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Arab Terrorists Seize Airliner; Demand Release Of Seven Terrorists Jailed, On Trial

LONDON, July 22 (JTA)--Six Arab terrorist passengers, armed with hand grenades and machine guns, seized a Greek jet airliner at the Athens Airport when it landed on a flight from Beirut this morning and threatened to blow it up with the passengers and crew members aboard if the Greek government did not release seven Jordanian prisoners who were involved in attacks on El Al airliners in 1968 and 1969. The 53 passengers on the Olympic Airways Boeing 727 were released unharmed several hours later but the terrorists held five crew members and an International Red Cross representative hostages and forced them to fly the airliner to Cairo. An airport official reported that the terrorists said they would await word in Cairo from the Greek government as to its decision on the release of the seven imprisoned terrorists. The seven terrorists, who are being detained in Athens, include two who are awaiting trial on manslaughter charges following the bomb attack on the Athens office of El Al last November in which a two-year-old Greek boy died and fourteen other people were injured. The other five Arabs include two who were sentenced to prison terms in March for an attack on an El Al plane in December 1968 and three others sentenced to light prison terms for trying to carry weapons and explosives aboard a plane in December 1969. The two awaiting trial are due to be tried on Friday.

(In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency it does not regard the hijacking as an Israeli concern, has not had official contacts with Athens on the matter and would not initiate such contacts. Many Israelis have been expecting such an incident for some time, especially in view of the numerous hijackings to Cuba. But the government can do no more than advise other countries on security precautions, convinced that an incident like that in Athens today could not happen with an Israeli airliner. A random poll by the JTA showed that Israelis were concerned about this latest terrorist episode, since the release of the Jordanians could mean a surrender to terrorist blackmail that could snowball into routine policy. The general reaction by those interviewed by the JTA was "If an Arab terrorist knows that even in the case of his capture his fellow terrorists will secure his release before long, the element of risk is removed and he can go on his terror mission with more confidence than a soldier going into battle at the front. Hijackings would grow in frequency to an intolerable extent and make air travel a doubtful proposition unless every airline follows the Israeli example of keeping guards on board every single plane." Not counting today's terror attack against the Greek plane, there have so far been 11 attacks against Israeli or other aircraft on their way to Israel or offices of the El Al Aviation Company, Foreign Minister Abba Eban stated today in the Knesset. Three attempted attacks were foiled. The total number of casualties was 51 dead and 16 injured.)

Kenen Urges Immediate U.S. Military, Economic Aid To Israel; Badeau Opposes Jet Sale

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA)--I. L. Kenen, executive vice chairman of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, told the Near East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee today that immediate United States military and economic aid to Israel was vital--not only for Israel's security but to make it clear to the Arabs and the Soviet Union that the U.S. is firmly behind the Jewish State. Mr. Kenen observed that the U.S. has never offered a military-aid grant to Israel and that its economic-aid grant ended nearly 10 years ago. Meanwhile, he told the legislators, this country has sent billions of dollars in such aid to numerous nations whose security is not nearly as perilous as Israel's. Opposition to jets for Israel was voiced at the hearing by John Badeau, ambassador to Cairo in the Kennedy administration and now a professor at Columbia University. He recommended that the Soviet influence in the Middle East be countered by "new cooperative ventures" between the U.S. and Turkey and Iran.

"Uncritical support of Israel" and "an unchecked flow of arms" to that country would simply lead to corresponding Soviet buildups in Egypt, re-enforcing the Soviet position there, Mr. Badeau asserted. He endorsed U.S. arms for Israel only for the defense of the territory she held prior to the Six-Day War. Contending that the U.S. is virtually unable to eliminate the USSR's Mideast presence, Mr. Badeau described Dr. Henry A. Kissinger's proposal to "expel" them as "the crudest form of diplomatic bluffing." (President Nixon argued Monday that the "expelling" was "not with the idea of using armed force for that purpose but to negotiate any peaceful settlement.") Mr. Badeau criticized the Nixon administration for "torpedoing" the peace efforts of Secretary of State William P. Rogers. The former ambassador also contended that the United Nations could persuade the Palestinians to establish their own state in the West Bank and Northern Jordan if "third world" countries like Yugoslavia, India and Ethiopia were to "stand up and scream" for it.

