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Eban: Sisco Talks Have Improved Possibilities Of Cooperation Between U.S.-Israel

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA)--The Cabinet was briefed today on the talks held by top government officials with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco here last week. Reports were made by Premier Golda Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. No details were made available to the press. It was reliably reported however, that Mr. Sisco urged Israeli leaders to be more "flexible" in their diplomacy and image-building efforts. Mr. Eban said in a television and radio appearance over the week end that the talks with the U.S. diplomat had improved the possibilities of cooperation between Israel and Washington, although points of difference between them remain. Mr. Eban said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers had apparently come around to the Israeli view with regard to Soviet intention in the Mideast. He noted that Mr. Rogers remarked recently that the Russians do not seek peace in the area but a "controlled tension," an expression that Mr. Eban himself has used in the past.

(New York Times correspondent Raymond H. Anderson's Cairo dispatch today, reported that SAM-3 missile bases have already been set up in Egypt and "this development has already halted free-wheeling Israeli air strikes deep inside Egypt. The strengthening of its air defenses has enabled Cairo to reject even more firmly Western endeavors to restore the 1967 cease-fire," he wrote.) The Foreign Minister said Mr. Sisco brought "nothing new" with him from Washington or from Cairo where he stopped for four days before coming to Israel. According to Mr. Eban, Egypt remains intransigent and there is little hope that Cairo will agree to re-establish the cease-fire which it renounced a year ago. Nor will Egypt consider the possibility of talks unless Israel first withdraws from all occupied Arab territories, Mr. Eban said. He stated that the latter condition was unacceptable to both Israel and the U.S. and does not conform to the United Nations resolution governing the international legal situation in the area. Israeli newspapers, summarizing the results of the visit, said that aside from the acknowledged concern of the United States over Israel's security, all other areas of American-Israeli disagreement remained as they were before the envoy's visit.

Violence Greeted Sisco In Lebanon And Jordan; Talks In Beirut Termed 'Very Useful'

Mr. Sisco spent only four hours in Beirut, Lebanon yesterday as the capital of that "pro-Western" Arab nation was rocked by anti-American demonstrations. Some 10,000 leftist students, urged on by Palestinian guerrilla leaders, staged a protest march through Beirut streets. Students from the U.S.-financed American University hurled stones at the U.S. Embassy-smashing several windows and also smashed the windows of a U.S. Embassy car. One group of demonstrators ripped up an American flag, spat on it, wiped their shoes on it, and burned it to ashes. Many demonstrators wore armbands, saying "kick out Sisco"; "Sisco the war criminal." They set fire to pictures of Mr. Sisco and burned a cardboard model of a U.S. Phantom jet plane. During his brief stay, Mr. Sisco conferred with President Charles Helou, Premier Rashid Karami and Foreign Minister Nassim Majdalani. After two hours of talks, which he described only as "very useful", Mr. Sisco was flown by helicopter back to the airport and took off without ceremony for Teheran, Iran where he will attend a U.S. chiefs of mission meeting later this week.

The violence that greeted Mr. Sisco in Beirut, followed violent anti-American demonstrations in Amman that forced him to cancel a scheduled visit to Jordan. The only Arab country where Mr. Sisco received a cordial, if not warm, greeting on his current "orientation tour" was Egypt, which is regarded as a radical state, has Soviet troops and technicians on its soil and has not had diplomatic relations with the U.S. since the 1967 Arab-Israel war. Observers noted that in the two Arab states considered most pro-Western and most friendly to the United States, the Governments appeared helpless to prevent demonstrations against Mr. Sisco. In Jordan, the U.S. found itself in trouble not only with the guerrillas but with the hitherto friendly regime of King Hussein. The Jordanian Government demanded, and got, the recall of U.S. Ambassador Harrison Symes. It was on Mr. Symes' recommendation that Mr. Sisco, who was supposed to go to Amman from Jerusalem last Thursday, cancelled his trip. The Jordanian Government regarded the cancellation a rebuff and apparently saw in it a lack of faith on the part of the U.S. in the stability of the Hussein government and its ability to control the guerrillas within its borders. (In Washington, State Department officials said Friday the U.S. acceded to the Jordanian request in the hope that it "will not impair the close and cordial relations between (our) two countries." State Department press officer Robert McCloskey said the Department thought Symes had done a good job in his two-and-a-half years in Jordan in trying to "promote friendly and constructive relations." Department officials suggested that Symes had been in Jordan long enough, and was due for a change anyway.)

