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Israeli Defense Officials Announce Addition Of Three New Powerful Weapons To Arsenal

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA)--Defense officials took the wraps off three potent new weapons that have recently been added to Israel's arsenal and will be displayed for the first time during Independence Day celebrations next week. They are an improved Israeli version of the famous American Patton tank; speedy new missile boats of the "Saar" class built for Israel in France before the arms embargo; and a new self-propelled 90 mm. cannon mounted on half tracks. The 135-foot missile-carrying boats are not unfamiliar to the world. Five of them, unarmed, were spirited away from Cherbourg last Christmas Day by Israeli crews and dashed across the Mediterranean to Haifa, causing an international sensation and acute embarrassment to the French government which had embargoed the boats. But seven of their sister boats had been delivered by France previously. According to Israeli officials, they are among the fastest and most sophisticated naval craft in the Mediterranean and are suitable for a variety of missions including the destruction of enemy vessels, coastal defense and support operations.

The boats are manned by six officers and 34 ratings, have the latest electronic equipment and carry eight electronically guided surface-to-surface "Gabriel" missiles which are manufactured in Israel. The boats are said to have excellent sea-keeping qualities, high speed and durability and are capable of sinking much larger craft at small risk. Officially Israel has seven of the "Saar" class boats. The five that arrived from Cherbourg last year were reportedly sold to commercial interests for oil exploration purposes and have dropped out of the news. Israeli armaments engineers have improved the Patton tank, known here officially as the "Patton H-3 Mark 48" by replacing its former oil engine with a diesel engine and giving it a 500 mm. cannon like the powerful British Centurion cannon. With increased fire power and a speed close to 50 m.p.h., the revamped Patton has joined the Centurion as one of Israel's main armored units, defense sources said. The new 90 mm. anti-tank gun is manned by a crew of five. Its mission is to support the infantry and armored infantry. According to defense officials, Israel is now almost entirely self-sufficient with respect to all types of ammunition, from machinegun cartridges to air force and artillery shells. The officials said that some ammunition is purchased abroad because it is more feasible to do so, not because it cannot be produced in Israel.

Beam Gets No Clarification From Soviet Official About Russian Role In Egypt

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA)--No clarification about reports of Soviet pilots flying operational missions in Egypt came out of talks in Moscow yesterday between Jacob Beam, U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vinagrabov, State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey reported today. The Department had announced yesterday that the American envoy would raise the question. Mr. McCloskey disclosed the lack of Soviet response in response to a reporter's question at a news briefing. He said that the talks added nothing to the statement made by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin at a press conference in Moscow on Monday, at which the Premier virtually acknowledged that Soviet pilots were involved in such missions. State Department sources said that the talks were considered unsatisfactory, adding that the envoy did not protest Soviet policy in the Middle East, only asking for an explanation. Informed sources here also reported that the Nixon administration was re-considering Israel's request for additional Phantom jets and Skyhawks. This was interpreted to mean that the Nixon administration was moving toward a decision on the request, following President Nixon's statement last week that the situation was being reviewed in the light of the reports of the Soviet pilot involvement. Sources said the final decision will depend on the outcome of talks now underway between the Four Powers in New York and current efforts by American diplomats to clarify Soviet intentions in the Middle East.

(New York Times correspondent C.L. Sulzberger reported from Paris today that the French government believes that "patient initiatives to calm down the Middle East have been tragically set back" by the American invasion of Cambodia. Mr. Sulzberger said that right or wrong, the French felt that slow progress was being made toward political settlements both in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He said the French hoped that a peaceful accord could eventually be reached in the Mideast was based on the belief that the Four Powers--U.S., Russia, Britain and France--were inching toward an agreement and that "Cairo's reaction to the latest U.S. peace plan, presented by Assistant Secretary Sisco, was not viewed as entirely negative.") (A U.S. State Department source in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Mr. Sisco had only repeated the peace proposals outlined by Secretary of State William P. Rogers last year, when Mr. Sisco visited Cairo last month. "We are not aware of any new peace proposals," he said.)

