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Foreign Ministry: Thant's View On Soviet Peace Plan Reflects Intensive Moscow Briefing

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA)--The Israeli Foreign Ministry implied today that United Nations Secretary General U Thant was brain-washed on the Middle East during his recent visit to Moscow. A Ministry statement issued by the Government Press Office said that Mr. Thant's remarks at a press conference in Geneva yesterday "certainly seem to reflect the very intensive briefing to which the Secretary General appears to have been subjected during his recent stay in Moscow." The Foreign Ministry statement referred to newspaper reports of Mr. Thant's press conference which claimed that the Secretary General had said that the new Soviet plan for the Middle East was more realistic than the American plan. (A study by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of the verbatim transcript of the Thant press conference found no such comparison. The transcript showed that Mr. Thant took pains to avoid being drawn by newsmen into making a comparison between the Soviet and American plans. According to the verbatim transcript, Mr. Thant stated: "If I am to assess the latest proposals, I must say that the Soviet proposals have some interesting and concrete elements as regards the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. I am still hopeful that a peaceful solution, a political solution, is possible as regards the Middle East situation.")

The transcript continued with the questions by newsmen and Mr. Thant's answers. Question: "Do you think that the Soviet plan is more interesting and concrete than the United States plan?" Mr. Thant: "I do not want to venture any opinion by way of comparing the two proposals. But, as I said a moment ago, so far as the question of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is concerned, the new Soviet proposals have certain new and concrete elements." Question: "You said that you were not going to compare the Soviet and American proposals, but you said that the Soviet proposal was very interesting for lasting peace. By implication, one would say that the American proposal was not." Mr. Thant: "No. I am just pin-pointing one aspect of the problem. You will recall that the Big Powers seemed to agree that there remain three basic issues in the Middle East: Withdrawal, peace and boundaries. As far as the question of peace is concerned, in my view the Soviet proposal has concrete elements. I am not saying that the United States proposal has no concrete elements, but the United States proposal deals with other aspects of the problem. The United States position on peace is also well known. The United States is very desirous of the restoration of peace in the area, as is well known. But what I am saying is that the new Soviet proposal contains some new elements regarding the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area. I am just stressing the fact that the Soviet Union--for the first time, to my knowledge--has come out with concrete and positive elements regardant this particular aspect of the problem, that is, the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area."

Question: "Could you identify these concrete elements that you find interesting in the new Soviet proposal?" Mr. Thant: "I do not think I am in a position to disclose the substance of the proposals; but they are, of course, in the possession of all the Big Powers." At the conclusion of his press conference Mr. Thant also referred to the Soviet proposals as having "realistic elements." (In Washington, State Department spokesman Carl Borch said today that the administration will offer no comment on Mr. Thant's assessment of the Soviet plan and his silence regarding the United States peace plan until the official transcript of Mr. Thant's press interview has been thoroughly studied.) The Israeli Foreign Ministry's criticism of Mr. Thant reflected a widely held view here that the Secretary General is not impartial in the Israel-Arab dispute and that he tends to favor the Arab side. It was pointed out that Mr. Thant, while travelling extensively in the Middle East, has never visited Israel in his capacity of Secretary General. He came to this country only once, in the early 1950s, as secretary to the then Prime Minister of Burma, U Nu. Israelis have also accused Mr. Thant of a policy of "highly selective abridgements" of the published reports of UN truce observers in the Mideast.

Report That Seven More Soviet Jews Arrested In Connection With Alleged Plane Hijack

LONDON, July 8 (JTA)--The Jewish Board of Deputies reported today that seven more Soviet Jews have been arrested, apparently in connection with an alleged plane hijacking at the Leningrad airport June 15, in the wake of which eight Soviet Jews were arrested. The board said the new arrests "support the previous indications that the 'hijacking'...was an attempt to create pressures on those Jews in Russia attempting to bring their plight to the ears of the world." The board urged the Soviet government to reconsider its policy toward Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel. The seven reported arrested, most of them from Riga, were identified by the board as Leiba Girshevich Knoch; his wife, Meri Mozysoina Mendelevich Knoch; her father, Josef Mozysovitsh Mendelevich; Anatoly Adolfovich Altman, Boris Pestner, Itzhak Zalmanson and Wolf Yosifovich Zalmanson. The last two named are brothers of Mrs. Silva Kuznetsov, who was arrested with her husband in Leningrad last month.

