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Israelis Anxious Over SAM-3 Missiles; Washington Does Not Doubt 'Substance' Of Report

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Concern mounted here today over the introduction of Soviet-manned SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles into the Suez Canal zone, reported last night by Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev. Israeli officials are studying ways and means apart from continuing air attacks to overcome the new threat, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. The Israeli Air Force is determined to retain its mastery of the air over the canal zone. However, a situation has developed beyond the point where numerical or qualitative balance of forces is of the same decisive significance as before the installation of the SAM-3s with Soviet technicians to launch them, the JTA has learned. The Israeli government is more optimistic than ever that it will get all of the additional Phantom and Skyhawk jets it has requested from the United States. According to sources here, the government considers President Nixon's remarks on the Middle East last Wednesday to have marked a decisive turning point in U.S. thinking. The President made an unqualified pledge to maintain Israel's deterrent strength and, according to government sources, that stemmed at least in part from information provided by Israel about the Soviet military escalation in Egypt. Gen. Bar Lev said last night that the Egyptian missile defense system consisted of a dozen SAM-2 batteries protected by at least two SAM-3 launchers deployed in a rectangular area extending westward through a 17-mile belt originating 15 miles west of the Suez Canal. He said Israeli pilots have reported that at least two SAM-3 missiles have been fired at them in recent days over the canal zone.

(In Washington, the State Department said today that it had "no reason to doubt the substance of the information" revealed by Gen. Bar Lev. "We can't confirm or deny the details of the statement," State Department spokesman Carl Bartch said. He had no comment on reports that SAM-3 missiles were deployed near the canal but said "any further movement toward the canal would be regarded as more serious." Earlier U.S. government officials in Washington were reported to have questioned Israeli reports that SAM-3s have been installed within 20 miles of the canal. They said yesterday there was no independent information to confirm the Israeli reports. According to U.S. officials the Russians have so far refrained from moving the SAM-3s eastward toward the canal. They agree that Egypt's Soviet-built missile defense system has improved lately but say that it is still deployed 20-35 miles west of the canal. They say there are no operational SAM-3s within 25 miles of the waterway and that the few SAM-2 sites situated 15-18 miles from the canal have been there for some time. The SAM-2 is a high-altitude missile and until last week had scored no hits on Israeli jets attacking at low level. The more complex, highly sophisticated SAM-3 is designed to down low-level planes. Israel's admitted loss of three jets since June 30 has been attributed both here and in Jerusalem to SAM-2s. Gen. Bar Lev claimed last night that the SAM-2s are fired by Egyptians with the participation of Russian advisors who are "more than advisors.")

Rabin: If Means Available Israel Can Cope With Total Arab Military Strength

(Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, said in a CBS News interview last night that "Israel, once we get the means, can cope for any foreseeable time" with the total military strength of the Arab world. "I believe," he said, "we can cope with the very limited Russian military intervention. We don't pretend to be able (to cope) with massive Russian military intervention." Gen. Rabin said the Egyptians' aim was to eliminate Israel's freedom of action in the canal zone, and that if they achieved it they would be able to use their superior artillery and tank fire power on a larger scale than before and to mount cross-canal raids on a larger scale.) (The London Telegraph said in an editorial today that if Gen. Bar Lev's report on Soviet SAM-3 missiles is correct, "this is the most dangerous escalation in Russia's direct intervention against Israel." According to the Telegraph, "It was a fateful step and one which America and her allies dare not and must not tolerate." The Telegraph's diplomatic correspondent wrote today that the reported intrusion of SAM-3 missiles into the Suez Canal zone "conflicts with Western hopes that Russia may have decided to take a cautious line in the Middle East." The writer said that "firmer evidence of Russia's intentions will come at the end of Nasser's prolonged talks in Moscow and much will depend on whether Russia is as tough toward Nasser as the U.S. has been toward Israel.")