Eban Says Israel Prepared To Make 'Startling Concessions' When Peace Talks Begin

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban retorted sharply today to the Orthodox National Religious Party which objected to a remark he made last night at a youth rally here that Israel was prepared to make "startling concessions" in return for Arab guarantees of peace and security. The NRP's Knesset faction sent a telegram of protest after Mr. Eban's speech was broadcast on the radio. They claimed that the Cabinet had not decided on any "concessions." Replying by telegram today, Mr. Eban said, "I said last night for the 150th time that those in the world who accuse us of rigidity will be surprised at our intentions for compromise and the exertions of our minds and imagination which we shall be making in peace negotiations when they begin, provided that our security is assured. I shall continue saying so."

Pres. Shazar Defends Dr. Goldmann; Says He Cannot Be Turned Into Second Uriel Acosta

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar defended Dr. Nahum Goldmann today against the abuse heaped upon him for his advocacy of unpopular views. Addressing the opening of the second annual meeting of the Zionist Council of Israel, Mr. Shazar said that "a man who led the Zionist movement for years cannot suddenly be assailed and branded with the stigma of treason or turned into a second Uriel Acosta." The reference was to a 17th century Jewish philosopher and religious critic who was excommunicated by the Jewish community of Amsterdam for challenging religious orthodoxy. President Shazar also expressed "shock" over the youth demonstrations against Jewish settlement in Hebron that took place here last month. The Zionist Council apparently has succeeded in bringing its own fractious youth into line. Moshe Amirav, the newly elected chairman of the Israeli Students Association told the session that after much soul-searching and discussion, the students had reached the conclusion that Zionism is the right road for Israeli youth and would give full support to the dissemination of its idea.

Allon Tries To Woo Students Critical Of Israel's Peace Approach To Arabs

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon tried for two and a half hours last night to woo a group of high school seniors who have criticized the government's approach to peace with the Arabs. The youngsters told newsmen afterwards that Mr. Allon had given them "food for thought" but denied that he had retracted their criticism. The 37 students who met with the Deputy Premier who is also Minister of Education were part of a group of 70 who sent a letter to Premier Golda Meir last month protesting her government's refusal to let Dr. Nahum Goldmann go to Cairo to meet with President Nasser. Spokesmen for the group were Shmuel Shemtov, son of a Mapam cabinet minister and Eran Patinkin, son of Israeli economist Don Patinkin. They said, in reply to questions, that they would have written the letter to Mrs. Meir again though they might have phrased it differently. They denied they had threatened to refuse military service in whatever duties they were assigned. According to the Education Ministry, publication of the letter to Mrs. Meir was followed by a flood of letters from other high school students disassociating themselves from the views expressed by the dissenters.

Israel Jets Attack Egyptian Targets And Guerrilla Bases In Jordan

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian artillery positions in the northern section of the Suez Canal zone today and returned safely to their bases. Israeli jets attacked guerrilla bases in Jordan intermittently for several hours yesterday. The targets were the source of Katyusha rocket attacks on Beisan township, Kfar Ruppin and Yavneel in the Beisan Valley. Israeli jets also attacked Egyptian positions in the central and southern sections of the Canal zone yesterday and returned safely to their bases. An Arab terrorist suspect was killed in Gaza this morning and an Arab saboteur was killed at about the same time in the Jordan valley in an encounter with an Israeli patrol. The Gaza shooting occurred when Israeli forces met with resistance while rounding up suspects in a refugee camp. Nine were arrested.

An Israeli patrol in the Beisan valley was attacked by bazookas and small arms fire from Jordan today and returned the fire. There were no Israeli casualties. The bodies of five Egyptians were returned to Egypt by Israel at Kantara today under the auspices of the International Red Cross. Two of the dead were pilots of a pair of Ilyushin bombers shot down in an Egyptian air raid on El Arish in the northern Sinai last week. The other three were Egyptian commandos killed in a raid on Israeli positions in the southern section of the Suez Canal zone. At the same time Israel sent back to Egypt 124 Gaza residents and 37 Egyptian fishermen captured in the Gulf of Suez. Sixty Gaza residents were returned from Egypt to Israel-held territory.

