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15 Israeli Soldiers Killed; Heaviest Single Day Casualties Since Six-Day War

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA)—Israel Air Force jets bombed Egyptian positions in the Suez Canal zone three times today and returned safely to their bases. Two attacks were launched in the morning. An afternoon attack lasted two hours and 20 minutes, a military spokesman reported. Fifteen Israeli soldiers were killed yesterday, 13 of them in two Egyptian ambushes along the east bank of the Suez Canal and two in a clash with guerrillas in the Jordan Valley. One Israeli soldier was wounded on an Egyptian air raid over the northern section of the canal zone today. The planes were driven off by anti-aircraft fire and one is believed to have been hit although it was not seen crashing. Yesterday's death toll was the highest Israeli forces have suffered in a single day since the June, 1967 war. Officials here said the Egyptian commando action on the Suez Canal front, coordinated with heavy artillery barrages, indicated that the increased Soviet military presence in Egypt was beginning to make itself felt. The Egyptians are now attempting large scale raids across the canal as well as air assaults apparently without worrying about their rear echelons coming under Israeli air attack, the officials said. Nevertheless, Israel Air Force jets pounded Egyptian artillery positions along the canal for more than seven-and-a-half hours yesterday and returned safely to their bases.

In addition to the dead, four Israeli soldiers were wounded in the ambushes and four more were wounded in the Jordan Valley clash. The Egyptians took two Israeli soldiers prisoner. Yardena settlement in the Beisan Valley was attacked with mortar fire Friday night but there were no casualties or damage. A military spokesman said the first Egyptian ambush occurred at about noon Saturday. An Israeli mobile patrol was caught on a narrow road between a hill and salt marshes, a site known as kilometer 12, south of Port Said. The Egyptians opened fire with bazookas at point blank range, killing nine Israelis and wounding four. They took one prisoner before retreating under Israeli return fire. As Israeli re-enforcements rushed to the scene, Egyptian artillery opened fire across the canal. Israel Air Force jets were called in to silence the Egyptian batteries. They attacked continuously from about one p.m. local time until almost eight p.m., a military spokesman said. A second Egyptian ambush hit an Israeli patrol at 6:30 p.m. at kilometer nine, somewhat to the south of the scene of the first ambush. Four Israeli soldiers were killed and a fifth was taken prisoner before the Egyptians retreated.

Reports of the ambush were announced in Cairo before they were announced here. The delay on the Israeli side was in order to notify the next of kin of the dead soldiers. The names of only three of yesterday's casualties were released this morning. They are Sergeants Yaacob Reicher, of Ashkelon and Yaacob Heichler, of Tivon, killed in the Canal Zone and Pvt. Nissan Dori, 19, of Ramat Hasharon, killed in the Jordan Valley. Israeli sources said today that the quantity of Soviet arms flowing into Egypt is much greater than originally estimated. That information and yesterday's Suez ambushes were discussed at today's weekly Cabinet meeting.

(Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who returned Friday to Cairo from consultations in Khartoum, the Sudan, with Sudanese and Libyan leaders, stated that Soviet advisers are "with Egyptian troops everywhere.") Israeli sources expressed concern over the fate of two Israeli pilots recently shot down over Syria and taken prisoner. They are Gideon Magen and Pinhas Nahmani, both of whom were slightly wounded when they were captured. So far Syrian authorities have prevented representatives of the International Red Cross from visiting the prisoners. The body of a Syrian soldier killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol in the Golan Heights last week was returned to Syria today under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

Resolution To Be Introduced Urging Nixon To Ask Soviets To Withdraw From Egypt

PHILADELPHIA, May 31 (JTA)—Sen. Hugh Scott, of Pennsylvania, the Senate Republican Minority Leader, disclosed here today that he will introduce a resolution on the Senate floor tomorrow urging President Nixon to call on the Soviet Union to withdraw all Russian personnel from Egypt as "a major step toward the encouragement of peace in the Middle East." The text of the resolution, which is co-sponsored by Sen. Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, was read by Sen. Scott at the founding convention of the newly formed American Zionist Federation here. "Passage of this resolution will hopefully help in a manner designed to encourage peace rather than armed escalation and all-out war," Sen. Scott said. Declaring the Middle East situation to be crucial "at this point in time," Sen. Scott told the convention that he would urge President Nixon to approve Israel's long-standing request for the sale of more Phantom jets and other combat aircraft on long term credit.