Cairo And Jerusalem In Touch On Mideast Views Through Informal Channels

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA)--Cairo and Jerusalem have been keeping one another informed of their respective views and attitudes on the Middle East conflict through various international personages travelling between the two capitals on a very informal, unofficial basis, it was learned from well informed sources here today. The information confirmed a statement by Foreign Minister Abba Eban in the Knesset two weeks ago that unofficial contacts have been maintained between Israel and some of the Arab governments since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. According to the sources certain

personages of international status have met from time to time over the past 20 months with Premier Golda Meir either before going to Cairo or after having come from there. Both Mrs. Meir and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt were aware that these personages were going to Cairo or to Jerusalem and each used them as a courier to the other without actually saying so. Such contacts have been made by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special peace envoy to the Mideast and, most recently, by Dr. Joseph Luns, the Netherlands Foreign Minister who has sent Mr. Eban a full report of his conversations with the Egyptian leader. But knowledge of any direct high level contact between Israelis and Arabs has been denied here. Mr. Eban told the Knesset that none of these contacts showed any signs of the slightest softening of the Arab attitude. Sources here said today that no government anywhere in the world in contact with Israeli officials has raised the matter of Dr. Nahum Goldmann's aborted plan to go to Cairo.

Three Israeli Soldiers Killed And Eight Wounded In Egyptian Air Raids

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA)--Three Israeli soldiers were killed and eight were wounded in Egyptian air raids in the Suez Canal zone and the Gulf of Suez areas yesterday. One Egyptian Sukhoi-7 bomber was downed by an Israeli ground-to-air Hawk missile and two more Sukhois were hit and may have crashed but no wreckage has been found. The Israeli dead were identified as Sgt. Sassoun Yaffeh, 28, of Tel Aviv, Corp. Ezra Agimi, 38 of Bat Yam and Pvt. Yehuda Shabat, 30, of Ramleh. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan visited the wounded soldiers at a military hospital last night. The body of the downed Egyptian pilot was recovered and the Red Cross has been informed. Katyusha rockets and mortar shells were fired from Jordanian territory last night at Kfar Ruppin, Yardenah and Hammadiyah in the Beisan Valley. The fire was returned. There were no Israeli casualties.

A Cairo report that Egyptian aircraft raided Israeli positions along the Suez Canal today was denied by an Israeli military spokesman. Cairo said that one Egyptian plane was shot down in the raid. The spokesman said the Egyptians reported an imaginary raid to account for the loss of one Sukhoi-7 bomber downed by Israel in yesterday's air raid, a loss that Cairo originally denied. Seven Arab saboteurs were killed in three widely separated clashes with Israeli forces over the week-end. Four of them were shot down yesterday in the Mouadsa refugee camp in the Gaza Strip while resisting arrest. Two were killed Friday night in a skirmish with an Israeli patrol in Upper Galilee near the Lebanese border and another was killed at about the same time near the Allenby bridge when an Israeli patrol intercepted a guerrilla band crossing the Jordan River. There were no Israeli casualties in any of the encounters. Security officials reported the capture of Salik Geradeh, 36, a member of the Palestine Liberation Front's political committee in the Gaza Strip. He was caught trying to cross into Jordan.

An Israeli army chaplain, who came to a Suez position to supervise preparations for Passover observance, was killed Thursday by Egyptian artillery fire. Meanwhile, the Egyptians rejected a Red Cross request that they transmit to four Israeli prisoners of war, special Passover parcels. Chaplain Izhak Bezalet of Bnai Brak had been scheduled to kosher the kitchen equipment and officiate at the first Seder. He was killed during an exchange of fire. His funeral was held in Tel Aviv Friday. The Passover parcels rejected by the Egyptians contained matzah, wine and Passover sweets, prepared by the Army chaplaincy. The packages were given to Red Cross representatives to bring to two Israeli officers and two canteen workers kidnapped by an Egyptian commando unit. Syrian officials, however, accepted parcels for two Israeli pilots shot down over Syria. The Jordanians accepted a parcel for Shmuel Roseawasser, a Metullah night watchman kidnapped by guerrillas several months ago.