Doubt Expressed That Libyan Government Will Permit 150 Libyan Jews Early Departure

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)--Samuel L. Haber, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, expressed doubt today about reports that the revolutionary Libyan regime would permit the early departure of 150 Libyan Jews who returned to Libya to claim abandoned property and were "caught" during the coup which deposed King Idris last September. The reports emerged after the regime announced on Tripoli Radio yesterday that it was confiscating the property of the 150 Jews and that of 40,000 Italians. The government said that the Italians would receive neither compensation nor job opportunities but that the Jews would be compensated with government bonds payable over 15 years. The decree made no reference to employment for the 150 Jews. Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, the Libyan

leader, charged that the Italians stole their property from Libyans during the "fascist" occupation of Libya. Substantial Jewish holdings were abandoned when most Libyan Jews migrated to Israel in 1948 when the Jewish State was proclaimed. That property was later seized by King Idris. In June 1967, 4,000 Jews emigrated to Italy, Mr. Haber said. Noting that the 150 Jews had not been able to leave easily, he expressed the hope that they would be allowed to do so.

Soviet Union Will Go To War In Mideast Unless Its Terms Are Accepted, Israelis Warn

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy stated today that the Soviet Union will go to war in the Middle East if there is no imposed settlement on its terms. According to the embassy's "pink sheet" policy background statement on basic Soviet strategy in the Mideast, "the underlying tone of the Soviet posture is this: A settlement must be imposed on Israel, on Moscow-Cairo terms or the Soviet Union, in pursuit of its own self interests, will act directly to heighten the war further through intensified attrition as the prelude to assault." The embassy analysis was based on two recent Soviet statements, one from the Supreme Soviet on July 15 and the other the Soviet-Egyptian joint communique of July 17. "The Soviet-Egyptian pronouncements and the escalating Soviet military presence in the area are one and the same in object," the embassy statement declared. "One cannot treat separately the Soviet physical military posture in Egypt and the Soviet diplomatic posture (as expressed in the July 15 statement and in the July 17 joint communique.)" An Egyptian military victory in the Middle East would mean an extension of Soviet power in the area and in the Mediterranean, the embassy said, while a defeat would mean not only loss of prestige and influence, but a possible settlement of the dispute which would shut the Soviet Union out of the area.

The chance of losing influence in the area is such a real threat to Soviet global strategy that the Russians are willing to risk war, the embassy said. The message to Israel and to the West in the two Soviet statements is: "Either it (Israel) capitulates to the Soviet-Arab dictat and accepts the Soviet-Arab version of the Security Council resolution of Nov. 1967, or there will be an escalatory war and the Soviet Union will directly join in the battle until Israel succumbs." The Soviet-Arab version of peace, the statement continued, leaves the major problems unresolved, is in no measure a final peace plan and does not include recognition of Israeli sovereignty. The embassy statement noted that although the Soviet statements sounded more moderate than previous ones, they referred to peace only abstractly, and then only applied to "the Middle East," not to any of the parties involved. "The omission of the name Israel in this context is a consistent practice, reflective of a basic state of mind," the policy statement observed and added, if the Soviet goal is to be thwarted, "Israel must be enabled to stand firm in common posture with those Western powers anxious for true peace and, thus, the containment of the Soviet expansionist policy."

Israeli Soldier Killed, Four Soldiers And One Civilian Injured In Suez Canal Fighting

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA)--Israel has suffered her first fatality in Suez Canal action in two weeks. Sgt. David Soffer, 21, of Kibbutz Dafna, was killed in fire exchanges today. Four other soldiers and one civilian were reported injured. Israeli jets continued their intermittent attacks on Egyptian canal targets, including infantry positions and anti-aircraft gun emplacements. Israeli spokesmen denied an Egyptian claim that a Skyhawk jet had been "hit," insisting all planes returned safely. The Beisan Valley settlements of Maoz Haim, Yardena and Kfar Ruppin were attacked last night by mortar fire from Jordanian territory. Israeli artillery returned the fire. There were no casualties. Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev and the heads of various branches of General Headquarters visited the Gaza Strip today, touring the town of Gaza and refugee camps. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan piloted a Phantom jet for an hour today, receiving instructions on emergency procedures and landing safely. Gen. Mordechai Hod, the Air Force Commander, piloted another Phantom alongside. Reports from Amman said the Palestinian guerrillas have again accused the Hussein government of failing to carry out its part of their July 7 agreement providing, among other things, for guerrilla freedom-of-action. Concurrently, the El Fatah newspaper indicated that the friction between the Army and the guerrillas is increasing, in the form of "shooting incidents" in Amman.