Coalition Government Withstands Two Threats, One From Gahal, Other From NRP

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir's 24 member national unity coalition government demonstrated over the week-end that it is able to withstand serious stresses and strains from within. Two threats to coalition unity that emerged last week were taken in stride by the majority Labor Alignment. These came from the Gahal (Herut-Liberal) faction, the voice of militant nationalism in the Cabinet, and from the National Religious Party, representing the Orthodox religious establishment, which threatened to quit the coalition unless it got its way on the issue of conversions. The Gahal threat was, in the long run, the more serious. It is Israel's second largest political party. When it refused to endorse Premier Meir's political report to the Knesset last Tuesday, many observers saw a cabinet crisis in the offing. Gahal took exception to Mrs. Meir's implied acceptance of the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for a peace undertaking by the Arabs. But the report was adopted by a Knesset vote of 33-6 with 19 abstentions, including Gahal's.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban and others, responding to the inter-party calls to eliminate Gahal from the coalition, pointed to the vote as an indication that the Labor majority is still the decisive influence

in the Cabinet. Mr. Eban said Gahal did not exercise leverage over the Labor Party and endorsed continuation of the broadest possible coalition. Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, addressing the Press Club in Tel Aviv Friday, said no consequences should be drawn from Gahal's apparent breach of coalition unity although he conceded that their abstention jeopardized the image of national unity in political affairs. Some Labor Party "doves" professed to be pleased with Gahal's action. One party official said "Without this demonstrative abstention" the Premier's speech "might have gone unnoticed" abroad. According to their view, Mrs. Meir's reference to the 1967 resolution and her mention of "Rhodes type talks" with the Arabs were the result of American persuasion to take a more flexible line. According to Foreign Ministry sources, international reaction to Mrs. Meir's Knesset report was very favorable, particularly in Western chancelleries.

Galili Rules Out Further Concessions To The NRP On The Issue Of Conversions

On the issue of conversions, the Labor Party has made it clear that it has no intention of giving in to NRP demands that it push a new law through the Knesset that would declare invalid conversions to Judaism made in Israel by non-Orthodox rabbis. Deputy Premier Allon declared in his Press Club talk that the Labor Party would not hold discussions with the NRP under the threat of an ultimatum. The NRP executive committee voted last Thursday to leave the Cabinet unless Labor initiated the kind of legislation it wants. Labor Party Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, addressing the party secretariate, ruled out "any further concessions" to the NRP. He said that if the Religious bloc wanted to leave the coalition on that issue, the Labor Alignment was "ready to run the Government in accordance with the election results."

The issue came to a head over the case of Mrs. Helen Zeidman, an American born Israeli who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in Tel Aviv. She is suing the Government for registration as a Jew. The Israel Supreme Court has given the NRP Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro 19 days to decide whether to comply with Mrs. Zeidman's request. The State Attorney General set a precedent last week by refusing to oppose the court's order nisi against the Interior Ministry. Premier Meir met with NRP ministers last night to discuss the issue but no conclusions were reached. Meanwhile the NRP has modified its threat to leave the coalition. They claimed that such action would not necessarily mean leaving the Government. They would relinquish their three ministerial portfolios -- Interior, Welfare and Religious Affairs. But they would continue to hold on to their lower echelon posts in the Defense and Foreign Ministries.

Palestinian Guerrilla Groups Meet To Coordinate Campaign Against Israel

LONDON, May 31 (JTA)--The leaders of all major Palestinian guerrilla organizations are meeting in Cairo to map a coordinated campaign against Israel and to discuss their differences with the Lebanese Government. Indications are that serious differences among the guerrillas themselves will have to be ironed out before any joint action can be planned. The main item on the agenda of the group, which styles itself the Palestine National Council, is reportedly the measures announced by the Beirut Government last week to restrict guerrilla operations against Israel from Lebanese soil. These include the licensing of all fedayeen before they are allowed to carry arms and an injunction against firing on Israel from Lebanese territory or planting mines in the border zone. The new restrictions are to go into effect on June 16. Yassir Arafat, leader of El Fatah, has so far refrained from commenting on the Lebanese action. El Fatah and the other commando organizations signed a "national unity" agreement in Amman two weeks ago. They are expected to appoint a central committee to serve as a high level policy-making body at the conference.

