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Eban Welcomes Nixon's Statement; Diplomats Feel This Was Not Sufficient Warning To USSR

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA)--Israel continued today to withhold official comment on American moves to counter the Soviet military presence in the Middle East. So far the moves have been entirely verbal, beginning with President Richard M. Nixon's remarks on a televised question-and-answer session last Wednesday that the maintenance of the military balance of power in the Middle East -- Israel's deterrent strength -- was vital to United States interests in that region. The nearest to an official reaction by the Government was Foreign Minister Abba Eban's assertion in a television interview last night that "Mr. Nixon's declarations were definitely in keeping with our overall impression of America's diplomacy and makes it very clear that if Israel is weakened, the situation will invite war." Mr. Eban did not appear concerned over the failure of Washington to announce its decision on the sale of more combat jets to Israel. He agreed with the position stated by Secretary of State William P. Rogers a week ago that the problem of weapons procurement should not be discussed publicly. Upon his return from visits to Luxembourg and London, Mr. Eban said Friday that President Nixon's televised remarks on the Middle East constituted "an internationally important document" in which the United States "came to realize...the dangers of the Soviet involvement" in that area.

Mr. Eban, in his statement delivered at Lydda Airport, also observed that another important point in Nixon's remarks was his clear recognition that the crux of the Mideast problem was that the Arabs "want to drive Israel into the sea." The Foreign Minister refused to elaborate on the possibility of a speed-up on the U.S. decision regarding more jets for Israel, which Mr. Nixon did not discuss in his television interview. Asked to compare Mr. Nixon's remarks with the Mideast peace "initiative" announced June 25 by Mr. Rogers, Mr. Eban replied: "I know of only one authority in the U.S.A., which is headed by President Nixon." Mr. Eban said that British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home had revealed in London an interest in the Mideast problem and a desire to help solve it after the new Tory (Conservative) Government concludes its formative stages. Other Israeli diplomatic circles welcomed Mr. Nixon's remarks but thought they fell short of an unequivocal American warning that would deter Moscow from escalation of its military activities in the Mideast. "In spite of its (Pres. Nixon's remarks) deterrent character, one such statement is not enough and in any case the question is whether it will be followed by action," one diplomat told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Galili Denies Rumors That Cabinet Is Split Over New U.S. Mideast Peace Initiative

Two Cabinet ministers expressed approval of the President's view of the Mideast situation. Arye L. Dulcin, of the militantly nationalist Gahal faction said Mr. Nixon made it clear that Israel did not stand alone and this was important for Israel's enemies to recognize. Israel Galili, a Labor Party Minister-Without-Portfolio who is a close adviser to Premier Golda Meir said Israel should welcome President Nixon's remarks but "they did not make Israel's application for more American arms superfluous." Mr. Galili denied rumors that the Cabinet was seriously split over the new American peace initiative for the Mideast to a point where new elections were envisaged. Premier Meir, accompanied by most of her Cabinet, joined U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour in celebrating the Fourth of July at the Ambassador's residence in Herzliya last night. Present, along with several hundred other Israelis were Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Mr. Eban, Minister-Without-Portfolio Menachem Beigin, Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev and Justice Shimon Agranat, President of the Israeli Supreme Court. Discrete silence was maintained here over what was described as a major "trial balloon" lofted by the Nixon Administration last week which included the hint that an American military presence in the Mideast to counter the Soviets was not completely outside the realm of possibility. Israel has stressed repeatedly that it is not seeking American advisors or military personnel, only the modern weaponry it requires to counter-balance the Soviet-supplied armed might of the Arab states, notably Egypt.

(World-wide attention was focussed on a background briefing for correspondents at the San Clemente summer White House Thursday which enlarged on President Nixon's words of warning on television the night before that the Mideast conflict could lead to a confrontation between the two superpowers which neither wanted. The President was described as convinced the U.S. would have to take some action to force the removal of Soviet military personnel from Egypt, just as the Kennedy Administration a decade ago took a stance that forced the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. Authoritative sources at the San Clemente briefing Thursday were told that the U.S. might have to have a "physical presence" in Israel to cope with the Russian threat. This was watered down somewhat on Friday when White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said there were no plans to send American military personnel to the Mideast. But Mr. Ziegler refused to rule out the possibility that under some circumstances President Nixon might be forced to send some U.S. personnel to Israel to counter the Russian force in Egypt. "We do not intend to do this," Mr. Ziegler said, adding that the Administration greatly preferred to settle the Mideast crisis by diplomatic means. Some observers here noted that Israel could be seriously embarrassed by a sudden surfeit of U.S. "generosity" in terms of military personnel. Knowing the deep divisions in the U.S. over the Indo-China war and anxious to reverse an apparent ebb in American public support of its own cause, Israelis do not want to become the focal point of another American armed adventure overseas, the observers claimed.)

