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New French UN Ambassador Sees Memorandum As Possible Step Toward Jarring's Mission

UNITED NATIONS, April 2 (JTA)—The new French ambassador to the UN, Jacques Kosciuszko-Morizet, told a press conference today that he considered the memo the Big Four deputies are working on "a step in the direction" that would make possible the resumption of Ambassador Gumar V. Jarring's work. The 57-year-old ambassador described the memo on the progress of the Big Four consultations on the Security Council's cease-fire resolution as "slight improvement" but added: "It's a long way to the general end." Dr. Jarring, special UN representative for the Middle East, returned to Moscow last week following talks in New York with Big Four representatives, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, and ambassadors of Arab states. It was reported then that Dr. Jarring would return in a few weeks "or sooner, if developments warrant it." Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet observed, in response to questions by reporters about the significance of the work on the memorandum, that the objective is to "see the situation of where we are. The problem is to allow Ambassador Jarring to resume work. We consider the memorandum as a step in that direction."

A spokesman for the British said that the deputies began meeting this morning at the U.S. Mission on drafting the memo, scheduled for completion in time for the next Big Four meeting April 15. A British diplomatic source said it was his view that "the decision to charge deputies to draw up a memorandum can only be welcomed. It is a positive decision." He rejected the word "progress" in reference to a suggestion that work on the memo signified that the Four Power talks will proceed more smoothly. "I prefer the word positive to the word progress," he said and added he did not want to exaggerate developments of the Big Four talks. He rejected the interpretation by some observers that the Four Power ambassadors, by asking their deputies to do the "homework" of drawing up the memorandum, were, in effect, conceding that the talks were at an impasse.

The British diplomatic source said the difference between using the term memorandum and "catalog" was due to the fact that the latter term provoked certain reactions among the Big Four in previous meetings which they want to avoid in future meetings. The word "catalog" was understood as pinpointing agreements and disagreements among the Four Powers unlike the memorandum which is more general. Asked whether the bilateral talks in Washington would in any way cut across the Big Four talks in New York, the diplomatic spokesman said, "In our view, the bilateral talks are complementary, not an alternative." We welcome the bilateral talks because they can take up larger issues than the confined issues of the Four Power talks," which deal with the problems of the Middle East.

(In London, the liberal newspaper, The Guardian suggested that Dr. Jarring be replaced as special Middle East negotiator unless United Nations Secretary General U Thant expedites positive guidelines for his mission instead of subjecting him to "neutralization" by Big Four policy delays. "Would it not have been better," the newspaper asked editorially, "for U Thant himself to write a brief for Dr. Jarring? Could he not have set out his own interpretation, not binding on anyone but as a basis for discussion, on how the Security Council (ceasefire) resolution of November 1967 should be applied? Could he not have proposed a timetable for its application? That would have given Dr. Jarring the mandate he needs; but if Dr. Jarring is to be neutralized, then someone else will have to try.")

Schumann: For Franco-Israeli Relations To Improve Israel Must Cooperate With Big Four

PARIS, April 2 (JTA)—Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann said today that before Franco-Israeli relations can "improve and revert to normal" Israel must cooperate with the Four Power Mideast consultations in New York and agree to implement the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution. M. Schumann spoke at a Foreign Press Association luncheon in his honor. He denied that anyone "asks for an unconditional surrender by Israel of the occupied territories." He said what the Four Powers want and what is a "must" for any settlement, is "a withdrawal accompanied by guarantees of the right of all countries to existence within just and safe borders."

Replying to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, the French Foreign Minister said the Big Four consultations were "not a substitute for a more direct form of talks between the two sides (Arabs and Israelis) but only a means to make such a step easier." He claimed that the UN's special Mideast peace envoy, Ambassador Gumar V. Jarring, had informed the French Government that there was no possibility of his bringing the two sides together at the conference table "until the Big Powers themselves reach some agreement on a number of essential points." M. Schumann, also questioned about the chances of France refueling the money Israel has paid for 50 embargoed Mirage jets, said Israel knew, "though unofficially," that France is ready to repay the money. He conceded that the French Government has never officially informed Israel of its readiness. He said Israel must rely "on the public declaration made by President Georges Pompidou during his recent trip to the United States."

Fighting On Golan Heights Heaviest Since Six-Day War; One Israeli Officer Killed

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)—Israeli and Syrian forces battled in the air and on the ground for almost eight hours today. The fighting that raged along the entire 50-mile Golan Heights front was described as the heaviest in that sector since the June, 1967 war. Israeli jets shot down three Syrian MIG-21 interceptors during an air battle this morning and Israel conceded the loss of one jet whose pilot was seen bailing out over Syrian territory. There was no confirmation of reports that the jet was an American F-4 Phantom. One Israeli officer was killed in the ground action that involved heavy artillery and tanks. A military spokesman dismissed Damascus claims that Syrian fighters destroyed seven Israeli jets including three Phantoms and one French-built Mirage to two Syrian planes downed. "We lost one, just one," the Israeli spokesman said.