Eban Views Nixon's Remarks On Mideast As U.S. Commitment To Use Deterrent Power

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that he viewed President Nixon's recent television remarks on the Middle East as a United States commitment to use its deterrent power, if needed, to prevent Soviet domination of the Middle East. Mr. Eban expressed his opinion in the course of a briefing on the political situation for Knesset members of the Labor Alignment. President Nixon, in a televised question-and-answer session July 1, expressed concern over the escalation of the Russian military presence in Egypt and declared that it was in the U.S. interest to see that the balance of power--Israel's deterrent strength--is maintained in order to avoid a new war.

Mr. Eban said the President's remarks stemmed at least in part from information the U.S. received from Israel on the deployment of Soviet SAM missiles in the Suez Canal zone. The Foreign Minister said, "In the last few days, authoritative American personalities have stated that the U.S. regards herself obliged to guarantee the security of Israel." He said that in this view, the Americans are coming to realize more and more that what happens in the Middle East has ceased to be a matter concerning only Israel and the Arab states but has become a matter of great-power confrontation resulting from the ceaseless attempts of the Soviet Union to strengthen her position in the region.

(The Israeli Embassy in Washington issued a policy background paper to newsmen today claiming that the Soviet Union was seeking dominance in the Middle East and wanted to dictate a Soviet-style political settlement there. The Embassy said that in pursuit of their aims, the Russians have already entered combat against Israel by firing missiles at Israeli aircraft over the Suez Canal zone, and that Soviet pilots may soon be flying missions over the Suez Canal. According to the Embassy paper, the Russians have been gradually inching their Egyptian missile defense system to within 20 miles of the waterway, into the zone where Israel considers it vital to maintain aerial superiority in the interests of her own security. "The prospect of Soviet pilots entering the canal zone proper and beyond is not to be discounted," the Embassy said. Concern was expressed in some quarters that the Russians planned eventually to fly combat missions over Israeli-held Egyptian territory, menacing Israel's own frontiers.) (According to observers in Washington, U.S. officials who were skeptical Monday of Israeli reports that the Russians had introduced SAM-3 missiles within 20 miles of the Suez Canal, now acknowledge their presence. There was said to be considerable sympathy in U.S. government circles for Israel's position. But there was also an inclination to believe that Israeli authorities were dramatizing the situation in order to press their request for more U.S. Phantom and Skyhawk jets. The Embassy policy background paper seemed to be part of the Israeli campaign.)

Four Civilian Workers Killed By Arab Terrorists; Two Israeli Soldiers Injured

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA)--Four civilian workers attached to the Land Reclamation Department were shot and killed at breakfast today in El Hamma by Arab terrorists from Jordanian territory. A fifth worker was wounded. The dead were three elderly Jews of Tiberias and one Israeli Arab. El Hamma is located five miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee, near the Syrian-Jordanian-Israeli border. The shots were said to have been fired at close range. The assailants escaped. The names of the victims were not immediately released. Two Israeli soldiers were injured today in Suez Canal clashes while Israeli planes continued their aerial attacks on Egyptian canal positions. The Israelis hit one SAM-2 surface-to-air missile base in the southern sector. All planes returned safely. (The Egyptian newspaper Al Ahran claimed today that Egypt has shot down five American-built Phantom jets over the Suez Canal during the past week. The paper said that inspection of the planes had disclosed some of the secrets that have made the Phantoms supposedly invincible against anti-aircraft gunning.) There was no confirmation or denial of this report from Israel.

Retired Israeli Brig. Gen. Haim Herzog, former chief of intelligence, today described Soviet advances toward the Suez Canal as part of a "process of gradual nibbling away" at Israel's military operations there. "The next phase of the leap-frog toward the canal, if it takes place, could place the (Soviet) missiles in a position to be effective over the (Israeli) front line," he said. Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev reaffirmed today Israel's intention to "persist in fighting anyone who tries to undermine our firm stand on this front of the Suez Canal." He said Israel has always been able to find "appropriate answers" to "difficult challenges and problems which at first sight appeared insurmountable." Gen. Bar Lev made his comments to a group of officers-in-training. (In Cairo, Al Ahran said Gen. Bar Lev's claim Monday that at least two SAM-3s had fired at Israeli planes was "a desperate attempt" to preserve the "myth" of Israeli military supremacy, influence American and world opinion in Israel's favor, and discredit the ability of Egyptian soldiers.)