Improved Understanding By South African Government Of Israel Hailed

JOHANNESBURG, May 31 (JTA)--The "improved understanding" by the South African Government of Israel was hailed at the 26th conference of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies by Israeli Consul General Itzhak Unna. Praising South African Jewry's support for Israel, the Israeli diplomat said "however much we may differ" with the South African Government "on internal political issues, we face one mighty external enemy together -- Communist imperialism, which is spreading its net wider across Africa and Asia." Maurice Porter, chairman of the board, expressed pleasure at the restoration of goodwill and friendship between the Jews of South Africa and Israel, in spite of recognized differences of opinion "on matters of principle." This was a reference to the fact that the South African Government had become irritated at Israeli opposition at the United Nations to the official policy of apartheid, which was believed to be a factor in the government's barring of transfer of South African Jewish philanthropic contributions to Israel in 1967 after the Six-Day War.

Mr. Porter told the conference, which began here on Friday, that "we are proud to proclaim our citizenship in this republic and our responsibilities to fulfill both the rights and obligations of citizenship. It is self-evident that the destinies of South African Jewry are inseparable from those of the republic as a whole and all its inhabitants." Responding to criticism from "some circles overseas" because South African Jewry did not take a communal stand on internal political matters, specifically in opposition to apartheid, he said "there cannot be any attempt at regimentation of political thought in any section of the population." He reiterated the long-standing position of the board that as equal citizens, Jews participated in South African political life as individuals "following their personal views" and that the board remained convinced that this was "the only correct position." Irving Kane of Cleveland, a former president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, praised South African Jewry's unity and its strong backing of Israel.

\$48 Million Five-Year Plan To Expand Israeli Settlement In Golan Heights Approved

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA)--A \$48 million five year plan to expand Israeli settlements in the occupied Golan Heights was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture's planning committee today. The project calls for the addition of six new settlements to the 11 already established in the region. Each settlement will have 1000 head of cattle and about 8000 acres of pasture land for grazing. Golan settlements already produce potatoes, grapes, citrus fruits, plums, olives and walnuts.

Peace In Mideast, Revitalized American Zionism, Main Priorities Of AZF Convention

PHILADELPHIA, May 31 (JTA)--Itzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to the United States, warned last night that the greatest threat to Israel's future is not the continuing hostility of the Arab states but the possibility of a "direct face-off" with the Soviet Union. Speaking at the founding convention of the American Zionist Federation, Mr. Rabin told the more than 1000 delegates in attendance that the free world should not indulge in "wishful thinking" about the goals and ambitions of the Russians in the Middle East. He warned that peace between Israel and her neighbors is impossible as long as the Soviet Union is involved. "The main roadblock to peace is the Soviet Union," he declared. "Without Russia's effort to prevent peace, I'm sure there would have been peace in a relatively short time after the Six Day War." In an address on Zionist ideology, Avraham Schenker, head of the organization and information department of the World Zionist Organization, said that the call of the AZF to American Jews to join its ranks "is a clear answer in terms of solidarity with Israel by 700,000 organized American Zionists." Mr. Schenker declared that the State of Israel "is a Zionist creation and is motivated by this Zionist approach." He asserted that "Zionism is anti-imperialist in its history and its world outlook. It has never sought to exploit the Arabs but only to provide an example of social change, self-development, and brotherhood." He added that aliya is the "core of Zionism," and that it underlies both the tactics and strategy of the Zionist movement.

Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told the convention that the Zionist movement must "now go out among the American people and get support from both political parties" to aid Israel in her struggle for survival. He said the U.S. Government is "involved in external and internal problems and has not taken a clear position in the Middle East." Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency American Section, citing Soviet advances in the Middle East, said, "In this fateful moment, it is our duty as Americans to raise our voices and warn against an American 'do-nothing' policy in the face of the extreme dangers looming ahead in the eastern Mediterranean. It is not Israel that is at stake but the vital interest of the United States, western democracies and the free world." He asserted that the Soviet program is "to achieve military control of the entire Middle East."