Hanna Meron, Who Lost Leg In Terror Attack On El Al, Named 'Mother Of The Year'

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA)--Actress Hanna Meron, who lost a leg in a terror attack on an El Al plane at Munich Airport last February, was named yesterday "mother of the year" at a ceremony at the President's residence. The President's wife, Mrs. Rachel Shazar, made the presentation before an audience which included representatives of women's organizations and women members of border settlements. In accepting the award, Mrs. Meron said, "Those of us who live here accept what happens to us and have no desire to change our lot. This is our country, this is where we want to live." Her three children attended the ceremony.

Knesset Resolution Affirms Solidarity With Soviet Jews And Their Right To Emigrate

JERUSALEM, July 22, (JTA)--The desire of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel is in conformity with Soviet law and the International Convention of Human Rights, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee stated yesterday at the conclusion of a debate on the subject. In a resolution, the committee declared: "The Knesset affirms its solidarity with the Jews of Soviet Russia in their struggle to live as Jews and to come to Israel." The resolution asserted that "the anti-Jewish smear campaign waged with the help of all official media of communication is gaining momentum in the Soviet Union and anti-Semitic publications recently published there recall the most venomous vilification ever aimed against the Jewish people." The resolution concluded: "The Jewish people will not be silent until the innocent Jews recently arrested in the Soviet Union shall have been released and every Jew wishing to come to Israel shall be permitted to leave." It also warned that the Soviet campaign was engendering an "atmosphere of hate" that endangers Soviet Jewry and is causing "serious apprehension of a new edition of the show-trials of the Stalinist era."

Administration Studying Egypt's 'Preliminary Report' On U.S. Peace Initiative

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA)--The administration has received "a preliminary report" from Egypt to the United States peace initiative for the Middle East and is "awaiting further reports," State Department spokesman Carl E. Bartsch said today. "The reply and other reports," he said, "will be under study, and I will not be able to comment on them." But he averred that "we know the general nature of the reply," although "I am not sure we have the complete text." Mr. Bartsch said he believed "a written reply" is in the hands of Donald C. Bergus, the U.S. diplomatic representative in Cairo. "At the moment I can't characterize it," Mr. Bartsch said of the reply. "We are discussing the matter with other parties. It is still under discussion." He included Israel, the Soviet Union and Jordan among the "other parties, adding: "I'm sure there are others but I don't have a list here." Pressed on whether any governments other than that of Egypt have responded to the American initiative, Mr. Bartsch said only that "I can't rule out--or in--the possibility of a reply from other countries." He declined comment on whether an informal Israeli reply was delivered here by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. He said there was no date set as yet for another meeting here between Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

(In Cairo, the authoritative semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said the Egyptian reply conformed to Egyptian policy in that it endorsed a settlement based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and the recognition of Palestinian rights. The Egyptian government announced that President Gamal Abdel Nasser will deliver a major speech tomorrow. In Tel Aviv, Israeli sources said an official Israeli reply would not be made until after that speech. Mr. Bergus apparently received the Egyptian response during a 30-minute meeting today with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad. Mr. Riad then briefed Soviet Ambassador Sergei Vinogradov and French Ambassador Francois Puaux. He was expected to see Arab ambassadors tomorrow.)

