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Laird Asserts U.S. Will Maintain Strategic And Military Balance In The Middle East

WASHINGTON, July 9 (JTA)--Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird asserted today that "We are going to maintain a strategic and military balance" in the Middle East, adding: "We have said we would and we will deliver." Secretary Laird's statement, made at a press conference, was not as strong as President Nixon's on July 1, that the U.S. will "do what is necessary to maintain Israel's strength" and "deter its neighbors from attacking." But it was stronger than Secretary of State William P. Rogers' June 25 statement that "for the moment the emphasis should be on diplomatic initiatives." The Nixon and Laird remarks, made in succession within two weeks of Mr. Rogers' news conference, appeared to corroborate reports that the administration considers Mr. Rogers' comments too restrained in view of the growing Soviet threat in the Mideast. Secretary Laird reiterated the administration position that the U.S. has no plans to send troops to Israel's aid. But he noted that the American Sixth Fleet was "in a good state of readiness" in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Laird today officially confirmed Israeli reports of SAM-3 activity in the Mideast. He included them in a reference in which he said the Soviets in that area "have gone forward with new anti-aircraft missiles." (On Tuesday, State Department spokesman Carl E. Barch would say only that Washington had "no reason to doubt the substance" of the Israeli claim.) Mr. Barch said today that no date has been set for the hurry-up meeting in Moscow between U.S. Ambassador Jacob D. Beam and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, which he said yesterday would take place soon. Mr. Barch said there was also no specific date yet for the next meeting here between Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. But he said that Mr. Sisco would confer this afternoon on the Mideast situation with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Barch declined comment on Cairo's claim that Egypt has shot down five U.S.-built Phantom jets manned by Israeli pilots in recent days.

Thant To Meet With Nixon; UN Youth Assembly Steering Committee Under Soviet-Arab Control

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 9 (JTA)--Secretary General U Thant will be in Washington tomorrow to confer with President Nixon, it was announced here today. It is expected that the two officials will discuss the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Thant, who had originally been invited to come to the White House before he went to Europe last month, will also attend a state dinner tomorrow night. Sources here said that the original invitation did not include a conference with President Nixon. The meeting with President Nixon, according to sources, was arranged, presumably at Mr. Thant's request, since his return from Europe and his visit to the Soviet Union. The Secretary General's meeting with Mr. Nixon is considered of vital importance in view of the developments in the past few days. During Mr. Thant's eight-day visit to Geneva he told a press conference that he considered the Soviet peace plan as containing "new," "concrete," "interesting," and "realistic" elements but declined to compare it with the American peace plan. Mr. Thant, who was briefed by both the Soviet and American officials in Moscow regarding their respective peace proposals, has so far declined to disclose the contents of both plans. Sources here felt that Mr. Thant's meeting with Mr. Nixon will provide the President with a chance to brief Mr. Thant as intensively as it is believed he was briefed by Soviet officials.

A UN spokesman said the Secretary General had no comment on an Israeli Foreign Ministry statement in Jerusalem yesterday implying that Mr. Thant had been brainwashed by Kremlin leaders. His observations at the press conference in Geneva Tuesday regarding the reported Soviet peace initiative for the Mideast led the Israelis to contend that Mr. Thant's remarks "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 UN spokesman also said Mr. Thant would not elaborate on his Geneva remarks referring to offensive and defensive weapons in the Middle East except to state "My views on this matter are well known." The Burmese diplomat, addressing the opening session today of the UN's World Youth Assembly advised the delegates that the Mideast conflict continued without basic implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution because members states had failed to live up to the UN Charter's "restrictions on national sovereignty." Until they do, "we will not have true peace at the international level," he said, adding: "I am very much concerned that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs (in the Mideast and in Indochina) will continue as long as nations feel free to act in accordance with the concept of unlimited national sovereignty."