Officials here acknowledged that today's fighting was opened by Israeli forces in retaliation for the recent escalation of attacks by Syrian regulars on Israeli positions in the Golan Heights. The Israeli air and artillery strikes were concentrated on 15 Syrian artillery batteries and seven anti-aircraft batteries in the Radif area in the central Golan Heights. A military spokesman said two-and-a-half hours after the battle first erupted today a flight of 30 Syrian jets challenged Israeli planes. The Syrian planes fled after their three first line MIG interceptors were shot down and the air and ground assaults on Syrian positions continued, the spokesman said.

Israel sources said it had become clear in recent days that the Damascus Government was determined to "heat up" the Golan region, either on its own initiative or at the behest of President Nasser to take the pressure off the Egyptian front. He said the Syrians have been employing their regular Army rather than El Fatah and other guerrillas to attack Israeli outposts. Two guerrillas were killed in the central Golan Heights last night in a skirmish with an Israeli Army patrol. The encounter took place near Hispin. Two Russian-made Kalashnikov assault rifles were found on the bodies along with grenades. There were no Israeli casualties.

Cabinet Adopts Peres Plan For Improving Lives Of Arabs In Occupied Territories

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)—A far-reaching plan drafted by Shimon Peres, Minister-Without-Portfolio, for improving the lives of Arabs in the occupied territories—mainly those living in the depressed Gaza Strip—was adopted by the Cabinet today. No specific sum was ear-marked but each of the ministries involved will be asked to appropriate the necessary funds to carry out its phase of the program. Details of the plan were disclosed by Cabinet secretary Michael Arnon. It specifically refrained from mentioning "refugees" in any context but referred to the intended beneficiaries of the plan as "inhabitants of the territories." This was taken to mean that the measures would apply equally to refugees residing in camps and the general population. The plan calls for improving employment opportunities, establishing centers for industry and marketing, enlarging the scope of vocational training and vocation schools, improve agricultural production methods and improve social services, housing and living conditions.

Knesset Votes Down Motion On Problems Of Peace Introduced By Uri Avnery

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)—An agenda motion to debate "the problem of peace" was voted down by the Knesset Wednesday night. It was introduced by Uri Avnery of the Haolam Hazeh faction. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, replying to the motion, said the Cabinet has held far-ranging discussions of the topic of peace, especially during the past few months, but that the Arabs have rejected every initiative toward peace and understanding made by Israel over the past two and a half years. He said that until the Arabs realize that the State of Israel is a fact, "Middle East peace will evade us."

Israel To Continue Initiatives On Behalf Of Soviet Jews And Restrict Private Initiatives

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)—The Cabinet decided as a matter of principle today that Israel would continue to take international initiatives on behalf of Soviet Jews but would restrict "private initiatives" in that direction. The guidelines were adopted on the recommendation of a special committee headed by Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili. The guidelines provide for measures to ensure minority rights to Jews who remain in Russia and emigration rights for those who want to leave. However, the Cabinet reportedly will have Israeli representatives abroad make it clear to anyone who consults them, which courses of action are sanctioned by Jerusalem and which are not. The latter point was reportedly adopted over the objections of Minister of Development, Gen. Ezer Weizman, the Minister of Transport, did not oppose the majority plan. Herut leader Menachem Begin is abroad.

Sisco And Dobrynin Meet; No Official Word That This Was To Continue Two-Power Talks

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)—Joseph Sisco, United States Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin met yesterday afternoon at the Russian embassy to continue talks they began last week. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey declined to comment on what they talked about or what they decided, but said they will meet again next week. Asked if this was a resumption of the Two Power talks, he said that he didn't see it that way but maybe some might choose to write it that way. He said he wasn't going to get into the debate over interpretation. Asked if there was a "secrecy" policy about announcing meetings after they take place, Mr. McCloskey said no. Asked if Soviet pilots were flying planes out of the UAR he said he knew they were there for training purposes but had no information on whether they were on sorties.