AZF Declares Jews The World Over Are One People, Israel Is Center Of Jewish Life

Earlier, during the four-day convention, Dr. Judah Shapiro, former national director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, said that "Zionism must break out of its irrelevant pattern of conformity and must undertake to be the most meddling and interfering Jewish association within the Jewish community." Declaring that "consensus for the sake of fund-raising is the kiss of death," Dr. Shapiro asserted: "It is not for Zionists to stay within the perimeter of Zionist organizational activities, but on the contrary to move out from the Zionist reservations into the whole of the Jewish community to exercise influence and exert their will on every phase of Jewish communal enterprise." I. L. Kenen, executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee and editor of Near East Report, advised the convention that "The Middle East is headed for catastrophe unless the U.S. and other Western powers move swiftly to re-enforce Israel's defenses and take action necessary to condemn and deter the Soviet Union's open involvement in Egypt's war of attrition."

Dr. Seymour P. Lachman, a member of the New York City Board of Education, focusing on "the alienation and estrangement of many of our brightest and most articulate young men and women," said "Israel must come to symbolize in the minds and hearts of our youth what she is in reality -- a nation striving and yearning for peace, social justice, learning and brotherhood." Dr. Arnulf Pins, chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, asserted that "We should be encouraged and pleased that Jewish youth is confronting and criticizing the Jewish community and Zionist activity." That attitude shows, he said, "that they care and want to become involved" and want to make Judaism and Zionism "more relevant" to the times. Youth played a leading role at the founding convention. The more than 1000 delegates approved, frequently with considerable discussion, a number of resolutions the student and youth group representatives presented. One of their most important victories was a directive to the incoming executive committee to coopt three additional young people with full voting rights on the executive committee.

The American Zionist Federation has been established to coordinate major Zionist activities in this country. The AZF will include the 13 adult and some dozen youth Zionist groupings, each retaining its identity and independent status within the umbrella organization. It will allow direct membership affiliation with the Zionist movement and is open to all groups and individuals. In its statement of principles, the AZF asserts: "Jews the world over are one people, united by a common history, heritage and destiny in Israel as a center of Jewish life everywhere." Rabbi Israel Miller, assistant to the president of Yeshiva University, was elected president of the AZF. Mr. Torczyner was elected chairman of the national board. Mrs. Max N. Matzkin, national chairman of the Zionist Affairs Department of Hadassah, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

Representatives Of CJFWF Discuss Mutual Problems With British Board Of Deputies

LONDON, May 31 (JTA)--Louis Stern, chairman of the overseas services committee of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, told the British Board of Deputies that British and American Jews could solve some of their mutual problems by working together. Mr. Stern headed a CJFWF delegation which was tendered a reception by the deputies as part of its visit to this city. The delegation's next stop in its European tour is Brussels. In addition to Mr. Stern, it included Philip Bernstein, executive vice president; Theodore Comet, consultant on overseas services; Raymond Epstein, president of the Chicago Jewish Welfare Board and board member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; Louis J. Fox, past-president of CJFWF; Louis Goodman, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Murray M. Sklar, director of the American Joint Distribution Committee's Department of Community Organization and Fundraising; and Henry L. Zucker, executive vice president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and chairman of the Professional Advisory Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee. Board of Deputies vice president Victor Mishcon welcomed the delegation, and called its discussions with British colleagues "extremely useful." He lauded Sir Barnett Jenner, a former Board president, who is ending his parliamentary career. He said Sir Barnett had guarded Jewish interests "with dignity and distinction."

Hadassah Gets \$4.85 Million AID Grant For Development Of Its Medical Facilities In Israel

WASHINGTON, May 31 (JTA)--Mrs. Max Schenk, president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has signed a contract with the Agency for International Development, implementing a five-year grant for \$4,850,000 for Hadassah's medical work in Israel. The funds, provided for under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969, will be spent in the United States for the purchase of supplies and equipment to expand facilities devoted to teaching and research at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Karem, and at the Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus which had been abandoned in 1948 and was restored to Hadassah in 1967 after the Six-Day War. The \$4.85 million grant will contribute substantially to three specific projects: rehabilitation of Mt. Scopus as a 230-bed general hospital to serve Jewish and Arab populations of Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza area, and patients from across the Jordan. The medical personnel will include Arab doctors and nurses both as staff and for training; the Moshe Sharet Institute of Oncology (cancer) will serve about 2,500 patients with the most advanced equipment for diagnosis, treatment and research; expansion of the Ein Karem Medical Center to keep pace with the population increase and to provide seminars, and short refresher courses for doctors from East Jerusalem.