Israel Cabinet, Vatican Newspaper, Denounce Murder And Wounding Of Embassy Workers

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--The Cabinet today expressed "grief and shock" over the murder of an Israel Embassy employe in Asuncion, Paraguay and the wounding of another by gunmen presumed to be members of El Fatah. The Cabinet, at its meeting today, extended condolences to the bereaved families. The murder victim was Mrs. Edna Speer, wife of the Embassy's First Secretary, Moïshe Peer, who was employed as a secretary. It was announced meanwhile that Israel would not ask for the extradition of the two gunmen who were captured by police shortly after the shooting. Israel has no extradition treaty with Paraguay. (In Rome, the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano denounced the murder. The comment was unsigned indicating that it was inspired by the highest Vatican authorities. The newspaper said, "This bloodshed of which the victims were a mother of three children and the spouse of a diplomat arouses the deepest sympathy. It evokes other recent acts such as the murder of the German ambassador in Guatemala. To strike at those who by their office have the task to further understanding among nations and to prepare solutions of international conflicts and whom for this reason international law provides special guarantees of protection and immunity, is an aggravating circumstance which shows where the fading of human values leads.")

Somalia Foreign Minister Says His Country Considers Itself At War With Israel

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--The Foreign Minister of Somalia, Omar Arteh, has stated that his country is in the forefront of the Arabs' anti-Israel battle and considers itself at war with Israel, according to the Cairo newspaper Al Akhbar. The report said Mr. Arteh was interviewed in Geneva where hearings on Israeli treatment of Arab prisoners were being conducted by a United Nations commission comprising Somalia, Ceylon and Yugoslavia. The Somali Democratic Republic, almost totally Moslem, is located in Eastern Africa, run by an army-and-police junta that seized power last October after the assassination of President Abdirashid Ali Shermarke and the arrest of Premier Mohammed Ibrahim Egal.

UN Officials Draw Blank On Jarring's Effort To Bring Egypt And Israel To Peace Talks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 6 (JTA)--There was growing suspicion today that UN officials had failed to disclose and are continuing to conceal an effort by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring to bring Israel and Egypt together for peace talks. Newsmen who raised the question referred to a letter from Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, submitted yesterday to Secretary General U Thant, stating, "The United Arab Republic...has refused the proposals by the Secretary General's special representative, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, to convene Israeli and the United Arab Republic for peace talks." A UN spokesman contended that "No one in the house (UN headquarters) is aware of any such proposals by Ambassador Jarring," adding, "I checked on this when I read Ambassador Tekoah's statement, but could find no one who knew what it meant." He said that neither Mr. Thant nor Dr. Ralphe J. Bunche, Under-Secretary General for Special Political Affairs, understood Mr. Tekoah's reference. The reference was part of a letter dealing with Pres. Nasser's May 1 speech in Egypt where he warned the U.S. that continued aid to Israel would affect UAR-U.S. relations "for many decades, perhaps centuries." Mr. Tekoah, responding to the UN spokesman's statement, declared: "I hope that the files containing peace efforts, including suggestions for meeting of the parties (Israel and Egypt) to discuss the establishment of a just and lasting peace, have not been destroyed under the impact of our 'belligerency.'" A spokesman for the Israel Mission to the UN told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Dr. Jarring's proposal for Egypt and Israel to meet in Cyprus is contained in a UN document of March 21, 1968. The spokesman said that "in March 1968 Dr. Jarring tried to convince representatives of the parties to meet in Cyprus. Egypt rejected this proposal."

Soviets Recruiting Its Moslem Citizens For Military Service In Arab States

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA)--An Illinois Congressman said today that the Soviet Union was recruiting Moslem elements among its own citizens for military service in the Arab states. Rep. Roman C. Pucinski, addressing a Zionist Organization of America leadership conference here, warned that "the free world cannot let Israel become another Munich" and called for the immediate sale of at least 100 more Phantom jets to Israel to restore the military balance in the Middle East. Rep. Pucinski told the 800 ZOA leaders and members from the New York metropolitan area that the Soviet Union will soon proclaim the new "Brezhnev Doctrine" incorporating the Arab states into the Soviet sphere of influence. He asserted that "The United States has hard core intelligence that the Soviet Union is recruiting Soviet citizens of Moslem background in the provinces of Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan and Turkistan as well as the other Soviet Republics that have large elements of Moslem population, and sending these Moslems for service into the Arab nations." He claimed that "These Moslems are being infiltrated in Nasser's Islamic Foreign Legion which he recently formed on the advice of the Kremlin and are also being trained to fly the more sophisticated Soviet jet fighters into the Middle East. This is the Soviet Union's 20th century Trojan Horse and the Arab leaders are too naive to understand this."

