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Coalition Government On Verge Of Breakup; Gahal Decides To Resign If U.S. Plan Accepted

TEL AVIV, July 30 (JTA)--The national unity government neared an end last night after 38 months' duration as the Gahal Knesset faction decided after a six-and-a-half-hour session to quit the government if the cabinet were to approve the United States peace plan tonight. The rightist Gahal faction, which holds six of the 24 cabinet Ministries and opposes concessions on occupied Arab territories, said a cabinet approval of the U.S. initiative, which calls for withdrawal from controlled areas, would automatically lead to their break from the coalition. The Labor Alignment leaders--including Premier Golda Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan--favor acceptance of the U.S. initiative, despite doubts about its efficacy. The Meir government controls 18 of the 24 cabinet seats, but Mrs. Meir has urgently pressed for unanimity.

The Gahal Knesset faction voted 14-9 for a walkout. The majority was comprised of the Herut section of Gahal and one Liberal, Zvi Zimerman of Haifa. Two Herut members--Ezer Weizman, Minister of Transportation and Communications, and Moshe Binyamin Nissim, a Liberal MK--abstained. Mr. Weizman and Liberal Aryeh L. Dultzin, Minister-Without-Portfolio, are not MKs. Two Liberal MKs, Yosef Serlin and Avraham Katz, were out of the country. Gahal also rejected a proposal by Pinhas Sapir, Laborite Minister of Finance, to remain in the cabinet while opposing the U.S. plan. The Gahal Center (Executive) was to ratify the Knesset faction's decision later tonight or tomorrow morning. Premier Meir, expressing regret over the decision, said she hoped the Gahal Center would not endorse it. The government convened here this evening with the Gahal decision already known. Menachem Beigin, the 56-year-old co-founder and leader of Herut, said his opposition to the U.S. initiative was not exaggerated. He said acceptance of it by Israel would be "a catastrophe." Prior to the Gahal vote, sources close to the faction had warned that "only a miracle could save the coalition, formed under fire on June 5, 1967, the day the Six-Day War erupted.

NRP In State Of Storm; Ehan Says U.S. Initiative Emphasizes Negotiation

Gahal Ministers themselves had said earlier in the evening that optimism over the continuation of the coalition was unfounded. Two-and-a-quarter hours of pleas by four Labor Ministers yesterday failed to budge Gahal, which also ignored Mrs. Meir's unprecedented concession offer--the right to abstain on the vote by the entire Knesset in return for its promise not to bolt the cabinet and not to oppose the government on any vote of confidence. One informed source said that a Herut-Liberal split is not expected. He noted that Minister Dultzin has said, "We went in together and we shall go out together." But another high-level informant said a Gahal walkout would very likely lead to intra-factional ferment and eventually to a split. Meanwhile, the National Religious Party, which holds three cabinet seats and 12 Knesset seats (one of each vacated by the death of Interior Minister Haim Moshe Shapiro), was in a state of storm. A number of NRP factions demanded that the party's Ministers--Yosef Burg, Social Welfare, and Zerach Warhaftig, Religious Affairs--adopt a position closer to that of Gahal. The Independent Liberals, who hold four Knesset seats and have urged Gahal not to precipitate a cabinet crisis, had an urgent meeting scheduled for tonight. Agudat Israel, also with four Knesset seats, has been urging Gahal not to make the break.

The Labor Alignment's Knesset faction, which also met today, empowered the Alignment--composed of Premier Meir and 12 Ministers, with one Ministry vacant--to vote in accordance with the Labor platform, governmental statements and the government's responsibility for Israel's security, well-being and peace. The Knesset group praised the government for its efforts to persuade Gahal not to split the coalition with the understanding that its continued participation would not impair the government's peace-seeking activities. Foreign Minister Abba Eban contended that the U.S. initiative emphasizes negotiation rather than withdrawal. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today that a temporary cease-fire, if accepted, would not take effect immediately but only after all necessary steps have been taken to prevent military buildups during the proposed three-month-or more shooting halt. State Department officials, it was understood, have emphasized that to Israeli representatives in Washington. Concurrently, the expansionist "Greater Israel" movement has initiated a campaign to arouse public opinion against the U.S. proposals, warning that a temporary cease-fire is a danger to Israel's security.