Israeli Government Repudiates Report Of Group Claiming Arab Prisoners Maltreated

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)--The Israel Government reacted angrily today to a report published by Amnesty International in London stating that it had prima facie evidence of maltreatment of Arab prisoners undergoing interrogation in Israeli jails. Amnesty International is a private organization active on behalf of political prisoners. It conceded that in all the cases reported, the evidence came from the prisoners themselves, but claimed that "the serious nature" of the charges warranted an immediate investigation by a committee of inquiry empowered to call for documents and subpoena witnesses. (The report was released Wednesday, five days before the three-member team of the United Nation's special committee investigating human rights in Israeli-occupied territories is scheduled to arrive in Beirut and then continue to other capitals in Arab nations to continue their hearings. Between the time they left New York last Friday and their scheduled arrival in Beirut on April 5, the team was scheduled to visit Europe. There was no immediate indication that the timing of the report's release and the trip by the UN team was related.)

The Israel Foreign Ministry expressed "astonishment" that the organization "has permitted itself to be the vehicle for spreading unfounded allegations, having their origin in a campaign of strictly propaganda carried on by the Arab states and their supporters." The Ministry statement noted that two months ago Israel offered Amnesty International facilities to investigate allegations of torture. Israel offered safe conduct for the complainants and legal aid but insisted that "proper complaints be lodged" and that there be "an opportunity to conduct cross-examination and otherwise observe legal procedures." The Ministry said that "instead of pursuing the offer," Amnesty International "has seen fit to publish a report critical of Israel."

Report Acknowledges Liberal Regime In Israel

The report took note of Israel's offer but said that in the organization's view it "was insufficient." The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the allegations were originally part of a four-section Amnesty International report submitted to the Israel Government last May. It said that one section containing the names of the complainants and detailed complaints was investigated and the allegations found to be unsubstantiated and that the other sections involved "unspecific and undocumented charges by anonymous complainants." The preamble to the Amnesty report said it was being published with "deepest regret" because Amnesty "acknowledges the general liberal nature of the regime within Israel." The report said that the Israel Government had repeatedly rejected its proposal for an independent inquiry.

Today's Foreign Ministry statement said that "At this juncture all that the Israel authorities know about the report is what is appearing in the press. In this connection it is not clear whether Amnesty's report includes the texts of the official communications it received from the Israel Government and which the Government specifically requested should accompany the report. The Government of Israel regards this as an extraordinary way for Amnesty to behave towards a government which has gone out of its way to cooperate with it. In the light of this experience it is difficult to see how the Government of Israel can place its trust in the good will and sense of fairness of this organization." (In New York, a United Nations spokesman could not confirm today whether Secretary General U Thant had seen the Amnesty report.)

Zionist Leader Praises South African Government For Sympathy Towards Israel

JOHANNESBURG, April 3 (JTA)--Judge I. A. (Isay) Maisels, outgoing chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, in an address to the 31st South African Zionist Conference here, praised the government for its "sympathy and understanding" for Israel. But he warned against "signs of hostility towards Israel and Jews" by a break-away political faction and urged, "Let us not treat these signs lightly, and as Zionists let us not overlook our duty to create a strong cohesive Jewish community in this country." "We are fortunate," Judge Maisels said, "that the overwhelming mass of the peoples in this country have shown a sympathy and understanding for Israel and its problems" that has also "been well evidenced by the Government of this country" in its "fair and reasonable attitude" and "more particularly in relation to the transfer of funds collected for humanitarian purposes to Israel." The South African government has maintained friendly relations with Israel over the years, though it has become incensed at Israeli votes against apartheid in the United Nations.

Young Liberals To Introduce Resolution Calling For Secular Palestinian State

LONDON, April 3 (JTA)--A resolution calling for the abolition of the Israeli state in favor of a secular Palestinian state will be introduced at the Liberal Party's convention next September by its youth wing, the Young Liberals. A resolution to that effect was adopted at the Young Liberal convention at Skopness, Lincolnshire, which closed yesterday after hearing opposing views on the Mideast conflict from an Israeli student and a representative of El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization. Dave Mumford, political vice chairman of the Young Liberals said today that the "pro-Zionist attitude of Liberal Party leaders has angered many liberals." He added that "Only now through movements such as El Fatah are Palestinians beginning to assert their rights. Only through the abolition of the Israeli state and the creation of a secular Palestine open to all can peace and justice work for the Mideast." Mr. Mumford along with two other Young Liberal leaders, Nicholas Fogg and Louis Eakes, will leave Sunday to go to Jordan on a "fact-finding mission." Mr. Eakes was ousted as chairman of the Young Liberals after expressing violently anti-Israel views in a convention speech last week.

