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Laird: U.S. Will Do Whatever Is Necessary To Maintain Mideast Military Balance

WASHINGTON, July 21 (JTA)--"The United States will do what it has to do to maintain a military balance of power in the Middle East, but it has no plans to involve Americans directly," Defense Secretary Melvin E. Laird today told a group of young visitors to the Pentagon. He told his visitors that the Soviet buildup of power in support of Egypt created in the Middle East "a far more serious situation for us in the long run than we now face in Southeast Asia." Mr. Laird said the best way to "avoid a confrontation" of the superpowers was to maintain the present military balance. Declining to rule out the possibility that the U.S. might have to send troops into the Middle East if the need arose, Mr. Laird said that the Russians "are moving military manpower, their own manpower, and committing it to that area of the world." He added that "we do not have any plans to involve Americans directly in that confrontation and I would hope that always could be the case. But we are watching the situation very carefully."

Israeli Military Observer Says U.S. Offer Of Crusader Jets Would Probably Be Rejected

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA)--An Israeli Army spokesman refused to comment today on the reported attempt by the United States government to persuade Israel to accept older and inferior F-8 Crusader jets as replacement planes instead of F-4 Phantoms, so as to temper the Arab states' opposition to jet sales. But military observers here said such an offer would probably not be accepted anyway, as Crusaders have only one-third the efficiency of Phantoms. In addition, they said, the Israeli Air Force already has too many different types of aircraft in use, and still another model would complicate problems of maintenance, spare parts and training. The State Department declined comment yesterday on the Crusader reports.

Rep. Goldwater Assails McGovern's Mideast Proposals As Unrealistic, Short-Sighted

WASHINGTON, July 21 (JTA)--Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr. of California, son of the Arizona Republican Senator Barry Goldwater, today attacked Sen. George S. McGovern's Middle East proposals of yesterday as "short-sighted," "unrealistic" and "restrictive." The first-term Republican, who was elected in April, 1969, criticized the South Dakota Democrat's recommended prohibition of Israeli use of American jets for "forays over Arab territory." In his statement, Rep. Goldwater asserted: "Such an unrealistic requirement would reduce Israeli air supremacy in the Suez Canal area, thereby intensifying Egyptian infiltration. Restrictions on the use of Israeli aircraft would increase the possibility of an Egyptian-Soviet-launched invasion across the canal. In short, Sen. McGovern's proposal could tie the hands of the Israeli Air Force in contending with Soviet military assistance in the Middle East, and could escalate the conflict." The proposal, he said, "is short-sighted because it does not consider the total picture. Rep. Goldwater likened Israeli military strength to that of the American-South Vietnamese alliance in the Far East. "We are still heavily involved in Vietnam today," he said, "because some politicians have been able to cripple the execution of essential ground, air and naval action. It would appear that Sen. McGovern, as the author of an amendment restricting United States action in Vietnam, is not content with trying to tie the hands of his own country in dealing with Communist aggression, but is now trying to tie the hands of Israel in dealing with Communist-backed aggression in the Middle East."

The younger Goldwater recently returned from the Mideast, where he was one of only a handful of American politicians permitted to visit secret Israeli Air Force facilities. He also met with Foreign Minister Abba Eban and visited the Golan Heights, Lebanon and other areas. On July 2, the day after President Nixon's televised "conversation," Rep. Goldwater agreed that the Mideast is "truly more potentially dangerous than the Indochina conflict." In April, following a 10-day visit to the Mideast, he stated that American refusal to sell Israel its 125 requested jets would "increase rather than decrease" the crisis. Sen. Goldwater was a co-signer of last month's letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers from 76 Senators urging approval of the jet request. Rep. Goldwater has said that he is basically not "pro-Israeli" or "pro-Arab" but "pro-freedom." In his Senate speech yesterday, Mr. McGovern also suggested a "unilateral" Israeli-allocated "escrow account" for compensation of Palestinian refugees as possibly "the greatest single step toward peace"; Arab governmental responsibility for terrorist aggression from Arab soil; Israeli and Arab acceptance of United Nations forces on their land; and Palestinian participation in peace negotiations if the Arab governments request it.