(The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram denied yesterday that Soviet personnel were manning the Egyptian anti-aircraft missile positions defending the canal zone that downed three Israeli jets last week. According to Al Ahram, the air defense systems in the combat zone were entirely Egyptian-manned and the Israelis know it.) Israeli officials said today that the loss of three planes in recent attacks on the missile-launching sites was not likely to diminish the Air Force's offensive capacity, nor would further losses on the same scale deter the vigorous prosecution of Israel's bombing offensive against targets in the canal zone. According to Gen. Bar Lev, Israeli planes have succeeded in destroying five missile sites in recent days. Nevertheless, it is conceded here that despite the raids, the Egyptians and Russians have managed to inch their missile defenses closer to the Suez Canal. Even with their present slow rate of progress they could eventually succeed in saturating the canal zone with missile bases. That would make Israeli air raids too costly and deprive Israel of her control of the skies over the waterway.

Thant: Impressed With Soviet Peace Plan; Sees No Immediate Resumption Of Jarring Mission

GENEVA, July 7 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General U Thant indicated at a press conference here today that he was favorably impressed with the new Soviet initiative for a settlement of the Middle East conflict. "If I am to assess the Soviet Union's proposals, I feel they have interesting and concrete elements regarding a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Mr. Thant said in reply to questions. He declined to say whether he felt the Soviet plan was more interesting than the new United States initiative. He said he was not giving any opinions or comparisons. Mr. Thant disclosed that since he arrived here several days ago he had phoned special United Nations envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring and that they both agreed that there was no basis at the moment to reactivate Dr. Jarring's peace-seeking mission. Mr. Thant observed that the Four Powers--United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France--will be meeting in New York again on July 15. He said that if they were able to come up at that time with guidelines as a basis for Dr. Jarring's mission, he would be glad to reactivate it. Dr. Jarring, the Swedish Ambassador to the Soviet Union, is currently vacationing in Sweden. There have been no official disclosures of either the American or Soviet peace plans for the Mideast. Mr. Thant was reported to have seen both during his visit to the Soviet Union last month.

Asked about the possibility of stationing a UN peace-keeping force in the Middle East, a proposal which, according to unconfirmed reports, is part of the U.S. peace plan, Mr. Thant told newsmen that action by the Security Council rather than the General Assembly would be required to send a UN force into the Middle East. He said the present force of UN truce observers in the Suez Canal zone was stationed there on the basis of Security Council resolutions and he was not competent to revise their functions. He said UN forces should not be withdrawn without the Council's decision. Asked whether the question of Soviet missiles in Egypt had been discussed during his visit to Moscow, Mr. Thant replied that the matter was not brought up and that he was not officially informed of it. Mr. Thant was asked if he regarded the presence of SAM missiles in Egypt as self-defense. He replied that from the UN point of view a distinction should be made between purely offensive and purely defensive weapons. "I am still hopeful that a political and peaceful settlement (in the Mideast) is possible," the Secretary General said. Asked by newsmen whether Dr. Jarring was involved in drafting the Soviet Union proposals Mr. Thant replied that he was not involved. (In New York, diplomatic sources at the U.S., British and Israeli Missions declined comment on Mr. Thant's remarks pending study of the complete transcript of the news conference.) Mr. Thant met yesterday for half an hour with Zola Mironova, the Soviet Ambassador to Switzerland. He had conferred Saturday with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

Eban: Europe As Well As U.S. Has Responsibility To Deter Soviet Domination Of Mideast

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban advised leaders of the German-Israeli Friendship League today that Europe, as well as the United States, has a responsibility to deter the Soviet Union from dominating the Middle East, as European security would be endangered as much as Israeli security in such an event. According to the Foreign Ministry, "One of the points which Mr. Eban put to the delegation was that the growing Soviet involvement on the Suez Canal front is aimed not only at weakening Israel but also, and perhaps in essence, at exerting pressure on Europe. If Soviet supremacy is established in the Mediterranean, the security of Europe will be undermined." Dr. Ernst Benda, president of the league, a member of the German Bundestag and a former Minister of the Interior, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he agreed that the West German government "has not made its position sufficiently clear--in fact, has not made any public statement with regard to its attitude."