Ben Gurion: Death Penalty For Terrorists; Not In Russia's interest To Destroy Israel

LONDON, May 6 (JTA)--Israel's former Premier David Ben Gurion urged the death penalty for Arab terrorists who attack civilians but said he wasn't worried about massive Soviet arms aid to Egypt. Mr. Ben Gurion expressed his views in an interview published in the weekly newspaper "The People" here. He said by hanging captured terrorists the Israel government would "frighten potential killers by the threat of death." Referring to Soviet military supplies to Egypt, Mr. Ben Gurion said, "It is not in the interests of Russia to destroy Israel. If Israel were destroyed, the Arabs would no longer have any need of the Russians." The Israeli elder statesman said he could not foresee when peace would come to the Middle East. He said, "If I could do so, I would urge our government to return a large part of the territory which we conquered in the Six-Day War." Mr. Ben Gurion said he believed "there is a growing opposition to Nasser's regime from the intelligentsia and from Egypt's foreign educated students. They realize that the destruction of Israel cannot solve anything for their own country."

Maki Says Soviet Action Contradicts Statements Favoring Peaceful Mideast Solution

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA)--Maki, the pro-Israeli Communist Party, warned that Soviet pilots flying Egyptian warplanes could cause a new Arab-Israel war with a "likely threat" to world peace. The party also declared that the Soviet action contradicted declarations that it favored a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict.

Peres Says Israel Intends To Retain Permanently Sharm El-Sheikh

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA)--An Israeli Cabinet Minister said today that Israel intends to retain permanently Sharm el-Sheikh and a strip of territory linking it with the Israeli port of Eilat. Shimon Peres, Minister-Without-Portfolio and a leader of the Rafi faction within the Israel Labor Party, told road workers at Abu Rodes in the Sinai that there are no differences of opinion over the fate of Sharm el-Sheikh and that the government should see to it that the facts are established accordingly. Mr. Peres was at Abu Rodes to inspect work on a new 220-kilometer road connecting Eilat with Sharm el-Sheikh, a former Egyptian stronghold captured by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War. It commands the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba and access to Eilat.

AJC Congress Calls For U.S. Withdrawal From Cambodia, Soviets Out Of Egypt

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today called on the United States to withdraw its forces from Cambodia and the Soviet Union to send its troops home from Egypt. "We urge both nations to refrain from such reckless military adventures," the Congress declared in a statement adopted by its national executive committee. "It is ironically true that our conduct in South-east Asia parallels the unjustifiable conduct of the Soviet Union in the Middle East," the statement declared, adding: "the U.S. is participating 'in an immoral war that has been a political, economic and military disaster for our country and compounding the continuing injustices at home represented by our unsolved domestic problems of poverty and unrest.'"

UAHC To Hold Memorial For Kent University Students Killed By National Guard

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, today condemned the action of the Ohio National Guard in which four students at Kent State University were killed Monday, and said he was "utterly appalled" by the "cavalier" statement of President Nixon in his reaction to the tragedy. A memorial service for the four dead students will be conducted at the headquarters of the UAHC tomorrow. Officiating will be Albert Vorspan, director of the Social Action Department of the UAHC; Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of UAHC's interreligious activities, and two representatives from the UAHC's youth groups. Two of the dead students were reported to be Jewish--Sandra Lee Scheuer, 20, of Youngstown, O., known to her parents as Gittel, and Allison Krause, 19, of Pittsburgh, said to be sympathetic to her parents' desire for her to marry a Jewish man (her boyfriend, Barry Levine of Valley Stream, L.I., is Jewish). It was not certain today whether the other two victims--Jeffrey Glen Miller, 20, of Plainview, L.I., and William K. Schroeder, 19, of Lorain, O.--were Jewish or not.