Tel Yosef settlement in the Beisan Valley was hit by Katyusha rockets last night. There were no casualties or damages. Syrian authorities have asked Israeli authorities to aid United Nations observers and Red Cross personnel in continuing the search for the remains of a Syrian pilot downed over the Golan Heights June 26. Separate Syrian and Israeli searches so far have proved unsuccessful. (In Beirut, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that shooting broke out in the Jordanian capital of Amman at midnight yesterday, with Palestinian guerrilla patrols acting swiftly to close off the area and investigate. The agency said the shooting was "possibly an isolated incident," and that Amman was quiet by this morning. The incident came half a day after Monday morning's agreement between the Hussein government and the guerrillas, in which Jordanian sovereignty and guerrilla freedom of action were affirmed. The government also agreed to disband its "Thunderbolt" elite force.)

Former Gaza Mayor Fined By Military Tribunal For Being In The Service Of PFLP

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA)--The former mayor of Gaza, Mounir El-Rais, was fined \$6,571 by a military tribunal yesterday for being in the service of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and for maintaining contact with the enemy. When arrested several months ago, he had in his possession \$12,285 said to be destined for the Arab terrorist organization. The court, taking into consideration Mr. Mounir's health, did not impose a prison sentence.

Mounting Interest In Israel, Zionism Among Young People, Including Jewish New Left Youth

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization is making substantial headway in recruiting new members, especially in the 25-45 age group, according to Abraham Shenker, head of the Jewish Agency's absorption department. Mr. Shenker, returning from a three month visit to North and South America and Europe, predicted that the movement will have a membership of one million by the time it elects delegates to the next Zionist Congress. He claimed there was mounting interest in Israel and Zionism among younger people, including Jewish youth of the New Left who, he concluded, are convinced it has become a tool against Israel and Jews and are therefore joining the Zionist Organization.

Israeli Flag To Be Displayed In Leningrad; First Time On Soviet Soil Since 1967 War

PARIS, July 8 (JTA)--An Israeli flag will be stationed on Soviet territory for perhaps the first time since the Six-Day War when an Israeli delegation of mayors arrives at the Congress of the International Federation of Twin Cities in Leningrad. The mayors, who were invited by both the Conference Secretariat and the mayor of Leningrad, flew to that city from here this afternoon. The Federation's statutes call for the display of the flags of participating nations. The Presidium of the Conference refused to open the sessions yesterday without the presence of the Israelis, who were detained here several days awaiting Soviet visas. The Soviet Embassy here, normally closed Wednesdays, was opened today on orders from Moscow for the dispensing of the visas. The five-man Israeli group is headed by Mayor Oved Ben-Ami of Nathanya.

WJC Appeals To Soviet Union To Abstain From Further Military Involvement In Mideast

GENEVA, July 8 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress called today upon the Soviet Union to abstain from further military involvement in the Middle East and asked the world powers to work for creation of conditions which will lead to a just peace between Arabs and Jews. In a statement here today, Dr. Goldmann said, "The world watches with profound anxiety the aggravation of the situation in the Middle East brought about by the active military participation on the part of the Soviet Union. This military escalation has created a situation which threatens to lead to a war which may exceed by far the bloodshed and suffering of the Six-Day War and might have tragic consequences for the entire world. The WJC, representing more than 60 Jewish communities in the world, appeals to the Soviet Union to abstain from further military involvement. It calls on all great powers to exert an influence and wisdom to avert a new catastrophe and work towards the creation of conditions which will lead to a just and durable peace between Israel and the Arab nations."