Egyptian Missiles And Missile Sites Destroyed By Israeli Bombings Have Been Replaced

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA)--All the Egyptian anti-aircraft missiles and missile sites Israel has destroyed in 61 consecutive days of attacks have been replaced, an Israeli staff officer reported today. "The missile situation is unchanged," he said. "By that I mean the deployment, the number of sites and the limits from the canal are unchanged. They are having no problems replacing missiles." On the brighter side, he noted that the Israeli strikes had prevented the construction of additional missile sites, although Yitzhak Rabin, ambassador to the United States and former Chief of Staff, said recently that the Soviet-made Egyptian missiles were as close as two or three miles from the Suez Canal. The government has said the closest ones are 15 miles from the canal. Israel has put the number of Egyptian missile bases at about a dozen SAM-2s and three SAM-3s. (In Cairo an Egyptian military spokesman claimed an Israeli Skyhawk was downed yesterday during an Israeli raid on the southern sector of

the canal. Israel denied the claim. The Cairo spokesman also alleged that the Phantom downed on Saturday, which he said had switched tactics and flown low, had been "intercepted from the very first moment." If true, the claim suggested that the Phantom was shot by an advanced SAM-3, which specializes in hitting low-level aircraft. Israel has no confirmation of reports of Egyptian use of a Soviet-made personal anti-aircraft missile.) In action today, four Israeli soldiers were injured in fire exchanges along the canal while Israeli jets struck Egyptian positions all along the 102-mile waterway, with all planes returning safely. It was reported here that the two months of continual Israeli across-the-canal barrages have succeeded in reducing the number and intensity of Egyptian strikes in the other direction. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan visited today with Rina Hetz, whose husband, Capt. Shmuel Hetz, was reportedly killed Saturday when Egyptian fire destroyed his Phantom while in flight. The Red Cross is still searching for his body. Gen. Dayan also met with Phantom pilots and with the wives of pilots in Egyptian captivity.

The assertion in New York yesterday by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah that terrorist activities from Jordanian territory have increased since the July 7 agreement between the Hussein government and the Palestinian guerrillas was reported here as well. The leeway that Amman has given the guerrillas for their activities has so emboldened them, it was reliably observed here, that they are now attacking Israeli settlements in daylight. Previously, fearing Jordanian Army intervention, they had acted under cover of darkness. Thus the stepup in Israeli strikes, most recently those of Monday, on Jordanian guerrilla bases. A Lebanese Army assertion yesterday that it had pushed back an Israeli unit was followed by an Israeli statement today that the Israeli patrolling of Lebanese border territory continues. There were no Israeli casualties in the attack on the Israeli unit, which apparently did not fire back. Mortar shells from Lebanese soil were fired this morning at Margalioth village in the Upper Galilee, with no casualties reported. Bazooka shells from Syrian territory aimed at an Israeli Army post in the Golan Heights also caused no casualties.

Nixon: U.S. Stressing Peace Initiative Because U.S., USSR Want To Avoid Confrontation

WASHINGTON, July 21 (JTA)--President Nixon took a more moderate position on the Middle East crisis yesterday than he did in his televised "conversation" July 1, when he stressed that the Arabs "want to drive Israel into the sea." The President told a news conference that the United States is "putting such emphasis on our peace initiative" because both the U.S. and the Soviet Union "want to avoid a confrontation every place in the world." The reference to "expelling" Russian personnel from the Mideast made at a background news conference by an administration official since identified as Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, the White House adviser on national security, was "not with the idea of using armed force for that purpose but to negotiate any peaceful settlement," Mr. Nixon said. In that context, the President said, "I support exactly what was said because what we meant to say there was simply this; that in any peace settlement, once a peace settlement is made then there will be no need for the forces of other nations to be in these countries."

As to the administration's general Mideast policy, the Chief Executive contended that "I think my position is quite clear," adding: "I have always said, as I said on July 1, that our interest is peace in the area and the recognition of the sovereignty and independence of every state in the area." Mr. Nixon, asserting that the balance of power in the Mideast "has not yet been upset," explained that "we have not announced any sale of planes or delivery of planes to Israel at this time because we want to give that peace initiative every chance to succeed." Regarding the power balance, Mr. Nixon said, "We are watching it closely" because "the Soviet movement not just of weapons but of men to (Egypt) to man the weapons causes us concern, because if that continues that could upset the balance of power."