71 Senators Sign Letter To Nixon Urging U.S. Mideast Peace Efforts Be Pursued With Vigor

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA)--Seventy-one of the Senate's 100 members have signed a letter to President Nixon advising him that "peace efforts by the United States should be pursued with all possible vigor, so that the integrity of every country in the (Middle East) area within mutually recognized and secure borders may be realized." The "increasingly overt intervention of the Soviet Union on behalf of the United Arab Republic" and other "events," the Senators wrote, "place the situation in a more grave and even broader context than before." The reference was to June 1, when 71 Senators addressed a letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers urging the immediate sale of 125 Phantom and Skyhawk jets to Israel, as requested by her. Two other Senators later signed that letter and three others sent their own messages, for a total of 76. Four Democrats who did not sign the first letter endorsed today's plea to the President. They are Sam J. Ervin Jr. and B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina; Ernest P. Hollings of South Carolina and Frank Church of Idaho. Senator Albert Gore, who signed the letter to Mr. Rogers, did not sign the one to Mr. Nixon. Today's letter, like the one to Mr.

Rogers, was bipartisan and was signed by both those considered "hawks" and those considered "doves" on Vietnam. They included Jacob J. Javits and Charles E. Goodell of New York, Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts, John G. Tower and Ralph Yarborough of Texas, Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, George S. McGovern of South Dakota, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, Stuart Symington of Missouri, Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, George Murphy of California, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, Hale Boggs of Louisiana, Fred R. Harris of Oklahoma and Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota.

The 71 Senators stated that "strategic interests of the United States and its allies are being challenged" by the Soviets' Mideast buildup. "Under these circumstances," they continued, "we believe that your television statements on July 1 were important expressions of United States policy intentions with respect to the Middle East--which we support." President Nixon said then that the Mideast situation was "more dangerous" than that in Vietnam and that the U.S. will "do what is necessary to maintain Israel's strength" sufficiently to "deter its neighbors from attacking." The Senators added: "We believe the Soviet Union could be deterred from bringing about...a confrontation as the result of a clearly expressed policy on the part of the United States to protect and defend its interests in the Middle East and Southern Europe. You may be assured of our support to this end."

Split Develops In Guerrilla Movement; Moderates Seen Gaining Ground; General Strike Called

TEL AVIV, July 30 (JTA)--A split developed today in the Arab guerrilla movement as the Action Organization for the Liberation of Palestine and the Arab Palestine Organization, two of the smaller guerrilla groups, issued a joint statement in Amman declaring support with Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser's acceptance of the United States' Middle East peace plan. Meanwhile, in the second mass demonstration by Arabs since Egypt's acceptance of the U.S. plan last Thursday, thousands of Arabs marched through the Iraqi capital of Baghdad late yesterday demanding war with Israel. Demonstrators estimated as high as 15,000 marched in Amman on Monday to protest Jordan's acceptance of the plan. But there is growing belief in Arab capitals that the more moderate elements of the Palestinian struggle, led by El Fatah, may yet prevail. Those elements are said to be willing to settle for a Palestinian federation covering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, thus permitting not only Palestinian independence but that of Israel and Jordan. The Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization called a two-hour general strike for today in Amman in protest against the U.S. initiative and Arab acceptance of it. The declaration yesterday by Baghdad Radio that the 10,000-12,000 Iraqi troops in Jordan and Syria "are at the disposal of the Palestinian commandos" was dismissed today by Israeli sources as "of little significance," as those troops are already involved in aiding the guerrillas. Israeli officials however, declined comment.

Farouk Kadoumy, an official of El Fatah and of the Central Committee, arrived in Cairo yesterday to confer with President Gamal Abdel Nasser's special representative, Mohammed Hassanein Heykal, National Guidance Minister and editor of Al Ahram. Their meeting was said to be one of urgency. Al Ahram, the authoritative semi-official newspaper, promised the guerrillas again yesterday that they would not be included in an Arab-Israeli cease-fire arrangement. Israel and the United States are insisting that they be included. Al Ahram admonished the guerrillas that they would defeat their cause if they continued their "irresponsible emotional outbursts" against the peace efforts. The two Palestinian radio stations closed by the Cairo government have taken their microphones to Jordan and Syria. El Fatah's "Voice of Assifa" ("the hurricane") has relocated in Amman. The Palestinian Liberation Organization's "Voice of Palestine" is believed to be setting up shop in Syria. The Yemen Arab Republic has given its support to the acceptance of the U.S. plan by Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon and Kuwait. Sudan has also begun crackdowns on the guerrilla broadcasts critical of the acceptance. In Beirut, the Libyan Foreign Minister, Saleh Bousseir, said after a visit to Cairo that "there is understanding between us and President Nasser and with all the Arab leaders on this issue and every other issue." In Damascus, Minister of the Interior Muhammad Tawil said the Syrian position on the U.S. plan would not adversely affect her relations with Egypt. Syria has denounced the proposals, which were not addressed to her as she has rejected Security Council Resolution 242.