Passover Observance Arranged For Israeli Troops On Front Lines And In Ambushes

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA)--Having received the Chief Army Chaplain's instructions on how to observe Passover on the front lines, in tanks and even in ambushes, the Israeli Army is prepared for observance of a kosher seder tomorrow night. The chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, advised soldiers on battle lines to hold seders in two shifts to allow as much participation as possible. He said soldiers in tanks should listen to Haggadah readings by one of them over their intercom earpieces. And men embarking on ambushes should carry matzah and marror (bitter herbs) with them to say blessings. Special arrangements were also made for men in anti-aircraft and Hawk missiles. Front-line soldiers, incidentally, will receive grape juice instead of wine.

Delegates To First National Convention Of UJA In Canada Pledge Increased Contributions

MONTREAL, April 19 (JTA)--Some one hundred sixty delegates to first national convention of the United Israel Appeal of Canada here approved unanimously a resolution calling on Jewish communities in Canada to increase their 1970 contributions to the 1967 level and thus help Israel carry on the burden of social welfare and immigration. Jacob M. Lowy was elected to a fourth term as president of the organization. He has been president since the organization was incorporated. Samuel Bronfman was elected honorary president. In his presidential report, Mr. Lowy reviewed the record of the Canadian Jewish community in support of Israel and highlighted the fact that from 1967 to the end of 1969 the Canadian Jewish community had contributed more than eight per cent of all funds received by Israel in gift dollars and purchases of state of Israel Bonds. A committee on authorization and control of all Israeli appeals in Canada was set up under the chairmanship of Gordon Brown of Montreal. The convention marked the start of celebrations in Canada of the 50th anniversary of the Kerer Hayesod.

Israel Expects 20,000 Tourists During Passover Season; 5,000 Arrive In One Day

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA)--Israel expects 20,000 tourists to arrive during the Passover season. Five thousand were expected today alone. Officials at Lydda Airport, braced for their peak season, recruited all available personnel to help expedite customs procedures.

Delegation Back From Russia Reports Conditions For Jews Same Despite 'Concessions'

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA)--A three-man delegation of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has concluded after a 12-day visit to the Soviet Union that despite "minor concessions" by the government, "There has been no change for the better in the situation of the Soviet Jews as far as their religious opportunities and cultural activities are concerned." They quoted Peter Makartsev of the Ministry of Cults of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. as telling them that while Jews officially have the right to emigrate to Israel nevertheless "These people are our people, and we have a responsibility to try to dissuade them from making a great mistake." The delegation, which reported its findings at a press conference here today, consisted of Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue, New York, president of the foundation; the Rev. Charles M. Whelan, S.J., professor of constitutional law at Fordham University and editor of the Jesuit weekly "America"; and former Congressman Francis E. Dorn of Brooklyn, secretary-treasurer of the foundation and a Catholic.

The three told of "concessions" by Mr. Makartsev that included allowing the foundation to provide Soviet Jews with religious artifacts; permitting the "sprucing up" of the Moscow synagogue; allowing a Muscovite Jewish student to attend the Budapest Jewish Seminary, and facilitating the production of matzoh. But Rabbi Schneier recalled that on the first of the foundation's four recent Soviet visits, in 1966, the situation was "very gloomy from a religious and cultural survival point of view," which "continues to be the story today." Fr. Whelan, who commented that no group could continue to exist without the right to religious freedom, was nonetheless optimistic about the future of Soviet Jewry--"The Jewish community will find a way to survive." But he called the existing situation "extremely serious," especially regarding the prohibition on rabbinical training.