Kazakov Ends Eight-And-A-Half Days Fast; Accedes To Urgings Of His Father

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Yasha Kazakov ended his fast today. The 23-year-old Russian-born Israeli who went without food for eight and a half days to dramatize the plight of his family and other Soviet Jews, said he was calling off his hunger strike at the urging of his father, Joseph. Yesterday, the elder Kazakov telephoned from Moscow to the Israeli United Nations Mission here, asking that it appeal to his son to end his fast. That message was conveyed to the youth personally by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's chief representative at the UN. The elder Kazakov phoned Ambassador Tekoah from Moscow again this morning inquiring as to the latest word on his son's strike. He was told it had been ended, and thanked the ambassador for his aid. Mr. Tekoah in turn said he hoped Soviet authorities would come around to recognizing the desires of families to remain together in the lands of their choice. After leaving the site of his fast, young Kazakov met with Mr. Tekoah in the latter's office and shared tea with him.

Yasha Kazakov announced the termination of his fast at a sidewalk press conference in pouring rain today. He said he would enter a hospital for a medical check-up and planned to return to Israel on Sunday. The young man said he hoped the ending of his 200-hour vigil opposite UN headquarters would prompt Soviet authorities to grant his family the exit visas they have long sought so that they might join him in Israel. Young Kazakov was permitted to leave the Soviet Union a year ago and went to Israel where he enrolled as an engineering student at the Haifa Technion. He said that his father, an engineer, lost his job after petitioning Soviet officials for exit visas. The elder Kazakov was one of 18 Moscow Jews who recently wrote the Soviet Foreign Ministry pressing for Jewish emigration rights. According to Yasha, his father was subsequently singled out by the Soviet press for harassment. After the young man began his hunger strike, his father sent another letter to Soviet leaders saying that the act was not directed against the Soviet Union but was undertaken out of desperation.

COLPA Reports Many Companies Practice Discrimination Against Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Howard I. Rhine, a Vice President of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, reported today that despite advances brought about as a result of COLPA efforts, discrimination against Sabbath Observers is still practiced by many companies. Mr. Rhine and Sidney Kwestel, Chairman of the COLPA Sabbath Observer Committee, have intervened in a lawsuit brought by a Christian employee of the Reynolds Metals Company who refused to work on Sunday. This case has received nationwide attention and it is generally regarded as having a good chance of being heard by the United States Supreme Court.

Rhine and Kwestel expressed the belief that COLPA's position and pioneering work in the field of job discrimination on religious grounds would be completely accepted by the courts and government agencies throughout the country. In a letter to over 1,000 agencies, Mr. Julius Berman, President of COLPA, pointed out that job discrimination was contrary to Federal and State law and was "injurious not only to the individuals directly involved but also to the community." He noted further that "abundant experience shows that Sabbath observers make first-rate employees." COLPA's campaign came about because it has received a fairly large number of complaints claiming job discrimination by employment agencies.

Rabbinical Alliance Does Not Consider 'Who Is A Jew' Question A Closed Issue

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Rabbi Abraham Gross, President of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, called today upon the Orthodox Rabbinate not to consider the case of "Who Is A Jew" closed. The recent definition by the Israeli Parliament is "totally unacceptable for it permits conversions by the Conservative and Reform bodies to be registered as national Jews," he said. The Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbi Gross said, is calling upon its members and is appealing to all other Rabbinic bodies to exert all pressures on the Israeli government to change the recently enacted law by adding the words "according to Jewish law" when it speaks of conversions. "To accept by silence this recent ruling is to create within our Jewish State a dual category of national versus religious Jew," he stated. The dangers of such "division" can be the "breakdown of traditional Judaism," claimed Rabbi Gross. "It is an open invitation to intermarriage and assimilation," Rabbi Gross warned.

Israeli Professor Says Jews Should Show Greater Understanding Of Arab Culture

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Calling on Jews to show greater knowledge and understanding of the Arab world's language, culture and aspirations, a leading Israeli scholar told leaders of the Labor Zionist movement that "more and more Israelis are aware of the fact that we have to re-educate ourselves in order to build a common vocabulary between ourselves and our neighbors." Otherwise, added Professor Zvi Javetz, "there will be no peaceful solution in the Middle East." Prof. Javetz, chairman of the Department of History at Tel Aviv University, deplored the fact that "Education in Israel is Europe-oriented. Many Jews can quote Heine, Shakespeare and Moliere, but know no Arabic literature. You will find Israelis who can speak nine or 10 languages, or at least 'Palestinian English,' but not a single word of Arabic. One of the major problems which faces Israeli society is that of communications."

Head Of Jewish Agency Executive's Torah Department In U.S. To Confer With Rabbis

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Moshe Krone, member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and Head of its Torah Department is in the United States conferring with leading Orthodox rabbis and educators on the furtherance of Torah education in this country. Mr. Krone was formerly Secretary General of the National Religious Party. He will be the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the Jewish Agency--American Section, next Wednesday.