Former ARAMCO Chairman Says U.S. Imposed Peace May Be Only Answer To Mideast Crisis

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA)--The former chairman of the Arabian-American Oil Co. told the House Foreign Affairs Committee today that a U.S. imposed settlement might be the only answer to the Mideast crisis. Robert I. Brougham, who retired as chairman of the board of Aramco three months ago, said in testimony before the Near East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee: "Left to their own, the parties to the dispute will dissipate the chance for peace by pursuing the unrealistic and elusive targets of 'direct negotiations' and 'complete evacuation before agreement of other issues.'" Mr. Brougham and Harold B. Scott, director of the U.S. Bureau of International Commerce, were the last two witnesses in the Subcommittee's two-week round of hearings. Mr. Brougham warned that the pro-Israeli politics of the U.S. are hurting not only American business interests, but chances of peace. He said that Israeli intransigence and U.S. military support of Israel have pushed the Arabs further into the Soviet camp.

"It is ironic," Mr. Brougham asserted, "that both Israel and the Soviet Union seem to have been diligently pursuing the same goal; that is, the polarization of the area into an Arab world that is completely dependent on the Soviet Union for protection, on one side, and an Israel that is fully identified with the U.S. on the other side." Mr. Brougham said that peace becomes less likely every day, because the Arabs are growing stronger with time and Soviet military aid. Mr. Scott outlined the present U.S.-Middle East business situation, and the Commerce Department's program there. He said the situation could be helped greatly by peace. Mr. Brougham said that although the Palestinians insist they will accept no settlement short of reestablishment of their country, a settlement between the Arab States and Israel, which considers Palestinian interests, can be imposed on the refugees.

Four Egyptian Soviet-Built MIG21's Downed By Israeli Jets; Crash On Egyptian Territory

TEL AVIV, July 30 (JTA)--Israeli jets today shot down four Egyptian Soviet-built MIG 21's in an air battle over the Suez Canal as the MIG's rose to challenge the fighter-bombers which were carrying out strikes in the canal area for the 70th consecutive day. A military spokesman announced that the planes crashed on the western side of the Canal in Egyptian territory. This was the second air battle this week. On Monday, Israel announced its jets had shot down two Soviet-built MIG 17's. Israel now claims to have shot down 140 enemy planes since the end of the Six-Day War--28 Syrian and 112 Egyptian. It admits the loss of 25 planes during this period. Military spokesmen again denied any knowledge of a Soviet-Israeli air clash over the Suez Canal on Saturday. The air battle was first reported in a London newspaper earlier this week and claimed an Israeli Skyhawk blew up in midair. Today's report from United Press International, quoting "sources," says there were no losses on either side. The Egyptians opened heavy mortar and artillery fire against Israeli positions along the Canal last night and this morning. The fire was returned. Two soldiers were wounded. Twice last night Israeli jets were called on to silence the Egyptian guns. All planes returned safely.

Some Israeli sources believe the increased Egyptian activity, which followed President Nasser's acceptance of the American peace plan, is designed to prove to the terrorist organizations that nothing has actually happened and that Egypt will continue to wage the war against Israel. Saboteurs from Lebanon planted explosives under a house in Kibbutz Yiftah in the Upper Galilee early this morning. The explosion caused no injuries but three boys, asleep in the house when the explosion took place, were tossed from their beds. An investigation is under way. Mortar shells were fired at Misgav Am and Kfar Giladi from Lebanon last night. There were no injuries or damage. An Israeli patrol was attacked last night between Jenin and Karbatiyeh in the Upper Samaria District. The guerrillas fled when the fire was returned leaving behind Bren machinegun ammunition. There were no casualties. An Arab saboteur was killed near Damiyah Bridge last night. Thirty Arabs, who were being held on charges of aiding terrorist organizations and activities, were returned today to Jordan.