The Soviet Anti-Zionist Campaign Has Led To New Awareness Of Jewish Identity

Soviet Jews are "tense and badly worried" and "living under constant fear," the delegation concluded, that the Government's anti-Zionist campaign may lead to a "breakout of active and perhaps violent anti-Semitism," despite the Kremlin's "best intentions." Rabbi Schneier said the delegation particularly emphasized to Mr. Makartsev the pleas to the UN of 18 Georgian families seeking emigration to Israel, and pointed out to him "the necessity to implement" the Kosygin "promise." One hopeful sign, the delegation remarked, was that the anti-Zionist campaign had ironically resulted in a new "awareness" and "search for identity" on the part of Soviet Jewish and non-Jewish youth. But with the lack of rabbinical training facilities, the rabbi observed, "it is not hard to foresee the time when the Jews of the Soviet Union will have no spiritual leaders at all." The Foundation relies on contacts with religious and political leaders to ease restrictive policies, rather than on sponsoring public protests. Its chairman is Kenneth B. Keating, United States Ambassador to India and former U.S. Senator from New York. The board of trustees includes ex-Postmaster General James A. Farley, Protocol Chief Angier Biddle Duke, and former Congressman Orrin G. Judd.

Israel UN Mission Charges Special Committee On Human Rights Gives Unconfirmed Reports

UNITED NATIONS, April 19 (JTA)--The permanent mission of Israel here declared that a special United Nations committee investigating charges of Israeli maltreatment of Arabs in occupied areas "continues to give automatic publicity to Arab allegations submitted to it without even going through the motions of examining such allegations and weighing their veracity." The mission issued the statement Friday in response to requests by a number of press representatives at the UN for comment on the proceedings of the Special Committee set up by the UN Human Rights Commission, now touring Arab capitals to hear witnesses. Israel has refused cooperation with the committee because it has rejected Israeli requests that it also investigate the conditions of Jews in the Arab countries it is visiting.

The mission asserted that "this method of proceedings confirms that the committee serves as a mere channel for the dissemination of Arab propaganda and that its conclusion will reflect the committee's complete subservience to Arab belligerency toward Israel." This was to be expected, the statement added, "of a committee established on a controversial and discriminatory basis and composed of Somalia, Yugoslavia and Ceylon, whose biased attitude on the Middle East situation is a matter of record." On Tuesday, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency investigated a report from Damascus released by the UN Office of Public Information that an official of the Syrian Red Crescent submitted to the special committee a document from the World Council of Churches which purported to provide evidence of maltreatment of Arab prisoners in Israeli-occupied territories. The WCC told the JTA, after it was contacted for confirmation of the document, that it was not authentic and repudiated it. Newsmen at the UN who sought, for the next few days, to find out if the special committee had any response to this repudiation were told by a UN spokesman that no word was available from the committee's press liaison officer appointed by the UN's OPI to accompany the group.

Jewish Defense League Members Arrested For Chaining Themselves To Soviet Mission

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA)--Fifteen members of the Jewish Defense League, including its leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, were arrested this afternoon after they chained themselves to the fence in front of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. The group was demonstrating against the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. They set up a seder table with tablecloth, matzohs, wine and candles on the sidewalk opposite the Mission headquarters and then chained themselves to the fence. Police arrived ten minutes later and removed the chains with metal clippers. Kahane, an Orthodox rabbi, scuffled briefly with policemen. The JDL has recently adopted the plight of Soviet Jewry as its cause. Rabbi Kahane and several of his youthful followers were arrested two months ago after invading the offices of Tass, the Soviet news agency here.

Traditional Up-Dated And Radical Haggadahs Still Ask 'Why Is This Night Different?'

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA)-- Many different Haggadahs, ranging from the traditional to the "up-dated" to extreme "radicalized" versions prepared by Jewish adherents of the New Left, will be read at seders all over America when Passover begins at sundown tomorrow. The Haggadah relates the story of how Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land, as recorded in Exodus, the second of the five books of Moses. The traditional version that has been followed by most observing Jews over the years is one that had been used in the ghettos and "shtetls" (villages) of Eastern Europe for countless generations. Some Jewish religious leaders and laymen have been reading updated Haggadahs in recent years that retain most of the traditional text but include supplements and special prayers relating to the establishment of the modern State of Israel, the plight of Soviet Jewry and the struggle for racial equality at home. According to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, Passover "has become a universal parable whose symbolism has meaning for all people who strive toward freedom."

