Dr. Goldmann wrote, "It is the very uniqueness of the Jewish problem and of the Zionist idea as its solution which, in the last analysis, makes me doubt whether the creation and existence of a Jewish state no different in structure and character from any other state can be the real implementation of Zionism." Continuing, he stated, "More and more...I am coming to the conclusion that Israel cannot be one of the more than a hundred so-called sovereign national states as they exist today and that, instead of relying primarily and exclusively on its military and political strength, it should be merely accepted but guaranteed de jure and de facto, by all peoples of the world including the Arabs, and put under the permanent protection of all mankind."

He said that the two problems that in the long run will decide the destiny of Israel are its relations with the Arab world and its relations with diaspora Jewry. "The Arab world regards Israel as a foreign element in its midst and refuses to accept its existence. This feeling is growing with every new Israeli victory, so as to compensate for the Arab sentiment of humiliation and inferiority...The hope of some Israeli leaders that time is on their side and that the Arabs, recognizing Israel's military capability, will be more ready to accept the fait accompli of its existence, seems to me based on very tenuous assumptions," Dr. Goldmann wrote. Regarding world Jewry, Dr. Goldmann maintained that there was not likely to be massive immigration to Israel from the free countries of the West and he doubted that a major part of Russian Jewry would go to Israel even if the Soviets lifted the impediments to emigration. If Israel is to fulfill its historical task of securing Jewish survival all over the world, it must "become the center of attraction, the greatest challenge for the best, most idealistic elements of the young generation which is in great danger of largely being lost to the Jewish people within a few decades," he said. "An Israel at war, in permanent mobilization, cannot become this center..."

Another "negative consequence of this permanent state of war is that in many parts of the world it is the reactionary, nationalistic groups which have become the sponsors and admirers of Israel, whereas large parts of the progressive world have become disappointed and antagonistic to Israel," Dr. Goldmann said. He observed that the proposed neutralization of Israel would have important consequences for the character and activities of the State. "Neutralization may even mean that a permanent, symbolic international force may have to be stationed in the state of Israel, so that any attack on it would imply an attack on all the states guaranteeing Israel's existence and neutrality and participation in this international force." Dr. Goldmann envisioned a neutral Israel as a nation that could devote the full force of its creative talents and resources to economic, cultural and spiritual pursuits. Dr. Goldmann suggested that such neutralization could be the basis for an Arab-Israeli settlement and peace. He stated that nothing could be done to implement his concept of a neutral Israel before the current state of war is ended by some kind of agreement between Israelis and Arabs. But Dr. Goldmann believes that if his concept should be accepted it would influence the character of the settlement of the present conflict.

Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies Studying Request For More Jewish Education Funds

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA)--A spokesman for the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies said today that a special committee considering a request for additional funds for Jewish education was expected to make a report on its findings to the Federation board of trustees in June. The spokesman made the comment after a sit-in demonstration yesterday by members of the Jewish Defense League in the office of Federation president George Heyman Jr. The JDL members staged the 90-minute demonstration in support of demands for more Federation allocations for Jewish education and for funds for the league's "safety patrols." They also asked for assistance to institutions threatened by violence and arrangements for "popular" elections of Federation officials. Sanford Solender, the new Federation executive vice-president, met briefly with Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the JDL. There were no incidents during the demonstration.

New Soviet Novel, Replete With Anti-Zionist Harangues, Depicts Trotsky As Zionist

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA)--Leon Trotsky, one of the architects of the Russian Revolution and an ardent anti-Zionist is being depicted as a Zionist agent in a novel published in Moscow several days ago and already a run-away best seller according to reports reaching here. Ivan Shervitsov's "In the Name of Father and Son," which deals with life in a Moscow metallurgical plant, has one character, a Jew named Aaron Hershovich, who says of Trotsky: "Sometimes the Zionist agents manage to infiltrate the leadership of the Communist Party as did Judas-Trotsky or Bronstein." Bronstein was Trotsky's original name. The book is said to be filled with anti-Zionist statements. The novel was released during the midst of a frenzied anti-Zionist and anti-Israel campaign by the Soviet government.