Crossman Warns Israel Cannot Survive Another Decade Of Jewish Military Domination

LONDON, July 30 (JTA)--Richard Crossman, Minister of Social Services in the Wilson government and now editor-in-chief of the weekly New Statesman, has warned Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and the Israeli government that Israel cannot survive a "decade of Jewish military domination." It is the "simple fact" that "within a day Israeli forces can be in Amman, in Beirut, in Damascus" that has "driven the Arabs to seek Russian assistance and compelled the rulers of the Kremlin to intervene on their side more extensively and dangerously than they wished, because intervention breeds counter-intervention," Mr. Crossman declared. He made his comments in a front-page open letter that marked, he said, the first time in six years "that I can write to you freely" without having to consider "hostile Arab reactions." Mr. Crossman, 63, was Minister of Housing and Local Government prior to his Social Services post, and was assistant editor of the New Statesman & Nation from 1943 to 1955. "Not once," he noted, "could we confide in each other as we used to do in the terrible, exhilarating years when the issue hung in the balance whether the great powers would allow the Jewish nation to be reborn in Palestine or stifle it at birth." Israel's "military ascendancy" is "a wasting asset," Mr. Crossman contended, "just as the territories you have occupied become heavier liabilities the longer you hold them."

Continuing, Mr. Crossman stated: "I know you did not want this military ascendancy. I know that your occupation of the West Bank was unpremeditated, that you recognize that the Suez Canal is not your natural frontier. I also know that any peace initiative you now take involves military risk. But in a year's time the risk will be even greater and you will be even more reluctant to take it." At that time, he added "the vision of Arab-Jewish accord which was so fervent in 1948 and which has grown so dim today will grow dimmer still." Mr. Crossman charged that Israel "feels compelled by military necessity" to maintain settlements in Hebron, "an area which could not possibly remain Israeli in any peaceful solution," even though the occupation of the West Bank grows "more oppressive the longer it lasts." Stressing his support of the United States peace proposals, Mr. Crossman referred to military-minded Israeli leaders in criticizing Mr. Eban's "failure to persuade those soldiers to see that the greatest military risk they face is not the dangers of the peace initiative but certain consequences of continuing without one." Referring to Israeli youth, he remarked that the young people "have not forgotten the other half of the Zionist vision," the role "of Israel in the Mideast renaissance." Mr. Crossman added, "there will always be a powerful minority in Israel" that will prefer "a peace initiative which involves some military risk" to "a policy completely dominated by military considerations." Mr. Crossman concluded by stressing to Mr. Eban that "I only hope and pray that you will not disregard the growing dismay of that minority until the doorway to peace, forced open by your military strength, is irrevocably closed. The Arabs can survive a decade of Jewish military domination. The Israel you and I believe in can't."

Czech Press, Radio Launch Anti-Semitic Attacks; Raises Fears Of New 'Show Trials'

PARIS, July 30 (JTA)--Anti-Semitic attacks by the Czech radio and press have raised fears of new "show trials." Both Radio Prague and the Communist newspaper Bratislava Pravda have launched virulent anti-Semitic attacks on so-called "Jewish intellectuals who have poisoned the political and cultural life of Czechoslovakia." The two attacks are based on a recent book "Zionism and Anti-Semitism" by Frantisek J. Kolar. Both media said that longer extracts of that book will be published next week. Bratislava Pravda criticized the Jewish intellectuals, who in spite of their nationalism and hidden Zionism have managed to hold important posts in the Czech nation's cultural life. "It is due to these Jewish intellectuals that Zionism has made its influence known in Czech and Slovak literature and that Jews have started occupying important positions wholly out of proportion to their true numbers," Pravda wrote.