Egyptian News Source Describes U.S. Peace Initiative As 'Procedural Project'

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA)--The semi-official but authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahrām today described the American peace initiative for the Middle East as "nothing but a procedural project." The plan, described by Secretary of State William P. Rogers on June 25 as a peace "initiative," is no such thing, Al Ahrām said; rather, it is merely a means of giving United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring "a second and last attempt to implement" the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967. The newspaper confirmed reports that the Rogers plan includes a call for a 90-day cease-fire. Reports from Cairo indicated that the Soviet Union would accept a limited cease-fire if the United States were to convince Israel to terminate, or perhaps even just lessen, her bombings in the Suez Canal area. President Gamal Abdel Nasser, the reports said, is thus seeking Arab unity behind a policy of de-escalation, cease-fire and settlement. The Cairo-based Middle East News Agency has said that there will be no formal Egyptian response to the Rogers proposal until after Egypt confers with the governments of Jordan, Syria and Iraq. The latter two are the most extreme anti-Israel Arabs, as are the Palestinian guerrillas. Reports said a political settlement would probably be agreed to, even if reluctantly, by Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya and the Sudan. Tunisia and Morocco favor such a settlement.

Almogi Plans To Call For One-Year Moratorium On Strikes; Ban On Import Of Luxury Items

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA)--Minister of Labor Yosef Almogi will call for a one-year moratorium on strikes to prevent further deterioration of the nation's labor and economic situation, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. He will also, it was learned, ask for a ban on importation of luxury items, a reduction in profits, and price stability, especially for essential goods to counteract the genuine fear that some employers might try to take economic advantage of a strike moratorium. In such cases, a special committee would have the power to authorize strikes, under the Almogi plan. The Labor Minister is known to oppose the outright prohibition of strikes, which he considers both undemocratic and ineffective. But he will urge Histadrut and the Knesset to endorse his moratorium proposal to bring Israel's style of living more into line with wartime conditions. His aim is to create an atmosphere in which the populace would frown on labor strikes.

No Confirmation That American Pilot, Captured By Egyptians, Manned Phantom Jet For Israel

WASHINGTON, July 21 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Carl E. Bartsch said today he had no information on reports that an American pilot manning a Phantom jet for Israel has been captured by Egypt. He added that he expected Cairo to inform Washington if the report is true. Asked to comment on Egyptian claims that there are 20,000 American military aides in Israel, Mr. Bartsch referred news-men to two administration statements of last winter. On Oct. 17, the State Department asserted that such reports were a "gross distortion" of United States policy, continuing: "These charges are without foundation and we totally reject them...Neither in Israel or anywhere else have such personnel played any operational role in foreign armed forces." On Nov. 11, the State Department stated that it "strongly opposes such involvement by private Americans as contrary to the foreign policy interests of the United States," explaining that "such service can raise serious problems for our government in the conduct of its foreign relations." The Nixon administration has reiterated in recent days that it has no plans to send American troops to the Middle East. Israel has never asked for them, and has said she does not want them. (In New York, a United Nations spokesman said there was as yet no official word on the reported capture of an American pilot by Egypt.)

Meir: Israel Wants No War With Egypt But Can't Permit Egypt To Break Truce

BONN, July 21 (JTA)--In an interview published today in Hamburg in the German magazine "Der Spiegel," Israeli Premier Golda Meir said of the chance of a major Middle East war: "We want no big war. We don't even want war with Egypt. But we are not prepared to allow Egypt to break the truce while we have to keep it." On the possibility of an Israeli-Russian clash along the Suez Canal, Mrs. Meir commented: "We would not have caused the clash. After all, the Russians have no right to be where they are now." But she admitted that both developments could occur, although she said she knew of no Russian-Israeli aerial encounters or Russian casualties to date. Mrs. Meir restated the Israeli position that Israeli pilots cannot stop to determine the nationality of a pilot manning an enemy jet. The Premier criticized the U.S. for not acting more swiftly to check Soviet penetration in the Middle East. The situation now is similar to that of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, she said. She contended that the American peace initiative had some good and some less than good points, but that the Soviet proposal is "no peace plan at all." Concerning reports that Israel has had nuclear capability for more than two years, Mrs. Meir said Israel was not primarily interested in such weapons and voiced the hope that Egypt does not have an atomic bomb.