Mr. Bartsch reported that "preliminary information" has confirmed Egyptian reports that an American-born pilot has been captured by Egypt, but noted that he has been an Israeli citizen since 1961. Washington has no jurisdiction over the activities of private Americans overseas, although it "strongly opposes" their participation in the military activities of other nations. As to Egyptian charges that there are 20,000 American personnel aiding Israel, Mr. Bartsch cited registration figures and estimates by the American Embassy in Tel Aviv and the American Consulate in Jerusalem to the effect that "this figure (20,000) approximates the total number of Americans, including men, women and children of all ages, in Israel and the occupied territories, which includes a substantial number of Americans of Arab extraction living in the occupied territories." The spokesman added that "The number of persons of military age may be smaller" and that "There may be some persons of dual citizenship serving in the Israeli Armed Forces."

Eban: Egypt Has Not Yet Responded To Israel's Suggestion For Informal Peace Talks

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Knesset today that Cairo has not yet reacted to Israel's July 13 proposal for representatives of the two countries to meet informally to lay the groundwork for negotiations. Regarding the stalled peace mission of special United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, Mr. Eban said Israel "has not taken any initiative for its resumption, since it is clear that in view of the talks between the great powers, this would have no chance." But, he added, "As in the past, we shall be ready to cooperate with Dr. Jarring on the basis of his original mandate, which obliges him to promote an agreement between the states of the region for the establishment of a just and lasting peace." Mr. Eban emphatically denied a press report of six weeks ago that Israel had offered the Soviet Union a "deal" to reopen the Suez Canal in return for a cease-fire. "There is not, nor was there, any discussion on such a deal," he stated. He added that Israel expects that the canal will be reopened for international use "within the framework of a lasting peace." Mr. Eban also denied a report that Israel has leased an Ethiopian island in the Red Sea for use as a military base. "I cannot rid myself of the feeling," he said, "that those who are behind the spreading of these lies intend to camouflage the penetration of a great power (the Soviet Union) which has an interest in becoming the dominant factor in this region by establishing bases in African states lying along the Red Sea coast." Those states are Egypt, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia.

Text Of U.S. Mideast Peace Plan, Given To Egypt Before Public Announcement, Released

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA)--The State Department released today the text of the United States' Middle East peace initiative presented privately to Egypt on June 19 and disclosed in general terms by Secretary of State William P. Rogers on June 25. The proposal begins with a recommendation for mutual Arab-Israeli "restoration of the cease-fire for at least a limited period"--"effective July 1 until at least October 1." Mr. Rogers also urged the combatants to agree to mediation by United Nations envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring and to a willingness to carry out Resolution 242 (of Nov. 22, 1967) in all its points, "for the purpose of reaching "a just and lasting peace" based on mutual recognition of sovereignty and "Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 conflict." Resolution 242 pointedly did not refer to "all territories occupied." Mr. Rogers' introduction to his message to Egypt read, in part:

"I agree that the situation is at a critical point, and I think it is in our joint interest that the U.S. retain and strengthen friendly ties with all the peoples and states of the area. We hope this will prove possible and are prepared to do our part. We look to others concerned, and in particular to your government, which has so important a role to play, to move with us to seize this opportunity. If it is lost, we shall all suffer the consequences, and we would regret such an outcome very much indeed...We have counseled all the parties on the need for compromise and on the need to create an atmosphere in which peace is possible...I understand the problems that direct negotiations pose for you, and we have made it clear from the beginning that we were not proposing such an arrangement...at the onset..."

AJCongress Urges Lindsay To Probe 'Conspiracy' To Drive Jews Out Of Crown Heights

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today called upon Mayor John V. Lindsay to investigate reports that "a small number of extremists are allegedly engaged in a conspiracy to drive Jews out of the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. In a letter to the Mayor, Theodore H. Kolish, executive board chairman of the Congress' Metropolitan Council, said the Council was "shocked and alarmed at the firebombing of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council." He said most residents of the integrated area believed they could "live together harmoniously...except for the machinations of a small number of extremists." He asked the Mayor to "give the highest priority to an investigation of this charge so that it is either disproved, or if found to be true, that criminal charges may be brought against the conspirators." Expressing confidence that the police department would investigate the firebombing incident and apprehend the perpetrators, Mr. Kolish told the Mayor, however, that "This is not enough." He wrote: "We know that you are deeply concerned by this incident, and that you intend to give this matter your personal attention. We offer you our full cooperation in the investigation we urge. There are sufficient grounds, in our view, so that an investigation of conspiracy in the bombing must be undertaken without delay, and we respectfully await your reply."