State Department Denies Conflict Between Rogers And Nixon Approach To Mideast

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Carl Bartsch today described as "apparently without foundation" a story in the Washington Post that U.S. officials are worried that recent statements emanating from the San Clemente summer White House may undercut Secretary of State William P. Rogers' new peace initiative for the Middle East. The Post said the officials were "puzzled and dismayed" by the substance of briefings at San Clemente which emphasized President Nixon's grave assessment of Soviet military involvement in Egypt and indicated that the United States would take counter-measures. The briefing for selected newsmen was held on June 26. The embargo placed on it was lifted on July 2, the day after President Nixon stated bluntly on a television question-and-answer session that the U.S. is committed to maintain Israel's deterrent strength to prevent a new war by its Arab neighbors. At one point in the briefing, the word "expel" was used in connection with Soviet forces in Egypt, creating an impression that the U.S. might be considering the dispatch of American forces to the Mideast. White House spokesmen promptly backtracked and said that option was not even being remotely considered. Nevertheless, according to the Post, some State Department aides felt that with the Rogers' proposals now in a delicate balance between possible acceptance and outright rejection, the White House should have avoided making statements or publicizing briefing material that could evoke a final negative from either side.

Dayan Pays Tribute To Pilots And Soldiers Killed In Action Along All Fronts

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan paid tribute yesterday to the pilots of and the ground troops of Israel's Army declaring "They are the apple of our eyes, each one of them an exceptional youth. Day by day and night by night they circle our skies and when one falls, he leaves a gaping abyss in our lives." Gen. Dayan spoke in eulogy of Lt. Avner Hadar, 21, of Nahalal, the town where the Defense Minister lived in his youth, killed in action on the Suez Canal front. Gen. Dayan is related to the Hadar family. He said, "Our nation, poor in means and numbers, is passing now through a difficult period. We must defend our independence and our lives. We are surrounded on various fronts and the gravest among all is the Egyptian front where the Soviets are taking part in operation missions and providing their know-how." Gen. Dayan said the main part of Israel's armed forces is maintained in the Suez Canal zone, armor, infantry, artillery and paratroopers "but above all, the pilots."

New Soviet Peace Plan To Be Presented By Dobrynin To Sisco At Talks, Reports Say

LONDON, July 7 (JTA)--A new Soviet peace plan for the Middle East is being presented to the United States this week, according to diplomatic sources in Moscow. Reports from the Soviet capital said that Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin is presenting the plan to the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco at their meetings in Washington. The sources said that the Soviet plan takes into account proposals advanced by the United States more than a week ago. There has been no official disclosure of the details of either the Russian or the American plans. Diplomats in Moscow said the new movement to break the three year Mideast impasse is keeping Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser in Moscow pending its outcome. President Nasser was supposed to have returned to Cairo on Monday to attend to pressing business but has postponed his departure for ten days, the sources said. The Egyptian leader has held two rounds of talks with Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, President Nikolai V. Podgorny and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev. A joint communique that was supposed to have been issued yesterday was postponed, reportedly until Thursday. The trend of the latest Sisco-Dobrynin talks may influence its content, it was reported today from Moscow. Meanwhile Col. Nasser is marking time at a luxurious estate outside of Moscow. He was reportedly receiving medical treatment for diabetes and sciatica.

Diplomatic sources here said today that the Soviet military escalation in Egypt may be intended to force the re-opening of the Suez Canal by helping Egypt regain the east bank, under Israeli occupation since 1967. This may be the strategic intent behind the reported advance of the Soviet-made Egyptian missile defense system toward the canal, the sources said. Moscow is said to be determined to re-open the blocked waterway which would shorten the sea trip to North Vietnam by 38 days. The Soviets are anxious to establish their naval presence in the Indian Ocean as a counterforce to Communist China but this is made difficult by the continued shut down of the canal. According to diplomatic sources here the Kremlin leaders are not deliberately seeking a showdown with the United States in the Mideast, or even with Israel. But they regard their position in Egypt as the key to their influence both in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean and are determined not to retreat. Therefore they are genuinely seeking some kind of agreement with the United States for a Mideast solution. But at the same time they are master-minding Egypt's aerial defense system, providing both the equipment and the operational know-how.