Meanwhile, the Youth Assembly was under heavy behind-the-scenes bombardment from the Soviet-Arab bloc nations to circumscribe the influence of the "imperialist" United States and Great Britain, and the "aggressor" Israel. A Youth Assembly steering committee elected this morning was, according to one observer, "the voice of the Soviet-Arab bloc establishment." Of the 18-member committee, one was from Egypt, one regular and one alternate member from the Soviet Union, one representing the General Union of Palestine Students, and one from Rumania. There were no youths on the steering committee from Israel, the U.S. or Great Britain. On Tuesday, the Soviet delegation to the Youth Assembly expressed its "solidarity" and "ardent support" of the youth of the Arab states "who are in the front line of the struggle against Israeli aggression." Delegates from the Arab nations and the GUPS refused to attend a party given by New York's Mayor John V. Lindsay for the youth delegates because of Lindsay's pro-Israel views. During the day yesterday the five delegates from Israel approached the 30 delegates from Arab youth organizations with a suggestion that they meet privately to

discuss their common interests in seeking peace and ending the war in the Middle East based on the UN Security Council resolution of November 1967. The Israeli youths reported their offer to meet was "rudely rejected" by the Arabs. Delegates to the Assembly do not technically represent the country from which they are sent but "representative" youth groups within the country. Complaints, however, were lodged by some delegations that delegates from some countries were "hand-picked" by their governments.

Major Military Strike By Israel May Be In Offing In Response To Rising Soviet Activity

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA)--Israeli sources suggested yesterday the possibility of a major military strike across the Suez Canal in response to the rising Soviet escalation there, especially in terms of SAM-3 missiles. It was considered possible that Israeli action could be purely diplomatic--renewed insistence that the United States pressure the Soviets to de-escalate and thus remove the danger of full-scale war and direct Soviet-Israeli combat. But officials here, terming the Soviet buildup an intolerable threat to Israel's security, believe that some decision must be made quickly. (In Washington, it was clear that the reports of SAM-3 activity made Monday by the Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. Haim Bar Lev, have registered strongly on the Nixon administration. The State Department disclosed yesterday that the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Jacob D. Beam, had met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko in Moscow on June 29, and that he would consult with him more frequently from now on. It was believed that Mr. Beam will attempt to ease the Soviet stance on, and in, the Middle East.)

(In Cairo, official spokesman Ahamed Anis indicated yesterday his government's willingness to give the American peace initiative a chance, saying it was studying the proposals "even between the lines" in an attempt at a solution. He noted the necessity of a "definite mandate" for the resumption of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's peace mission. Without such a mandate, Egyptian officials noted, his peace mission would lack meaning. Egyptian President Nasser was reported to have decided to continue his talks with Kremlin leaders for another 10 days--the second extension of his visit. He was believed to want more time to discuss with them the various aspects of the U.S. and Soviet initiatives for the Middle East, the details of which have been widely reported but not yet officially disclosed.) Israeli military sources estimated today that dozens--perhaps 100 or more--SAM-2 missiles have been fired at Israeli planes flying operational missions west of the Suez Canal in recent days. The Soviets in Egypt apparently have been firing many missiles at each Israeli plane in the hope that one would find its target, rather than relying on pinpoint accuracy.

Israeli authorities are worried lest the success of the Soviet-directed missile and anti-aircraft system lead Egypt not only to bolster its canal positions but possibly launch a major canal crossing. It will be recalled that the massing of Egyptian military equipment along the border in early June, 1967, caused Israel to initiate preventive strikes as defensive measures, thus kicking off the Six-Day War. But Israeli officials are also taking into consideration the probable disapproval by Washington of any large-scale Israeli military move at this time--while sensitive negotiations are under way on the terms of the peace initiatives. Moscow and Cairo appear to be receptive to political solutions, and Israel seeks a sympathetic response to her request for 125 more American jets. (In Cleveland, Ohio, two dozen 25-ton self-propelled howitzers made in the Brook Park suburb by General Motors were loaded yesterday onto the Israeli freighter "Etros". The M-109s, which fire 155 mm. shells and carry .50-caliber machine guns, were said to be part of the 1969 U.S.-Israeli pact. They were unofficially valued at \$3.4 million. The loading was carried out under security conditions.)