Soviet, Egyptian Leaders Plan To Announce Conciliatory Attitude Toward U.S. Plan

LONDON, July 5 (JTA)--The Kremlin tailors are measuring President Gamal Abdel Nasser for a new suit of armor but apparently are anxious that he should not wear it into a new war with Israel and lose the pants along with almost everything else as he did three years ago, one diplomatic observer here remarked today. The allusion was to signs of a slight shift in Soviet Mideast policy perceptible

in Moscow during the Egyptian leader's visit there this week. President Nasser arrived in the Soviet capital last Monday accompanied by a high-level entourage that included his Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad. His talks with Premier Alexei Kosygin, President Nikolai Podgorny and Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev were reportedly centered on new supplies of jet aircraft, missiles and other arms that Egypt wants from Russia. Diplomatic sources said a joint Soviet-Egyptian communique is expected tomorrow which will disclose that Soviet and Egyptian leaders have agreed that the new United States plan for Middle East peace contains some positive elements. The communique will be issued at the end of President Gamal Abdel Nasser's visit to the Soviet Union. According to reports reaching here from Moscow, an authoritative Middle East diplomatic source said that the Arabs have also indicated that they have found some positive elements in the latest U.S. peace proposals. These elements, according to the reports, include the call for the revival of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's Mideast peace mission, the support for the November 1967 United Nations Security Council's resolution, and the American use of the term "Palestinians." According to the reports, the use of that term, as the Arabs see it, means "Palestinians are now recognized by the United States as an entity or a nation."

Israeli Jet Downed, Third In Six Days; Israel Denies Jets Hit By Modified SAM-2

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA)--An Israel Air Force jet was shot down over the Suez Canal zone this afternoon, the third in six days. The plane was participating in day-long aerial assaults on Egyptian positions in the central and southern sectors of the canal zone which began at 8:30 a.m. local time and continued until 6 p.m. A military spokesman said their targets were artillery emplacements and SAM-2 missile-launching sites. He said it was not certain whether the downed jet was hit by anti-aircraft fire or by ground-to-air rockets. There were no dogfights with Egyptian jets. On June 30, Israel lost two jets in the canal zone, believed to have been the victims of SAM-2 anti-aircraft missiles. Israeli jets attacked Egyptian positions in the canal zone throughout Friday and Saturday and returned safely to their bases. A military spokesman denied an Egyptian claim that two jets were shot down yesterday. He said the targets were artillery emplacements, mortar positions, bunkers and infantry fortifications as well as ground-to-air missile sites in the central section of the canal zone. In action on other fronts over the week-end, three Israeli border policemen were wounded yesterday when fired on from guerrillas in Lebanese territory near the Upper Galilee settlement of Metullah. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in fire exchanges with Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal Friday and Saturday. Mortar shells were fired at Israeli troops in the Golan Heights from the southwestern slopes of Mt. Hermon in Lebanon early this morning.

The loss of three Israeli jets in less than a week over the Suez Canal zone increased speculation here and abroad that the Egyptians were employing a new kind of ground-to-air missile or that the old, previously ineffective SAM-2, was being manned by Soviet experts. The American syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop claimed Friday that the two Israeli jets shot down last Tuesday were hit by a "modified SAM-2 with electronic systems so radically improved that it amounts to a brand new Soviet missile." Mr. Alsop claimed that considerable numbers of the "improved" missiles had been deployed in a line about 10 miles West of the Suez Canal. But Israeli military sources denied today that any new, improved version of the SAM-2 missile exists. They confirmed their original opinion that the two planes lost on June 30 were hit by conventional SAM-2s. (The New York Times linked the downing of the two jets to the reported arrival in Egypt of a Soviet missile called "Ganef" by Western military experts. According to a Times report yesterday, the "Ganef" is a 30-foot rocket on a twin-tracked twin-launcher vehicle propelled by solid fuel and controlled by a guidance system on the ground. It is no more accurate than the SAM-2 but more maneuverable, the Times said. The paper quoted reliable sources in Washington to the effect that the Nixon Administration has no firm evidence that the Russians have installed "Ganef" missiles in Egypt apart from some "vague reports." The Times said Mr. Nixon was more concerned with the new Soviet SAM-3 missiles which have not yet been used against Israeli aircraft.)