Farbstein Asks Mitchell To Probe 'Possible Discrimination' Against Minorities At Purdue

WASHINGTON, May 31 (JTA)--Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, has called on Attorney General John N. Mitchell to investigate "possible discrimination" against Jews, Negroes, Puerto Ricans and other minorities by Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. Rep. Farbstein pointed out that Purdue, a state university, has limited out-of-state acceptances to 25 percent of the total studentry and has, in addition, placed special restrictions on New York State and New Jersey. Purdue has reduced acceptances from those two states to their percentages of the out-of-state population, the Congressman pointed out. New York State applicants, therefore, are limited to 10 percent of 25 percent. Mr. Farbstein, noting that Jewish enrolment at Purdue decreased by two-thirds between 1966 and 1969, asserted, "Purdue's intent is clear." He said Purdue's policy was the most blatant of all. Mr. Farbstein's statement was based in large part on a recent study by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith indicating that Jewish students were being disproportionately affected by reductions of out-of-state acceptances by state colleges. The schools adopted that policy on the grounds that "outsiders" were the chief cause of campus unrest.

Two RJU Members Arrested For Disturbing Temple Emanu-El Services

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA)--The rabbinical advisor to the Radical Jewish Union at Columbia University said yesterday, following his second arrest on charges of disrupting services at Temple Emanu-El Friday, that the RJU planned a fourth visit to the Reform synagogue next Friday. Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman and Anne Rosen, a Barnard University graduate, were arrested after they had led a group of 30 RJU members into the sanctuary of the largest Reform synagogue in the world in an effort to protest the war in Southeast Asia and to present a number of demands to the congregation. Rabbi Goldman and Miss Rosen were booked for arraignment next Wednesday. Rabbi Goldman and Victor Levin, who were arrested on similar charges after services at Temple Emanu-El on May 15, face trial on those charges in New York criminal court on June 5.

Miss Rosen was taken from the sanctuary after she had climbed over a railing between the first row of pews and the bimah. She had reached the microphone when ushers and plainclothesmen caught up with her. As they dragged her from the pulpit, she shouted "I am a Jew in a synagogue. How can you arrest me." Rabbi Nathan Perilman, senior rabbi, had informed the RJU, before the first visit on May 15, that he would call police to deal with any attempt to seize the pulpit. Rabbi Goldman said yesterday he had been informed that the Temple was applying for an injunction to bar the RJU from further appearances at services. He added that the group would not be deterred by an injunction: A group of RJU members came to the Temple on May 22, took part in responsive readings and departed without incident.

June 1-7 Designated 'Welfare Reform Week' By Jewish, Protestant, Catholic Spokesmen

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA)--The General Secretaries of the Synagogue Council of America, the National Council of Churches and the United States Catholic Conference have designated June 1-7 as "Welfare Reform Week." They urged religious leaders of all faiths to indicate concern for welfare reform by establishing rapport with the poor and taking "prompt and appropriate action in behalf of welfare reform." The three expressed support for President Nixon's welfare reform proposals, passed by the House of Representatives and under consideration, along with similar measures, in the Senate. The interfaith declaration stated that "The pending legislation, or some similar family assistance program which provides income maintenance and rewards for suitable work, sets important new directions and deserves support, even though the benefit schedule should be substantially increased." It called for coverage to be "broadened to include families without children and single persons in need." The General Secretaries are Rabbi Henry Siegman of the Synagogue Council, Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy of the Church Council and Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin of the Catholic Conference.

AFL-CIO Staunch Friend Of Israel, Jewish Labor Committee Conference Told

HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY, May 31 (JTA)--Amos Eiran, labor attache to the Israel Embassy in Washington, told today the more than 250 delegates to the Jewish Labor Committee National Trade Union Council's Human Rights Conference, that "the AFL-CIO is one of the strongest forces on the American scene that identifies itself with Israel's fight for survival and is unfailingly sympathetic to its problems." Eiran declared that Israel fully understands the plight of the Palestinian refugees and is ready to "do its part. But the refugees are primarily an Arab problem." Joshua Muravchik, director of the Youth Committee on Peace and Democracy in the Middle East, said that a current of anti-Israel sentiment, based on a false analogy with the Vietcong and American involvement in Southeast Asia, is currently "propagated by assorted bold and New Left groups on (American) campuses." Such people, students and faculty alike, he stated, are ready to sacrifice Israel in a desire to identify with the "Third World" liberation movements. Mr. Muravchik called for an intensive educational program to combat this danger.