Gen. Odd Bull Leaving Post; Probe Begun Into Death Of UN Observer In Canal Zone

UNITED NATIONS, July 21 (JTA)--Secretary General U Thant announced today that Gen. Odd Bull will "not renew his contract" to continue as chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) when it expires August 1. According to the statement released by Mr. Thant, Gen. Bull will be succeeded by Maj. Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo of Finland who has been acting chief of staff for the past three months. For some time, Gen. Bull had expressed a desire to return to his native country for personal, family reasons. The Secretary General paid tribute to Gen. Bull for his "distinguished service." Maj. Siilasvuo, who joined UNTSO in October 1967, is a career officer. A UN spokesman also announced that UNTSO has convened a court of inquiry in Jerusalem to investigate the death of Maj. J.E. Bogvad, the Swedish commander of UN observers on the Israeli side of the Suez Canal who was killed last Thursday when Egyptians opened heavy mortar and gun fire at a deserted UN observation post he was visiting on the southern end of the canal.

SPECIAL LATE BULLETIN

James N. Rosenberg, International Civic, Legal, Literary And Peace Leader, Dead At 95

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA)--James N. Rosenberg, a leader in the international, civic, legal, literary and artistic spheres, died today in White Plains Hospital, White Plains, at the age of 95. A private funeral will be held on a date to be set. Mr. Rosenberg, who was born in Monongahela City (now part of Pittsburgh), lived in Scarsdale, N.Y. Mr. Rosenberg had been honorary chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee since 1940 and chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of the National Conference of Christians and Jews since 1946. In 1924, with the support of Felix M. Warburg and Julius Rosenwald, he created the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation (Agro-Joint), which transferred 300,000 Jews from Russian ghettos to the Crimea and materially aided 80,000 non-Jewish peasants. In 1929, Mr. Rosenberg joined with Louis Marshall, Dr. Cyrus Adler and Mr. Warburg and other Zionist and non-Zionist leaders in establishing the Jewish Agency for Palestine at a conference in Zurich. He prepared the resolution, which was unanimously adopted, calling for the safeguarding of the rights of all inhabitants of Palestine while improving Jewish life there. Mr. Rosenberg was president of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, formed after the 1938 conference at Evian, France, to aid escapees from Nazi Germany.

In 1947 Mr. Rosenberg served as president of the United States Committee for a Genocide Convention. An 1898 graduate of Columbia Law School, Mr. Rosenberg was one of the oldest members of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York State Bar Association. Among Mr. Rosenberg's numerous honors were a doctorate in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati (the Reform Seminary), a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Santo Domingo, the honorary chairmanship of the JDC, the honorary chairmanship of the Council of National Art in Jewish Life of the American Jewish Congress and the honorary chairmanship of the Jewish Heritage Foundation. He was a member of the Westchester Reform Temple. He was the author of four books and the co-author of a fifth, and wrote numerous essays. A crusader for world peace, Mr. Rosenberg helped establish World Brotherhood, now the Council on World Tensions, in 1948, and in 1962 founded the Hammarskjöld Forums of the New York City Bar Association. For these and other efforts on behalf of peace, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the State University College at Plattsburgh in 1965. In 1949, while chairman of the NCCJ Human Rights Commission, he called on Secretary of State Dean Acheson to protest the persecution by Hungarian communists of Jozef Cardinal Mindszenty.

Jewish Community Leaders Charge City Ignored Warning That Something Would Happen

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA)--Jewish community leaders in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn today charged the city had ignored their warnings last week that "something was going to happen" unless steps were taken to halt the harassment of Jewish families. "I was tempted to send the Mayor a telegram saying 'I told you so' when I heard of the fire bombing of our headquarters yesterday," Rabbi Sol Eisner, secretary to the board of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Abraham Gelb, acting executive director of Operation Belfrey (Better Living for Residents of Yiddish-Speaking Environments), an anti-poverty agency sponsored by the Community Council, said community leaders had met with Sid Davidoff, an aide to the Mayor and head of the Crown Heights Urban Task Force, last Thursday to complain of the harassment. "The city took the attitude it was all a teenage prank. Wait and see. If anything happens we will investigate," Mr. Gelb said.