11,000 Nurses In Israeli Hospitals On Strike; All But Emergency Medical Services Shut Down

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA)--A strike of 11,000 nurses employed at all Israeli hospitals began this morning despite 11th hour attempts by the Government to avert it. The strike shut down all but emergency medical services and threatened to destroy the wage-price package deal painstakingly worked out by the Government earlier this year to fight inflation. The Government claims that if the nurses' wage demands are met the delicate economic balance between wages, prices and taxes would collapse. The nurses say their demands are not outside the framework of the package deal. They say they are not demanding higher wages but that the nature of their work entitles them to be placed in a higher wage category. According to the Government, this would be the "first crack" in the carefully maintained status quo on wages. The Government proposed to establish a special committee to "measure" the volume of work performed by nurses. Premier Golda Meir added her own weight with a fervent plea to the nurses not to strike. But the strike was declared nevertheless, beginning at seven a.m. local time today. The nurses' strike has been threatening for several weeks along with new wage demands from longshoremen that Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir has declared inflationary. Mr. Sapir is the author of the so-called package deal in which management and labor agreed to shelve price increases and wage demands in return for a Government pledge not to initiate major tax rises during the current fiscal year. The Government has been embroiled in a controversy with Histadrut whose secretary general Yitzhak Ben Aharon has been backing the wage demands by nurses and longshoremen despite the terms of the package deal.

Kollek: Return Frozen Property In Israel To Arab Residents In East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA)--Mayor Teddy Kolek has recommended that the Arab residents of East Jerusalem be given back all their frozen property in Israel. At present these Arabs, most of whom are still Jordanian citizens, have the status of absentees and cannot claim abandoned property. Mayor Kolek's comments appeared in an interview Friday in the Arabic daily "Al Anba."

Lord Caradon: USSR, Security Council Allies, Mainly Responsible For Six-Day War

LONDON, July 5 (JTA)--Lord Caradon, the former British Ambassador to the United Nations, charged today that chief responsibility for the 1967 Arab-Israeli war rested with the Soviet Union and those other members of the Security Council who abetted Moscow and thereby hampered Council efforts to avert the war. According to Lord Caradon, the Six-Day War was a war that nobody wanted and should never have happened except for "unforgivable delay" and "miscalculation." Lord Caradon headed the British UN delegation under the late Labor Government and was Britain's representative at the Four Power Mideast talks in New York. He stated his opinions on the Mideast conflict in the first of three articles published in the Sunday Times. According to the British diplomat, a peaceful end to the Mideast conflict will eventually come about through implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. "The question remains whether it can be achieved in peace or only after terrible bloodshed," he wrote. Lord Caradon believes that the Soviet and American positions have moved closer. He said "The Russians are more ready to say what they mean by peace and the Americans are more ready to urge the need for withdrawal (by Israel) in accordance with the November resolution." Lord Caradon maintained that a just solution could come about only through action by a third party.

Pompidou, Brandt Discuss Mideast; Bonn Does Not 'Totally' Share France's Views

BONN, July 5 (JTA)--The Middle East situation was discussed here by Chancellor Willy Brandt and visiting President Georges Pompidou, of France. A Bonn spokesman said today that the West German Government did not "totally" share the French Government's views on the Mideast. According to diplomatic observers here, this meant that Chancellor Brandt supports French Mideast policy in principle but disagrees on certain minor points. French policy is based on the premise that a peaceful solution is possible only if the Four Powers reach agreement on a solution among themselves. M. Pompidou, is reported to have told the West German Chancellor, "We must be careful that the Mideast is not isolated from Europe by rivalry between Communist China and the Soviet Union." In Paris last week President Pompidou angrily denied suggestions that his Government might be considering easing its arms embargo against Israel. In what some observers thought was his harshest statement toward Israel since he took office a year ago, President Pompidou warned that time was against the Jewish State and therefore Israel needed peace more urgently than anyone else in the Mideast.