PEARL Sues Rockefeller, Lavitt In U.S. Court To Bar State Funds For Parochial Schools

NEW YORK, July 30 (JTA)--The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) and 13 individual plaintiffs today filed suit against Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, State Comptroller Arthur Levitt and State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist to prohibit the expenditure of public funds on parochial schools. At issue in the key test case is the constitutionality of Chapter 138 of the Laws of 1970, signed into law by the Governor on April 18 and went into effect July 1, which appropriations \$28 million of state funds to be paid to non-public schools for record-keeping purposes. The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, seeks "a temporary and permanent injunction against the allocation and use of the funds of the State of New York to finance the operations of schools controlled by religious organizations and organized for and engaged in the practice, propagation and teaching of religion." Further, the suit asks the Federal court to declare such use of public funds "violative of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Federal Constitution and of Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of New York." In the complaint filed today, Leo Pfeffer, special counsel of the American Jewish Congress and attorney for all the plaintiffs, declared that each of the defendants had construed the act as applicable to parochial schools and, "unless enjoined by this court, will approve the payment and make payment to such schools in violation of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York."

The suit contends that the new law "on its face" violates the First Amendment by: giving rise to an "excessive governmental involvement in and entanglement with religion" by financing and subsidizing schools which are owned and controlled by religious bodies; prohibits religious freedom because it constitutes "compulsory taxation for the support of religion or religious schools"; and violates the State Constitution by using public money to aid or maintain schools "wholly or in part under the control or direction of religious denominations." At a news conference in Stephen Wise Congress House Mr. Pfeffer called the new law "a device by which those who support public funding for parochial schools seek to circumvent both the U.S. Constitution and New York's." Among the individual plaintiffs were: Albert Shanker, president of the United Federation of Teachers; Aryeh Neier, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union; Howard M. Squadron, co-chairman of the Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress; Edward D. Moldover, president of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee; Naomi Cowan, chairman of Onondagans for PEARL; Benjamin Halblum, past president of B'nai B'rith District One; Rebecca Goldblum, president of the National Women's Conference of the American Ethical Union; Herschel Chanan, member of the administrative committee of the Jewish Labor Committee, and Bernard Backer, president of the Workmen's Circle.

First Residential Preparatory High School Under Jewish Auspices To Open In September

BRANDEIS, Calif., July 30 (JTA)--The first quality residential preparatory high school under Jewish auspices in the United States will be opened here in September, 1971 with a freshman class of 75 students, according to an announcement by the sponsoring Brandeis Institute. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the first building of the non-sectarian school will be held on Aug. 16, the announcement said. The ceremonies will be addressed by Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg of Englewood, N.J., who said that the high school, which will have Jewish studies as the core of its humanities courses, would seek to "integrate Jewish texts and history into the western intellectual tradition, make Jewish experience and more teaching central to the formation of the character of the students and turn out graduates who will live by the classic virtues in very contemporary ways." Officials said that an intensive campaign to raise \$1 million was underway for faculty, personnel, maintenance and general operation of the first stage of the institution. The first building, called the Judaica Building, has been designed to accommodate groups ranging from a worship group of 10 persons to an assembly of 500, they added. Dr. Shlomo Bardin, founder and director of the Brandeis Institute, said the major idea of the new high school would be to determine whether the ethical values of Judaism could be transmitted "via education so that they will affect the conduct and behavior of man." He added that the college preparatory high school would be "open to all--Jew and non-Jew, black and white, rich and poor." Scholarships will be available for students unable to pay tuition fees.

More Jewish Youth Now Retained In 'Orthodox Fold' In U.S. Than In Previous Generations

LONDON, July 30 (JTA)--In the United States, three out of every five younger Jews are retained in "the orthodox fold" when they reach high school and college as against one out of five in previous generations, it was revealed today by the Chief Rabbi's office in a report on last week's Anglo-American Rabbinical Conference. The report stressed the importance of working with "uncommitted" sections of the community and urged greater "personal contact" with younger people on the high school and university level. Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits called for a statistical survey to indicate the effects of intensive Jewish education on social stability in terms of rates of divorce, illegitimacy, delinquency and drug addiction. The American delegates stressed the importance of fostering the establishment of international rabbinic organizations so that under rabbinical leadership the Jewish people's destinies could be restored. The delegates decided to maintain contacts and hold further conference. The Americans invited their British counterparts to hold the next conference in the U.S.

B'nai B'rith Youth Commission Urges Emergency Conference On Jewish Youth

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA)--A national emergency conference on Jewish youth that would involve leaders of Jewish communities throughout North America has been proposed by the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission, policy making body of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. The Commission asked the Supreme Lodge of B'nai B'rith to consider calling together such a meeting as part of a massive effort to counteract "growing alienation from Jewish values and the consequent increase of anti-Israel influence among youth."