Mrs. Meir States U.S. Mideast Policy Has Not Discouraged Soviet Penetration

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Golda Meir, asked in a filmed interview last night if the United States' Middle East policy has encouraged Soviet penetration there, replied: "Let me put it more kindly--it hasn't discouraged them." The Soviets are cautious expansionists, she said; they look over an area carefully, consider the risks, and "If it's quiet, they take another step." She added: "We have yet to see a country where the Russians came in and left. When they come in they usually stay." The interview was part of a half-hour study of the Soviet buildup broadcast on NBC-TV's monthly "First Tuesday" series. The program also included jet's-eye footage of combat over the Suez Canal, with NBC News producer Robert Rogers reporting. As his jet and others struck Egyptian targets, he noted that "Soviet pilots are scrambling to their MIG's." As the Egyptian Army is "incapable" of stopping Israeli strikes, Mr. Rogers said, the result is a "dangerous standoff."

Regarding Israel-Russian combat, he observed: "Some experts believe a clash is inevitable. If it comes, it will probably be right here over the Suez Canal." On the ground, displaying a captured Soviet plane, he said: "One thing is certain--the Israeli pilots will know almost as much about the MIG's as the Russians do themselves." In a filmed interview, the Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. Haim Bar Lev, said Soviet military personnel were "at the battalion levels" of the Egyptian Army, and concentrated at Cairo, Alexandria and the Aswan Dam. He noted a "clear correlation" between the "active presence of Russian units and pilots in Egypt" and the "stepping up" of Egyptian front-line operations. An unnamed Israeli intelligence officer said a captured Egyptian soldier had admitted the death in combat of one of the Russians in his unit.

State Department Reports Beam To Meet With Gromyko On 'Matters Of Mutual Interest'

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Carl E. Borch said today that Jacob D. Beam, United States ambassador to the Soviet Union, will meet soon in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko on "matters of mutual interest." He said the two met there June 29 but he did not say what the meeting was about.

Jerusalem Given Remembrance Award By Federation Of Bergen-Belsen Survivors

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir was the guest of honor at a festive dinner here last night given by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Survivors Associations. Other guests included Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, Supreme Court President Dr. Shimon Agranat, and Jacob Tsur, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund. The Federation's Remembrance Award was given to the city of Jerusalem and was accepted by Mr. Kollek. Federation President Joseph Rosensaft said, "We come now from a visit to the graves of the Belsen martyrs and we are truly entitled to ask ourselves: Have we learned the lesson of the past?" The writer Elie Wiesel said, "We live in a world which seems to us entirely demented. One asks oneself: Does Israel in this day and age have to justify herself?"

World-Wide Israel Bond Drive Totals More Than \$1.5 Billion During Past 20 Years

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA)--The Twentieth Anniversary conference of the Israel Bond drive will be held in Jerusalem from August 14-28. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir announced yesterday. U.S. Bond Drive chairman Sam Rothberg told the press in Jerusalem that more than \$1.5 billion dollars worth of bonds have been sold throughout the world during the past 20 years. In the first six months of this year sales have reached \$88 million, more than 18 percent higher than last year. By the end of the year it is hoped that about \$200 million will have been sold. Eighty-five percent of all sales have been made in the U.S. Mr. Rothberg said so far \$700 million has been redeemed. Of this, some \$60 million was spent by tourists in Israel, \$140 million was given as gifts to the Jewish Agency and other institutions in Israel and \$115 million of bonds were converted into Israeli pounds and invested in local industries.

Nixon Urged To Take Necessary Measures To Halt Deepening Soviet Penetration In Mideast

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations meeting here urged President Nixon today to take "all necessary measures" to "halt the deepening Soviet penetration of the Middle East," which it said "has ruptured the balance of military power" in the area. The United States, the Conference declared in a statement, must "strengthen Israel's ability to confront the grave Soviet threat to her very existence, protect American interests and promote the cause of world peace." Dr. William A. Wexler, the Conference president, expressed "anxiety and deep concern" over the Soviet penetration, charging that it "imperils" not only a Mideast peace but the solidity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to the United States, speaking at the meeting, reviewed the current military development in the Middle East and the growing threat of increased Soviet participation in the Egyptian military war of attrition against Israel.