Soviet Delegates To UN Youth Assembly Assail Israel, Support Youth Of Arab Nations

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 7 (JTA)--The Soviet delegation to the United Nations World Youth Assembly today expressed its "solidarity" and "ardent support" of the youth of the Arab states in their struggle against Israel. The pledge was contained in a statement released by the 15-member delegation at a press conference here. The World Youth Assembly, attended by 623 youth from 109 member states, opens officially on Thursday. There is a five-member delegation from Israel and representatives from the World Union of Jewish Students and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Also attending are two representatives of the General Union of Palestinian Students. Some observers here viewed the Soviet delegation's statement on the Middle East as relatively mild compared to its slashing attacks on the United States and the Indo China war. They attributed the mildness to the "delicate" diplomatic situation in which U.S. and Soviet peace proposals for the Mideast are being discussed here. The Soviet statement said, "For three years now the world is being kept in suspense in the Middle East crisis. Its settlement has also become an urgent task for the safeguarding of international peace and security. There is a formulation for the settlement of this crisis. It is the resolution of the United Nations Security Council of Nov. 22, 1967. Condemning Israel's refusal to comply with this resolution, the Soviet young people express their full solidarity with and ardent support to the young people of the Arab states who are in the front line of the struggle against Israeli aggression."

Israeli Jets Hit Egyptian Targets; Two Israelis Wounded By Terrorist Rocket Attack

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--Israeli Air Force jets continued intermittent daylight attacks on Egyptian targets in the Suez Canal zone today. Israeli jets were active over the waterway last night, pounding bunkers, artillery and mortar batteries and fortifications. All aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman reported. Israeli jets went into action against guerrilla bases on the southwest slopes of Mt. Hermon in Lebanon today following a Katyusha rocket attack on Kiryat Shemona this morning in which two residents were slightly injured. The air attack lasted a half hour and all planes returned safely, a military spokesman said. The victims of the rocket assault were Eliahu Perez, 58 and Benjamin Joseph, 56 who were waiting at a bus stop when they were struck by shell fragments. Both were hospitalized. Both are employed at Jewish National Fund afforestation sites.

Remez Calls On Britain To Take More Decisive Role Toward Mideast Peace Settlement

LONDON, July 7 (JTA)--Outgoing Israeli Ambassador Aharon Remez called on Britain Monday to take a more decisive role toward a Middle East peace settlement. Mr. Remez, who is returning to Israel shortly following a five-year stay here, noted a special British-Israeli relationship and said, "I hope it measures up to expectations at the right time." Mr. Remez spoke at a farewell tribute sponsored by the Zionist Federation and the Jewish Agency's Keren Hayesod Committee.

World Union Of Progressive Judaism Urges Soviet Government To Permit Emigration

AMSTERDAM, July 7 (JTA)--Dr. Bernard Bamberger of New York, former director of the Hebrew Union College, was elected president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism at the closing session of its 16th annual conference here today. Rabbi Bamberger succeeds Rabbi Jakob Shankman, of New York. The conference unanimously adopted resolutions calling for an end to discrimination against Jews in Eastern Europe and urging the Soviet government to permit those Jews who wish to go to Israel to emigrate. Another resolution appealed to the Israeli government to accord Reform and Liberal Judaism the same rights as the Orthodox.

Jewish Free University To Open This Fall; Aim Is To Explore All Facets Of Jewish Life

PHILADELPHIA, July 7 (JTA)--A Jewish Free University, offering study groups in subjects of Jewish interests, will open here this fall, according to an announcement by Stephen R. Goldstein, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania and Consultant on Jewish Communal Affairs to the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. The study groups, which will be open to college students and the general public in the area, will be taught by professors from Temple, Drexel, Lincoln, Villanova and Pennsylvania Universities, as well as by faculty members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Welleppings Ecumenical Institute and some graduate students. Mr. Goldstein described the project as "an opportunity for college students, other interested Philadelphians and some of the best minds in the Jewish academic community to explore together the many facets of the Jewish experience that combine to form the Jewish people and determine their role in society today."