Rabbi Schindler asked whether there can be "even a vestige of compassion or sensitivity in the President of the United States when his unfeeling statement--issued through a spokesman--makes as its primary point that the fatal incident should remind us all again that when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy." Expressing "grave fear for the destiny of our country," he called on American "leadership" to "respond and act more rationally to the voice of justified outrage." He will speak further on the situation at the national meeting of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, an affiliate of the UAHC, in Cleveland on Thursday. Yeshiva University in New York was one of a dozen area colleges permitting absence today from classes by students sympathetic to the Kent State victims. An administration spokesman said the religion of the victims did not appear to be a factor in the students' plans for memorial services and rallies, which began yesterday.

The university's Albert Einstein School of Medicine and the Jewish Peace Fellowship will be represented at Saturday's "emergency" anti-war demonstration across from the White House. Allan Solomonow, JPF national program director, said the demonstration will offer "the single demand of immediate and total withdrawal of all U.S. forces from all of Indochina." He said the rally was called because "somehow words fail in face of so immense a tragedy, so bloody a 'peacemaking.'" The Yeshiva campus rallies are linking "deep concern" over U.S. military action in Vietnam and Cambodia and "introspection and re-examination" of the military action against the Kent State students. While Yeshiva classes have not been canceled, the administration has announced that students "are free to follow the dictates of their conscience with no penalty for absence." A. Leo Levin, vice-president for Academic Affairs, called an emergency meeting of the Academic Graduate Council for Thursday evening at the center. (In Tel Aviv, the United States Embassy acceded to requests by 30 American Jewish students here and lowered its flag to half-staff yesterday in mourning for the four slain students. But Embassy Counselor Owen Zurhellen Jr. said he had agreed to the requests only after the students agreed to hold an additional prayer service for American war dead. Spokesmen for the students said they would hold the second service on Sunday.)

Students Continue Vigil To Protest Soviet Treatment Of Jews

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA)--Teenage students are still sitting quietly outside the Soviet Embassy, continuing the "fast for freedom" started Monday to protest discrimination against Jews in Russia and the refusal of the Soviet government to allow Jews to emigrate to Israel. More than 200 youths signed up to continue the demonstration. Each teenager fasts one day in front of the Embassy, in a solitary vigil to express their solidarity with Jewish youth in Russia. The focus of the "fast for freedom" vigil is on Boris Kochubiyevsky, the young Soviet Jewish engineer who was sentenced to a three year prison term last May for protesting Soviet anti-Semitism and for asking for permission to emigrate to Israel with his wife and child.

Jewish Groups Trying To Block Russia's Bid To Be Site Of Olympic Games In 1976

LOS ANGELES, May 6 (JTA)--Two local Jewish groups are trying to block Soviet Russia's bid to be the site of the international Olympics Games in 1976. The Southern California Council for Soviet Jews and the California Students for Soviet Jews said today that the International Olympic Committee should not give serious consideration to Moscow's application as long as Russian Jews are repressed and denied freedom to leave. Si Frumkin, a spokesman for the groups, said "We feel...that it is an affront to the spirit of the Olympics to seriously consider an application from a government which consistently violates the UN Declaration of Human Rights... (which) states that all people will be permitted to leave any country for any destination, and this is exactly what the Soviet Jews are not permitted to do." Mr. Frumkin claimed that over 80,000 Russian Jews had applied for exit permits last year and less than 1000 were permitted to leave. He said a nation-wide campaign of letters and telegrams to the International Olympic Committee has been started by Soviet Jewish councils all over the country.

Israel And Philadelphia Join Hands In A Musical Salute To The State Of Israel

PHILADELPHIA, May 6 (JTA)--Israel and Philadelphia will join in a musical exchange to be presented tomorrow by the Philadelphia Musical Academy according to a joint announcement by Israeli Consul General Moshe Yegar and P.M.A. President, Joseph Castaldo. The concert will open a series of events planned in Philadelphia to honor the 22nd anniversary of the State of Israel. Mr. Yegar cited plans to perform for the first time in America a work by Noam Sheriff, one of Israel's leading contemporary composers who dedicated his "Chaconne for Orchestra" to the peoples of the United States. The second premier in this unique musical exchange will be "Cycles" by Mr. Castaldo. He has dedicated this work to the people of Israel. The Israel-Philadelphia concert will also feature the first performance in America of an oratorio by Poland's leading contemporary composer, Krzysztof Penderecki. Known as the "Auschwitz Oratorio," the work is titled "Dies Irae" and commemorates the victims of Nazi concentration camps in World War II.