Archbishop Urges Israel, Arab States To Jointly Invite Jarring To Resume Mission

LONDON, July 5 (JTA)--Dr. George Appleton, the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, called on Israel and the Arab states today jointly to invite United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring back to the Middle East to resume his peace-seeking mission. In a sermon preached here, Dr. Appleton said it was important for the two sides not merely to say there were willing to receive Dr. Jarring, but to invite him back would be a pledge of cooperation. Dr. Appleton said that as a second step Israel might undertake to gradually withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in the June, 1967 war and Arabs in return might guarantee border security and agree to demilitarized zones. He also said that given Arab and Israeli consent, the UN should set up working parties to hold with boundary adjustments and the deployment of supervisory forces. He said an independent body should go to the Middle East to plan a solution of the refugee problem.

Israeli Mayors Go To Leningrad; First Delegation From Israel Since Six-Day War

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA)--A delegation of Israeli mayors left for Leningrad today to attend the International Conference of Twin Cities. Twin cities are cities in different countries that have "adopted" each other. Mayor Oved Ben Ami, of Nathanya, headed the group which included the mayors of Tel Aviv and Petach Tikvah, but not Jerusalem. Mayor Teddy Kollek, of Jerusalem, was denied a Soviet visa because Moscow does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem. The other mayors left here without visas but expect to pick them up at the Soviet Embassy in Paris. The delegation is the first from Israel to the Soviet Union since the June, 1967 Six-Day War when Russia broke diplomatic relations with Israel. The Twin Cities conference opens next Friday and lasts for three days. All the delegates will be conducted on a tour of 20 Soviet cities.

Vandals Who Smeared Swastikas On Jewish Community House, Hunted By Police

BONN, July 5 (JTA)--West Berlin police are hunting for vandals who smeared swastikas on the Jewish community house and the Nazi victims' memorial in Plottzenses this morning.

Rabbi Warns Synagogue Will Have No Future Unless It Is Center For Experimentation

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND, July 5 (JTA)--The non-violent rebellion of youth all over the world against "widespread corruption; bigotry and violence" is a reflection of social values which derive from the Hebrew prophets, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), told 400 Reform Jewish leaders from all parts of the world meeting here at the 16th International Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The theme of the six-day conference, which ends tomorrow, is "Crisis in Belief." The future of the synagogue will depend upon whether or not "our Reform Jewish Establishment will tolerate experimentation, exploration and innovation by radical Jewish students," Rabbi Eisendrath said. But there may be no future for the synagogue, he added, unless we permit such "free lance, free-wheeling Judaism in action." The rabbi also criticized those rabbinic colleagues and Jewish laymen who believe that the State of Israel is the only center of Jewish life today. He said that Jewish life has always had more than one center of focus, and contended that both Israel and the diaspora are essential to the survival of Judaism today. Religious non-recognition by Israel of her non-Orthodox communities was scored by Prof. Ezra Spicandler, director of the Hebrew Union College Archeological Institute in Jerusalem, and by Rabbi Jacob Shankman of New York. Prof. Spicandler condemned the lack of permission for "liberal" rabbis to perform marriages and other religious ceremonies in Israel, although there are seven "liberal" congregations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. He noted the desire of many to find a religious alternative to Orthodoxy. Dr. Shankman, outgoing president of the Union, announced the publication of a book describing what he termed discrimination against Reform communities in Israel.

Sen. Fulbright Differs With Nixon On Mideast; Says Russians Do Not Want War There

WASHINGTON, July 5 (JTA)--Sen. J. William Fulbright took issue today with President Nixon's assertion last week that the Middle East situation is more dangerous for the United States than the war in Viet Nam. The Arkansas Democrat, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on the CBS television program, "Face the Nation" that while the Middle East is "an explosive situation," there is "nothing more damaging to the future of our country than Vietnam." Replying to a question from CBS correspondent Marvin Kalb, Mr. Fulbright said the Vietnam war had caused the "deterioration" of the United States. He added that the Middle East was a major trouble spot because "the cold war is heating up and getting more dangerous." He said that while there was "a danger of course" of the Mideast "becoming a conflagration," he did not feel that the Soviet Union wanted such a conflagration.

Asked about U.S. military support for Israel, Sen. Fulbright replied: "We have no formal commitment, no treaty" with Israel but America does have "tremendous respect for the Israelis and for the Jewish race in general." Sen. Fulbright is regarded by some Israelis and pro-Israel Americans as one of the Senate leaders least friendly toward the Jewish State. He was not among the 76 Senators of both parties who signed a round-robin resolution last month urging the Nixon Administration to sell Israel all the jets it requests without delay. Sen. Fulbright said today that he thought a solution of the Middle East conflict lay in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the U.S.A. and the USSR, in Vienna. He noted that President Nixon made no mention of the SALT talks in his remarks on the Mideast last Wednesday and claimed that Mr. Nixon is "not really interested in them."