Report That 100 Or More SAM-2 Missiles Fired At Israeli Planes In Past Few Days

TEL AVIV, July 9 (JTA)--Israeli military sources said today that dozens--perhaps 100 or more--SAM-2 missiles have been fired at Israeli planes flying operational missions west of the Suez Canal in the past few days. The report confirmed that the Soviet policy in such situations is to shoot down Israeli planes whatever the cost. Firing many missiles at a single plane is more expensive but also more likely of success than attempts at pinpoint accuracy. In aerial action today, Israeli planes struck Egyptian targets--including two SAM-2 bases--along the canal, returning safely. Israeli forces today captured the single Jordanian terrorist responsible for killing three elderly Jews and an Israeli Arab as they ate breakfast yesterday morning in El Hamma, five miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee near the Jordanian-Syrian-Israeli border. The assailant, who apparently fell and lost consciousness while making his escape, was found wearing a terrorist uniform and emblem. He was held for interrogation. It was disclosed today that the dead Arab was the father of 12 children.

Christian Theologians Protest Anti-Israel Resolutions Of World Congress Of Christians

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA)--A protest against the anti-Israel resolutions of the World Congress of Christians for Palestine, issued in Beirut, Lebanon on May 10, was published here today by the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity of Israel, a group of Christian theologians trying to deepen Jewish-Christian dialogue. The statement said that if justice is to be done to both Jews and Arabs, the historic link between the Jewish people and the land of Israel must be taken into consideration. The theologians protested the claim of the Beirut Congress to represent "universal" Christian opinion and said, "We consider that Christians should promote peace among men and not encourage hatred." They objected to the use of the name "Christian" to sanctify a violent national struggle, and said it was theologically inadmissible to use the Bible to justify contemporary events or political aims. Their statement concluded: "Only an extreme bias can prevent a Christian from seeing that the Jews have derived their concepts of people, land and relation to the Lord from their annual reading of the Bible. Moreover, we think that the presence of the Jewish people from its origin and throughout its history in this land shows that there has always been a link between the Jewish people and the land of Israel. We feel that if justice is to be done to the Jews as well as the Arabs, this link must be taken into consideration."

Details Of Soviet Plan Disclosed; Israeli Political Circles Term It Grave Threat

LONDON, July 9 (JTA)--The details of the Soviet initiative for the Middle East--described as a "settlement by stages" and a correct reflection of "where the USSR really stands"--were disclosed here today in the July 11 issue of the official Embassy publication, "Soviet Weekly." The Embassy called the plan basically the USSR's "initial stand," which may be modified by "new ideas" developed from negotiations and consultations. The Soviet plan comprises the following points: 1) a "settlement by stages"; 2) Arab and Israeli willingness to abide by the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution; 3) rejection by all concerned parties of wartime territorial gains; 4) Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas, conditional on a guarantee of recognized frontiers by the Security Council or the Big Four, and an end to the state of war; 5) the establishment of demilitarized border zones; 6) temporary restrictions on military activity; 7) the stationing of UN troops in Gaza and Sharm El-Sheikh, by decision of the Security Council and with the approval of Egypt; 8) Israeli compliance with UN decisions on the Palestinian refugees; 9) freedom of navigation for all nations through the Straits of Tiran, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Suez Canal.

"Soviet Weekly" said the plan was placed on the agenda of the Big Four talks last January. "That's the Soviet plan," the publication stated, "clear to the point--and without anything secret about it...Of course, negotiations and coordination of positions is a continuous process in the course of which new ideas are bound to arise. But discussions in the Four Power negotiations have not in any way changed the initial stand of the Soviet Union. A clear understanding of the principles governing legality and justice as applied to the situation in the Middle East is the chief demand which any solution must satisfy." (In Jerusalem, political circles appeared to reject the Soviet plan immediately. Sources said the proposal "confirmed Israel's fears of Soviet intransigence," omitting mention of peace while insisting on Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967 boundaries--in short, a return to the pre-Six-Day War status quo without provision for Israeli security. Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Gideon Rafael rejected Moscow's proposals as a "smokescreen" designed to conceal from the world the construction of Soviet rocket launching sites and activities of Soviet pilots in Egypt. Mr. Rafael said the Soviet plan "does not serve peace but constitutes a threat to the existence and independence of Israel. The plan aims at securing Soviet control over the Middle East." Gahal Leader and Cabinet Minister Menahem Begin said the Soviet plan "is designed to liquidate Israel by stages." Political circles in Jerusalem pointed out that the Soviet plan in its details is even more unfavorable for Israel than the 1967 UN Security Council resolution which the Soviet Union purports to uphold.