SSSJ Stages 'Counter-Show' To Moiseyev Dance Company; Vows Similar Actions In 20 Cities

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA)--The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry staged a "counter-show" last night outside the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Centre, where the Moiseyev Dance Company--the State Academic Ensemble of Popular Dance of the Soviet Union--opened a two-and-a-half-week run. The more than 100 students organized their own entertainment program and invited the Russians to "Come down and learn Jewish dances." Many spectators joined in the spirit of the demonstration. There were no altercations. Glen Richter, coordinator of the SSSJ, said the students did not have specific arguments with the dance company, which he said has Jewish members, but were treating it as symbolic of the Soviet Union. He said similar demonstrations would be staged by SSSJ members in all 20 cities on the Moiseyev's American tour, including Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Moiseyev performance in Philadelphia is scheduled for Sept. 29, which is "Babi Yar Day." Mr. Richter said his organization would meet tonight with representatives to the United Nations World Youth Assembly, which opens tomorrow. The SSSJ will hold an all-day vigil tomorrow at the Isaiah Wall opposite UN headquarters.

230 Orthodox Religious And Community Leaders, 310 Orthodox Youth Going To Israel

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA)--Two-hundred and thirty orthodox religious and community leaders and 310 orthodox youths from communities throughout America will leave this week for Israel under programs sponsored by the Torah Education Department of the Jewish Agency. Zvi Assael, department director, said the 540 participating in the department's hishtamut program would tour the country getting to know the land and the people, meet with their peers in Israel, and attend seminars and meetings. The rabbinical and community leaders are from five organizations: The Rabbinical Alliance of America, The Metropolitan Commission of Talmud Torah Education of the Jewish Education Committee, the National Council for Torah Education of Religious Zionists of America, Torah Umesorah's National Conference of Yeshiva Principals and the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers in NYC Public Schools.

250 Israeli Educators Start Work In Summer Camps

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA)--Two-hundred and fifty Israeli educators, men and women, arrived this week to serve in various educational capacities in more than 70 Jewish summer camps throughout the United States and Canada and have already started their work there. The Israelis have come here under the auspices of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, in cooperation with the Youth and Hechalutz Department in Jerusalem. The delegation is headed by Mr. Michael Reiner of the Youth and Hechalutz Department. The educators will serve in various capacities as instructors, counselors and teachers, and will contribute to providing an Israeli experience for tens of thousands of Jewish youngsters in the camps. The educators have been placed at the camps of Ramah, Massad, the Jewish Community Center camps, those of UAHC, and other agencies, as well as the Zionist Youth Movement camps.

Commerce Department Official Predicts U.S. Exports To Israel Will Set Record In 1970

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA)--A Department of Commerce official has predicted that U.S. exports to Israel are likely to set a new record in 1970, topping the half-billion dollar mark for the first time. According to John P. Edwards, of the Near East-South Asia division of the Department's Bureau of International Commerce, factors accounting for the rise in U.S. sales to Israel include "sustained growth of Israel's gross national product, coupled with relative wage and price stability (and) a very large increase in defense purchases." Mr. Edwards assessed the U.S.-Israel trade picture in an article in the current issue of "International Commerce," a weekly publication of the Department of Commerce. In a separate article, he noted that U.S. exports to Lebanon will reach \$65 million in 1970, some \$25 million less than last year's level. Last year, U.S. sales to Israel totalled \$457 million, up from \$200 million in 1966, a year of recession for Israel. "The Israeli GNP rose by 12 percent in real terms in 1969 to \$4.7 billion and it is anticipated that the growth rate will be nine percent during the current year--bringing the GNP for 1970 to about \$5.1 billion," Mr. Edwards wrote. "The sectors especially responsible for this growth are building--expected to rise by as much as 25 percent--and industry, which will probably expand by roughly 13 percent."

Rabbi Urges World Parley Of Religious Leaders To Call For Destruction Of Nuclear Weapons

MEXICO CITY, July 8 (JTA)--An international conference of world religious leaders who would make a "moral call for the destruction of nuclear weapons before the nuclear weapons destroy humanity," has been asked for by Rabbi Dr. Abraham F. Hershenberg, president of the Union of Rabbis of Latin America and chairman of the International Committee of Religious Freedom. They should also call upon the countries behind the Iron Curtain to grant religious freedom to all their peoples, especially their minorities who suffer so much," he said.