Southern Town With Less Than 100 Jews To Establish Memorial For Nazi Holocaust Victims

FLORENCE, Ala., July 22 (JTA)--An etched glass memorial to the six million Jews killed during the Nazi holocaust will soon be erected in this small community in the northwest corner of the state which has less than 100 Jews of a total population of some 24,000. Abner Smiles of Pascagoula, Mississippi, a sculptor and engraver, has been commissioned to create this memorial by Rabbi J.S. Galling of Temple B'nai Israel, known also as the Tri-Cities Congregation, and by Mrs. Morris Klibanoff who is the patron and sponsor of this art memorial. Mr. Smiles' artistic style has been influenced by a number of internationally famed sculptors including the famous Jewish sculptor Chaim Gross.

Psychologist Accuses Russia Of Seeking To Erase Jewish Religious, Cultural Identity

CLEVELAND, O., July 22 (JTA)--Russia was accused of seeking "to blot out Jewish life" in a deliberate attempt to crush those who want to maintain their religious and cultural identity. The accusation was made by Dr. Herbert S. Caron, a Case Western Reserve University psychologist, one of 15 "witnesses" who testified against the Soviets in the public trial sponsored by the American Nationalities Movement of Greater Cleveland which commemorated Captive Nations Week in St. John College Auditorium several days ago. The accusers, representing Iron Curtain captive nations, also included Dr. Caron, assigned by the Jewish Council of Concern for Anti-Semitism, who charged "Russia's three million Jews are prohibited from leaving the Communist country and subjected to untold kinds of repression and prejudice." He called attention to the fact that Jewish educational institutions are being systematically eliminated and that "references to Jews are being blotted out of official Soviet history, even though Jews have made significant contributions to Soviet progress." Dr. Caron accused Russia of denying immigration rights to Jews; of defaming Jewish citizens; of denying the right to perpetuate Jewish culture and attempting to destroy religion by holding synagogues illegal and immoral. Nicholas A. Bucur, attorney and program chairman, had invited Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to Washington, to attend the hearings before a panel of judges. The ambassador did not appear and an empty chair was designated for the USSR.

Religious Students' Rights Protected At City University

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)--At the request of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), the Board of Higher Education of the City of New York has sent a memorandum to the Presidents and Registrars of the sixteen city colleges which comprise the City University of New York reminding them of their obligation to make special arrangements for religious Jewish students who are unable to attend Friday night and Saturday classes. COLPA contacted the Board of Higher Education when it learned that because of the Open Admissions Policy that is to go into effect starting the coming September, many of the colleges would be holding regular classes on Friday night and Saturday. Under a state law supported by COLPA and adopted in 1966, religious students who could not attend classes Friday night and Saturday must be offered parallel educational opportunities at other times during the college week. Julius Berman, President of COLPA, praised Chancellor Albert Bowker of the City University for his cooperation on this matter of great importance to the religious Jewish community.

Dr. Wexler: Force Of World Opinion Can Prevent Further Soviet Crackdown On Jewish Citizens

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA)--Only the force of world opinion can prevent further escalation of the Soviet Union's "already severe crackdown on its Jewish citizens," Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith said here at a meeting of the organization's administrative committee. He said "profound concern" had been created by the coordination of recent raids on 50 Jewish homes in several Soviet cities after a purported hijack attempt of a plane at Leningrad airport, a news blackout following the arrest of 18 Jews in that incident and the vilification of Israel by Russian Jews, under government pressure, in language "straight from the official propaganda mill." A concerned world must prevent political prosecution of the innocent and "work to secure justice for persons jailed under questionable circumstances" in Russia, Dr. Wexler said.

Mexican-Jewish Teen-Agers To Visit New York, Cities In 14 Other States

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)--Fifty Mexican-Jewish teen-agers will visit with Mayor John V. Lindsay at City Hall next Monday at the start of a three-day tour of New York City. The student group, under the auspices of the Camp-on Wheels of the Beth Israel Community Center of Mexico City, is on a month-long trip through the U.S., covering major cities in 14 states. Their itinerary includes places of historic Jewish interest as well as popular tourist sites.