Javits Asks West German Government For Greater Understanding Of U.S. Mideast Position

BONN, July 9 (JTA)--Senator Jacob Javits, New York Republican, today told the press he had asked the West German government for a more sympathetic understanding of the American position in the Middle East. He said he had asked for aid to the American naval presence in the Mediterranean, a willingness to enter into a broad economic plan for the Mideast and a greater understanding of the fact that the Mideast crisis was as much a European as an American security problem. The Senator told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that American policy, as he understood it, is to sustain Israel with arms and to make clear to the Soviet Union that Israel would not be allowed to become vulnerable through an imbalance of arms or the collapse of its economy. He said that no open declaration of the number of planes to be given to Israel at certain dates was necessary now that the U.S. has agreed to underwrite support of Israel's armed forces and to see that Israel's position is not prejudiced. That, he added, may be far more of a blanket guarantee under which much may take place without there being a "Fourth of July celebration" everytime a Phantom is delivered to Israel. Sen. Javits said President Nixon's television interview went far beyond anything he had said before because "We will not allow Israel to be euchered out of its position." The Senator added, "Great powers don't bluff." Earlier in the day, Sen. Javits had met with Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, the Minister at the Chancellors Office Horst Emke, Defense Minister Helmut Schmidt and former Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger.

Nurses Suspend Strike For Two Weeks Pending Resumed Negotiations On Wage Hikes

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA)--Israel's 11,000 nurses today "suspended" their four-day old strike for a two-week period during which negotiations on their wage claims will be resumed. If negotiations proceed satisfactorily the suspension will be extended. The Central Executive of the Nurses Union said they were suspending their strike "in view of the fact that the Prime Minister, the Knesset and the Histadrut have admitted the justice of our case." The nurses strike has disrupted all but emergency medical services in Israel's hospitals.

Burns Says U.S. Government, Public, Aware Of Responsibility To Strengthen Israel

JERUSALEM, July 9 (JTA)--The United States government and the American public are aware of their responsibility to strengthen Israel, Arthur Burns, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board said today. Mr. Burns spoke at Lydda Airport prior to his departure for home following a short visit. He also said, "Israel has made great strides forward in her economic development but there were some indications causing concern" because of the strain on the economy caused by the war effort. While in Israel, Mr. Burns held talks with the Governor and senior officials of the Bank of Israel and was awarded an honorary doctorate in philosophy by Hebrew University.

Police Arrest 19-Year-Old German Who Admitted Breaking Into Munich Synagogue

BONN, July 9 (JTA)--The West German police announced today that they had arrested a 19-year old German who had admitted that last month he had broken into a Munich synagogue, desecrated Torah scrolls and caused other damage. A police spokesman said no political motives or anti-Semitic sentiments were involved. He also said the young man was not connected with the burning of the Jewish Home for the Aged in Munich last February in which seven men and women died. German Jewish community leaders, on the other hand, have contended that only anti-Semites would have caused the outrage at the synagogue and other acts of vandalism of Jewish religious institutions.

Ottinger Urges Sale Of Jets To Israel, Other Arms To Offset SAM-2, SAM-3 Missiles

WASHINGTON, July 9 (JTA)--Congressman Richard L. Ottinger of New York, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator, Thursday sent a telegram to President Nixon urging immediate authorization of the sale of jet fighters requested by the Israeli government, in addition to whatever arms Israel needs to offset the SAM-2 and SAM-3 missiles provided by the Soviet Union. Mr. Ottinger stated, "The situation in the Middle East is deteriorating rapidly. It is clear that the Soviet effort to rearm and reequip Arab nations is upsetting the balance of power and has created a serious threat to Israel's security. To maintain peace in the Middle East and protect Israel and prevent further Soviet military initiatives I urge that you immediately authorize the sale of the jet fighters requested by Israel as well as whatever arms the Israeli government needs to offset the SAM-2 and SAM-3 missiles provided and apparently operated by the Soviet Union."