Rabbi Wolff Kelman, an official of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical arm of Conservative Judaism, said that in his own home he will read the traditional Haggadah with supplementary material. His seder guests will sing in Hebrew, "We Shall Overcome," the anthem of the American civil rights movement, in tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Meyer Levin, the author, has written his own Haggadah illustrated with photographs of modern Israel, called "Israel Haggadah." He said it complies with tradition but restores to the Passover seder "something of the spontaneity, of connection to current life, and hence to universal freedom efforts." A "Jewish Liberation Haggadah" has been published by the "Jewish Liberation Project", an organization of Zionist Socialists, which borrows extensively from the works of Zionist writers, modern Hebrew and Yiddish songs and poems. The JLP is strongly Zionist but is critical of the policies of the present Israeli Government.

Federation of Jewish Philanthropies To Stage Seders For 50,000 In Its Centers

The powerful symbolism of the Haggadah as a liberation tract has been recognized by Jews concerned with the struggle of Soviet Jewry for their basic rights including the right to emigrate to Israel. The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry has urged every Jewish household to read a statement at the seder beginning with the words, "This is the Matzoh of Hope." The statement continues, "This matzoh, which we set aside as a symbol of hope for the three and a half million Jews of the Soviet Union, remind us of the indestructible links that exist between us. As we observe this festival of freedom, we know that Soviet Jews are not free...As their voices rise in Jewish affirmation and protest, we add our voices to theirs, and we shall be joined by all those whose consciences are aroused by the wrongs inflicted on Soviet Jews." In Los Angeles, the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews invited local Jewish families to take a non-Jewish friend to an updated "Third Seder" to be conducted next Thursday at Temple Israel. Its theme will be, "Let My People Go", the ancient cry of Moses to Pharaoh, now directed to the leaders of the Kremlin.

The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York has estimated that 50,000 persons of all ages will attend seders at Federation supported homes for the aged, hospitals and child care facilities and centers. Bedside seders will be conducted for disabled persons and patients in need of special care, according to George H. Heyman, Jr., president of the Federation. New York's Congregation Emanu-El, the world's largest Reform congregation, held pre-Passover model seders at its religious school today. Passover services are scheduled to begin in the main sanctuary at 5:30 p.m., Monday, to be broadcast over WQXR radio. A congregational seder will follow the services.

Passover Exodus March Organized For April 26 By Conference On Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA)-- The Conference on Soviet Jewry of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council has placed an ad in today's New York Times urging "the Soviet Pharaoh" to "Let My People Go" during the current Passover season. The Conference, which is organizing a Passover Exodus March here on April 26, called for massive participation by synagogues and community groups from the whole Metropolitan area. The march will begin at the Soviet Mission and end up at the United Nations Headquarters. The ad referred to the recent hunger strike outside the UN by Yasha Kazakov; Mrs. Lea Slovin, representing 17 Jerusalem mothers seeking Soviet emigration rights for their children; Boris Kochubiyevski, an engineer, quoted as saying, "If I live till my release (from the Soviet Union), I will get to the homeland of my ancestors, even on foot," and the 18 Soviet Georgian families who have appealed directly to UN Secretary General U Thant for emigration aid. The ad declared: "This march from the Soviet Mission to the United Nations is the most direct way of showing that American Jews care."

United HIAS Helps Bring 104 Jewish Immigrants To U.S. During 48-Hour Period

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA)-- The United Hias Service reported today that a total of three flights within 48 hours had brought 104 Jewish men, women and child immigrants to Kennedy Airport here on Wednesday and Thursday. The newcomers, all assisted by Hias, came from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Egypt and Libya. Resettlement arrangements have been worked out, with the cooperation of local family agencies in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Bridgeport, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Hartford, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Portland, Rochester, N.Y., St. Paul, San Francisco and Worcester. Harold Friedman, Hias president, said the newcomers would be able to observe their "first Passover in freedom but there are many left behind." Gaynor L. Jacobson, Hias executive vice-president, estimated that 3,300 Jewish refugees and migrants, with Hias aid, would come to the United States this year, compared with 2,268 last year. He said more than half would be from Poland.