Trouble over funding Operation Belfrey has been brewing since last April when Sonny Carson, a black militant from Bedford-Stuyvesant led a sit-in at the offices of the Crown Heights Community Corporation (the parent umbrella organization of the area's anti-poverty organizations) and accused the director, Simon Levine, of granting more funds to "minority" Jewish sponsored programs than to "majority" Negro sponsored programs. Mr. Levine, black and Protestant, said funds were allocated on the basis of the latest (1960) census data. Most of the area's white population are Hassidic Jews. Tension between the black and Jewish community simmered until recently when it was announced that Operation Belfrey was budgeted for \$143,000 for the coming year and one black-directed anti-poverty program, Operation Discovery, was being dropped because of "fiscal irregularities." Mr. Levine began receiving telephone warnings that "the community would retaliate" unless Operation Discovery was refunded. Mr. Gelb said the harassment and recent fire bombings were "outside directed" efforts to render Operation Belfrey inoperative. "It will not succeed." The Community Council's offices were back in operation today with the help of the Mayor's office.

Rabbi Smolar Named Head Of Baltimore Hebrew College; Succeeds Dr. Kaplan

BALTIMORE, July 21 (JTA)--Rabbi Leivy Smolar, a member of the Baltimore Hebrew College faculty, will succeed Dr. Louis L. Kaplan, the noted Jewish scholar, as head of the college, it was announced here by Lester S. Levy, chairman of the board of trustees. Dr. Kaplan, who will have the title President-Emeritus, will leave his post at the end of August. Rabbi Smolar has received degrees from Columbia University, New York University and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, with honors, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. A consultant to the National Program Department of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, he has published numerous works for youth. Mr. Levy also announced that Rabbi Samuel Glassner, also a member of the college faculty, has been appointed dean of adult and teacher education. Raymond Bloom, Assistant Professor of Bible and Rabbinic Literature, has been named dean of the college, responsible for academic studies.

Rabbis Condemn Japan Air Lines For Discrimination Against El Al

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA)--The New York Board of Rabbis, in a letter signed by the Board's Executive Vice-President, Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, called today upon Japan Air Lines to account for delaying the arrangement of a mutual air agreement with Israel's El Al Air Lines, charging that it was thus participating in the Arab League's economic boycott against Israel and capitulating to the League's threats against Israel. Since other major air lines have an agreement both with Israel and Arab states, the rabbis noted that Japan's refusal to deal with El Al amounts to capitulation to "blackmail on the highest international level." Moreover, the Board stated, the policy which Japan Air Lines was pursuing "strengthens the Arab leaders in their war-like preparations against Israel, increases the possibility of prolonged warfare between the Arab states and Israel, and lessens the chances of peace in the Near East, and, ultimately, throughout the world." If Japan Air Line's boycott policy continues, the rabbis said, "it will be our sad but bounden duty to ask our rabbis to notify, from the pulpit, their three million congregants in New York and its environs, and the millions more throughout the country, as well as the hosts of friends of all faiths, that Japan Air Lines is in league with the Arab League, and unworthy of the friendship of peace-loving people."

34 Jewish Leaders To Study Israel's Problems; Will Interpret Them To American Public

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA)--Thirty-four Jewish leaders from communities throughout the United States have left for Israel as participants in a Jewish Leadership Tour and Seminar, it was announced here today by Rabbi Israel Miller, President of the American Zionist Federation, which is the sponsor of the Seminar. The Seminar participants will be provided with an in-depth experience and study in Israel, and an understanding of the place of Israel in the context of today's turbulent Mideast situation. The purpose of the Seminar is to train American Jewish leaders to impart to the American people upon their return a better understanding of Israel, its accomplishments, its problems, and its quest for a permanent peace. The participants of the group will meet with top Israeli personalities and government experts. The program in Israel has been organized with the cooperation of the Organization and Information Department of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem.

Rehavam Amir, Israel Consul General, Visits Youth Camps

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA)--The Israel Consul General in New York, Mr. Rehavam Amir, participated yesterday at a meeting of over 1000 youngsters from Jewish youth camps at Camp Tel Yehuda, the national camp of Young Judea. The Consul General's stay at Tel Yehuda was the last of his visits to the New York area camps during which he met with campers and with the members of the Israel delegation of educators who especially came to serve on more than 60 summer camps. Mr. Amir discussed the last developments in the Middle East with Israeli and American educators and praised their contribution to the strengthened Jewish consciousness.