Black Jew Says Israel Would Be Right In Rejecting Black Jews Planning To Emigrate

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA)--A black Jew converted halachically four years ago said today that Israel would be "justified" in rejecting as Jews a 70-member black Jewish New Jersey community that is planning to emigrate en masse to that country. Avraham Coleman of Brooklyn, who runs a commercial collection agency in Manhattan, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the claims of Jewishness of the black community of Elmwood, N.J., were "invalid." Mr. Coleman, who addressed the convention here of the Rabbinical Alliance, told the JTA that the community, including Rabbi Abel Respes of Adat Beit Moshe synagogue, "come from Christian backgrounds," and that "even white Jews would be rejected on this basis." Black Jews like himself who have "proof of halachic conversion" have been accepted by the white Jewish community "without any incident at all," he said. He charged that Rabbi Respes' parents were married in a Christian church. Mr. Coleman said that two of his children, aged 6 and 8, were enrolled in Brooklyn's United Lubavitcher Yeshiva, and a third, aged 4, in that institution's Bat Rivka School.

Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance, told the 300 Orthodox rabbis attending the convention they must act to make known to all Jews that abortions are banned by Jewish Religious Law, except in cases of health requirements and with approval from "a competent rabbi." Referring to the fact that New York State's abortion law, the most liberal in the nation, became effective on July 1, he commended the New York City Health Department for ruling that a death certificate must be issued in connection with each abortion performed in the city. Rabbi Gross warned that the growing liberalization by states of abortion control laws would soon become another factor in the declining Jewish population. He reported that the Rabbinical Alliance had sent letters to the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and to its rabbinic adjunct, the Rabbinical Council of America this week, urging the two organizations to quit the Synagogue Council of America. Rabbi Gross said that his group also had asked the Rabbinical Council to forbid its members to belong to the New York Board of Rabbis. Both agencies have Orthodox, Conservative and Reform members. He declared that the continued association of a "segment" of Orthodox rabbis and synagogues with such umbrella groups had led to the "false recognition" of non-Orthodox rabbinical and lay leaders. He added it was "unthinkable" not long ago for Reform and Conservative rabbis to ask that their rulings on matters of halacha be recognized. The delegates called on the Nixon Administration to "stop procrastinating" on selling Israel the additional jet planes it has been seeking. The resolution said that until peace came to the Middle East, Israel needed additional planes and other arms to protect itself, particularly in view of the expansion of Soviet military influence in the area.

FCC Withdraws License From Radio Station Charged With Broadcasting Hate Commentaries

WASHINGTON, July 5 (JTA)--The Federal Communications Commission, which has rarely removed a broadcast license, even for programming that some have found racially or religiously offensive, has voted unanimously to withdraw the license of WXUR, Media, Pa., which had been charged with "highly racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-Roman Catholic" content. That charge was first made in 1966 by local clergymen opposing the programming practices of the station's licensee, the Faith Theological Seminary. The outlet regularly broadcast commentaries by the seminary's right-wing president, the Rev. Carl McIntire. The 7-0 F.C.C. decision last Thursday, which overruled a hearing examiner, accused WXUR of failing to provide opposing viewpoints and of ignoring its obligation to notify subjects of on-air personal attacks of their right to reply. The Commission ordered the station to cease operations by Sept. 1.

Orthodox Rabbi Warns Tampering With Halacha Can Undermine Unity Of Jewish People

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA)--The newly elected president of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America has urged Premier Golda Meir of Israel not to yield to "pressure" from non-Orthodox Jewish groups here and in Israel who, he complained, are seeking recognition of conversions to Judaism not in accordance with Jewish rabbinical law. Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon's appeal was issued at the annual convention of the Rabbinical Council attended by 500 Orthodox rabbis. The Council is the largest Orthodox body in the Western hemisphere. Rabbi Berzon declared that "such diluted conversions distort Jewish law and undermine the unity of the Jewish people" throughout the world. Warning against tampering with or changing the meaning of Jewish religious laws concerning conversions, he asserted: "To sanction such tenuous conversion is to accelerate the assimilationist process which has already reached alarming proportions." Rabbi Berzon expressed dissatisfaction with an amendment to Israel's Law of Return, passed by the Knesset last March, which defined a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism. He said that while the definition was in accordance with halacha, religious law, the amendment was faulty because it did not limit conversions to Orthodox practitioners of halacha. He contended that conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis were "invalid."