40 Rutgers University Students To Attend Summer Sessions At Hebrew University

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA)--Forty New Jersey students from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey left today to attend a summer session at the Hebrew University, it was announced here today by the American Friends of the Hebrew University. The students are undergraduates and graduates who will receive academic credit from Rutgers for courses taken. Many of the students will be taking courses in such subjects as Biblical history and literature; archaeology; study of the Arabic language; modern Israel political and social studies. The program is arranged by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Pioneer Women Sponsor Summer Rest Camps For Israeli Children

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA)--A massive program to brighten the summer of children from settlements along Israel's hot borders with Jordan and Lebanon is now being conducted by Pioneer Women through their Israeli affiliate Moetzet Hapaolet, the social service organization. The group has launched a summer program covering the entire northern district of Israel to provide vacations for 5,000 children far from the tension and danger of their border homes. The program will reach three times the number of children as last year's initial effort, according to Mrs. Jack Zackler, Pioneer Women National President. The camp program is open to all children from border settlements constantly under the threat of enemy attack by their Arab neighbors, but the emphasis is on children of mainly immigrant families who have no other opportunity to spend a summer vacation away from home. One center of this program is Pioneer Women's Children's Convalescent Home, Beit Hachlami in Haifa. It was here that 12 children, aged six to twelve years of age, survivors of the savage ambush of the Moshav Avivim school bus and the shelling of the Beit Shean school, recently completed their rest and recovery before returning to their homes. At the same time, another typical group using this Haifa facility as their camp headquarters, were 26 sixth-grade children, with their teacher, from the often-bombarded town of Kibbutz Shmoneh on the Lebanese border.

56th National Convention Of Hadassah To Be Held In Washington August 16-19

NEW YORK, July 9 (JTA)--The 56th national convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel August 16-19. More than 2,500 delegates are expected to attend, Mrs. Max Schenk, national president, announced. In addition to hearing reports projecting plans and participating in seminars and workshops, delegates will hear addresses by government leaders and international authorities in the fields of Hadassah's activities. Senator Lister Hill, Democrat of Alabama and Dr. William B. Walsh, founder and director of Project Hope will address the Hadassah Medical Organization plenary session August 17. Dr. Kalman J. Mann, director-general of Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel, will deliver his annual report and present plans for the coming year. Among the speakers during the convention will be Mordecai M. Bar-On, member of the Jewish Agency and chief of its Youth Department, Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, spiritual leader of Adas Israel, Washington, D.C., and I.L. Kenen, executive director, American Israel Affairs Committee. Mrs. Schein will address the opening evening session Sunday, August 16. A fashion show designed and executed by students at Hadassah's Alica Seligsberg Comprehensive School for Girls in Jerusalem will be shown on August 17.

Rabbi To Turn Over Royalties Made From Recording To North, South Vietnam Orphans

TORONTO, July 9 (JTA)--Abraham L. Feinberg, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and known as an anti-Vietnam war activist, has produced an album of songs under the label of Vangst Records in New York. The album contains 10 songs including Leonard Cohen's anti-war "Story of Isaac," "Simple Child" by Robbie MacNeill, "Warm Traitor's Breath" by Arthur Gee, "I Shall Be Released" by Bob Dylan and "Bells of St. Pierre" by Michael Stanbury. Rabbi Feinberg will turn his royalties over to the orphans and maimed children of North and South Vietnam. Now 71, Rabbi Feinberg is the son of a Chazan. In the early 1930's he left the rabbinate for several years and was a popular singer ("Anthony Frome") on the NBC network.

Neo-Nazism, Anti-Semitism Attributed To Arab Propaganda In Left, Christian Circles

THE HAGUE, July 9 (JTA)--The dangerous evolution of Neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism throughout the world was the main topic of discussion at the meeting of the International Committee of Experts of the International Resistance and Deportees Association. General Delegate Hubert Halin said the growth in anti-Semitism was due in part to Arab propaganda throughout left and "so-called" progressive circles and among certain Christian circles, and in part to the persecution of Jews by the Soviet Union in Poland. He said there was collusion between ex-Nazis and certain Arabs whose common goal was destruction of Israel. Mr. Halin requested the Belgium government to move to extradite Van Doren, a criminal who was condemned to death in absentia by a Belgium court and fled to Austria. His presence in Austria was discovered by the Experts of the International Resistance and Deportees Association.