Fourteen courses have been planned to date, Mr. Goldstein reported, and another four or five courses are expected to be agreed on by the middle of the summer. Among the courses already planned are: The Covenant of Peace - A Biblical and Dialogical approach to Black-Jewish Relations and Middle East Conflict; The Dissolution of the Ghetto; Socialist Influence on Zionism; The Political Structure of the American Jewish Community; Agenda Jewish Action in the 70's; Jewish Values and Jewish Identity; Interreligious Dialogue; and Comparative Study of Black and Jewish Ethnicity. Discussing the rationale behind the idea of a Jewish Free University in Philadelphia, Mr. Goldstein explained: "This idea hinges on a belief that there are a substantial number of Jewishly committed faculty members on local campuses. For the most part, however, he said, they have disassociated their Jewish commitment from their secular academic pursuits."

"As such, they have been a negligible influence on the Jewish life and commitment of their students and have not served their potentially significant role of affirmative Jewish models for their students and colleagues," Mr. Goldstein stated. He added that with the tremendous resurgence of Jewish interest this group of distinguished academicians can foster a Jewish renaissance in this country. "The formation of a Jewish Free University also hinges on the belief that there is a reservoir of interest in a wide range of Jewish studies among many students, including those ordinarily labeled as uncommitted, that could be tapped by high level study groups conducted by faculty members whom they respect for their work in secular fields," he observed. The projected study groups, Mr. Goldstein noted, "could enrich the Jewish life of both participating faculty and students," and at the same time, "the participating faculty would become visible as affirmative Jewish models for an even larger group of students and colleagues."

363 Americans To Settle In Israel; August Total Expected To Be Larger

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--More than 360 persons left yesterday to settle in Israel. According to Col. Nachum Golan, Director of the Israel Aliyah Center here, the group included 85 families consisting of 331 members and 32 individuals. "The trend of family members out-numbering single people which was started in 1969 is not only continuing but even surpassing last year's total" said Col. Golan. "Not only are there more families but they are younger and larger as well." An occupational breakdown of the 360 persons revealed 61 professionals, 19 businessmen and 18 skilled and semi-skilled workers. "The people," continued Col. Golan, "are part of more than 1200 people who will be going on aliyah during the month of July alone. Our present forecast for August is even larger. With such favorable results we are confident that we will surpass the 1969 record with a notable increase." A new Israel aliyah center will open July 15 in St. Louis.

CSSJ To Kosygin: Release Kochubiyevsky And Kazakov Families

LOS ANGELES, July 7 (JTA)--The California Students for Soviet Jews today released the contents of a letter to Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin dated June 9 requesting the release of four Jewish political prisoners: Mr. and Mrs. Boris Kochubiyevsky of Kiev and Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Kazakov of Moscow. The letter, signed by Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman of CSSJ, on behalf of the CSSJ and the Southern Council for Soviet Jews, expressed "hope that your government sees it in their interests to release these four people and permit them to go to Israel." The letter suggested that if the prisoners were not released by June 30 the performances of the Moiseyev Ballet Company which begin August 7, may "find itself in serious difficulty in the Southern California area." Stating that no member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, an independent grass roots movement on behalf of Soviet Jews, would take part in any disruptive demonstrations, Mr. Yaroslavsky said, "Floods of telephone calls from indignant segments of the Jewish community indicate to us that there may be serious trouble at the opening night performance." He added, "there seems to be an element within our community which seems intent on disrupting the Moiseyev's performances in the name of Soviet Jews; we will not be a part to such criminal actions." He did not identify the "element."

Si Frumkin, chairman of the SCSJ commented, "We have tried every peaceful means thinkable with the Soviets. We have held private meetings and held mass peaceful rallies to no avail." The chairman then announced, "We will be demonstrating at the opening night performance of the Moiseyev not only outside the Shrine Auditorium but within the confines of the Shrine." The Kremlin's reply to the June 9 letter, received on June 24, will be released at a press conference later today. Boris Kochubiyevsky, a defender of Israel's position from the Six-Day War onward, insisted at a memorial meeting for the thousands of Jews slaughtered at Babi Yar in 1941-43, that this was a unique tragedy for the Jewish people. He was arrested in December 1968 and tried for disseminating anti-Soviet slander. He has been sentenced to three years in a forced labor camp. Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Kazakov are the parents of Yasha Kazakov who, two months ago, conducted a hunger strike outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York in an effort to have his parents released from the Soviet Union. Yasha is now living in Israel.