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Gahal Continues To Hold Stormy Meeting To Decide Whether It Will Remain In The Cabinet

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Suspense mounted in Israel tonight as the Knesset prepared for tomorrow's debate on the government's acceptance of the latest U.S. proposals for a Mideast settlement. Meanwhile national attention was riveted on the meeting of the Gahal faction's two executive committees to decide whether Israel's second largest political party will leave the coalition government in protest against acceptance of the American plan. The Gahal meeting, obviously a stormy one, began at 5 p.m. local time. All indications were that it would last into the early hours of tomorrow morning before a decision is reached. Premier Golda Meir will address the Knesset tomorrow afternoon. She is expected to defend her government's position in accepting Secretary of State William P. Rogers' proposed 90-day cease-fire and negotiations through United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. Mrs. Meir's special cabinet committee drafting Israel's official reply to the U.S. will hold its second and probably final meeting tomorrow. The text is expected to be ready for final approval by the full cabinet in time for Mrs. Meir's Knesset speech. Additional clarifications requested from Washington have reportedly been received. But the final text of Israel's reply is considered likely to be influenced by whether or not Gahal remains in the government.

A motion of no confidence in the government has been filed by Shmuel Tamir of the small, right-wing Free Center faction and according to Knesset procedure it will be the first order of business at tomorrow's session. It is virtually certain to be defeated. But the motion and its rebuttal, by Mrs. Meir, or some other Cabinet minister, will have to contain some elements of the Prime Minister's political statement which could thereby be rendered anti-climactic before it is delivered. Political observers said the debate over Mrs. Meir's speech promised to be prolonged and with parliamentary maneuvering by opposing factions, the crucial vote could be delayed by as much as two days. Three left-wing factions which have perennially voted against the government on almost all issues announced today that they had reversed their normal position and will vote in favor of acceptance of the U.S. plan. The factions are the pro-Moscow Rakah Communists, the anti-Moscow and pro-Israel Maki Communists, and the New Left Haolam Hazeh. The Agudat Israel said it will abstain. The Poale Agudat Israel is still debating what position to take. Gahal is bitterly opposed to the Rogers plan but is split over whether to bolt the cabinet once the plan is officially accepted by the government. Gahal's Herut wing, headed by Menachem Beigin, is adamantly opposed to remaining in the coalition under those circumstances. The Liberal wing, headed by Joseph Sapir, wants to stay in the government for the sake of national unity.

NRP, Gahal's Youth Section, Liberal Party Leaders Pressure Beigin For National Unity

Tonight's meeting brought together the 117-member executive committees of each wing of Gahal. Because of the serious nature of the issue, each committee enlarged its membership by appointing an ad hoc executive council. As a result, some 400 Gahal party leaders are attending. Efforts continued well past midnight last night to persuade Mr. Beigin to stay in the cabinet. The strongest appeals to him were made by his colleagues of the National Religious Party. While Mr. Beigin is not personally observant by Orthodox standards, he has generally supported the Orthodox bloc on religious issues. Additional pressure was brought to bear by Gahal's youth wing which said it would demonstrate in favor of coalition unity while the party's executive committees met. So far however there was no indication that the militant right-wing leader might yield. Addressing the opening ceremonies at the Jabotinsky Museum and Institute in Tel Aviv, named for the late Zionist Revisionist leader, Mr. Beigin called for the establishment of a movement to fight against Israeli withdrawal from any of the Arab territories occupied in the June, 1967 war. He suggested that the movement be headed by the aged labor leader, Itzhak Tabenkin who was a personal friend of Jabotinsky.

Liberal leaders, Mr. Sapir and Leon Doltzin among them, openly favor remaining in the coalition. However they appear loath to break up Gahal which emerged from last year's Knesset elections as Israel's second largest party. They have said, "We entered the government together and we shall leave it--if it is so decided--together." The alternative to leaving the government would be acceptance of a compromise proposal by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir of the Labor Party that would allow Gahal to vote in the Knesset against acceptance of the U.S. peace initiative without breaching coalition discipline. Shimon Peres, a Minister-Without-Portfolio representing the Labor Party urged Gahal today to base its decision on the government's deeds, not on "assumptions and conceptions which were long ago shattered." Mr. Peres spoke on his departure on a visit to Latin America and the U.S.

Egypt, Soviet Union Dig In Against Opposition Of Arab States To U.S. Peace Plan

LONDON, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Egypt and the Soviet Union appeared determined today not to allow new diplomatic efforts for a negotiated Middle East settlement to founder on the intransigence of some Arab states. The Iraqi government's hard line opposition to Egypt's and Jordan's acceptance of the latest United States peace initiative was sharply criticized by President Gamal Abdel Nasser in a message to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, of Iraq. Iraq has also been criticized in the Soviet press. The message was given by President Nasser to the Iraqi Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Gen. Anwar al-Hadithi, who visited Cairo two days ago. It heaped scorn on the Iraqi regime for indulging in street demonstrations while Egypt bore the brunt of armed struggle with Israel. The text of the

message was published yesterday by Egypt's official Middle East News Agency. In it the Egyptian leader told his Iraqi counterpart that the energy used in sloganeering in the streets of Baghdad and in denouncing Egypt's diplomatic moves could be better directed toward "ordering Iraqi planes to attack Israeli targets or strengthening Iraqi forces on the eastern front against Israel." President Nasser added:

"The Egyptian people have not indulged in the luxury of fighting from speakers' platforms." The sharpness of the message and its implication that Iraq lacked the will to fight represented an attempt by Egypt to shift the onus of "softness" to regimes that have criticized its acceptance of a temporary cease-fire with Israel and negotiations under the aegis of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. The most stident criticism has come from Baghdad and Damascus, though in the opinion of many observers the Syrian regime privately is not as opposed to a negotiated settlement as its hard line would indicate. But both Syria and Iraq are boycotting an Arab unity meeting scheduled to begin today in Tripoli, Libya, and Algeria too has announced it will not participate. Cairo's move in accepting the formula proposed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and its vehement counter-attack against criticism within the Arab world indicated to observers here that President Nasser enjoys the strongest backing from the Soviet Union. Moscow is said to have favored a diplomatic settlement in the Middle East all along despite its bitter attacks on Israel which continue and its impressive re-armament of Egypt. In fact, diplomatic sources here say, Moscow is prepared to take full credit for bringing about the U.S. peace initiative.

According to the Russians, it was their establishment of an effective Egyptian air defense system through the introduction of SAM-2 and SAM-3 missiles and the stationing of Soviet technicians, protected by Russian pilots and combat troops in Egypt, which convinced the United States and Israel that the time for negotiations had arrived. Moscow is already claiming that the Israelis have abandoned hope of dictating terms to Egypt because of the latter's new military strength. In the coming weeks and months, diplomats say, the Russians are expected to exert pressure on the U.S. to get Israel to agree to withdraw from all of the Arab territories it occupied in the June, 1967 war. The Russians will argue that they did their part by "delivering" the Arabs to the negotiating process and anything short of total Israeli withdrawal is unacceptable. Should the peace efforts fail, Moscow can put the entire blame on the U.S. and Israel. Should a settlement acceptable to the Arabs emerge, Russian prestige and influence in the Arab world would be greater than ever, diplomats say. It is believed however that the Kremlin is anxious for a settlement that would eliminate the need to continue providing Egypt with costly weaponry and other aid and would re-open the Suez Canal making it possible for the Soviet Navy to operate freely in the Indian Ocean.

Israeli Phantom Jet Downed In Raid Over Soviet Missile Base; Egyptians Capture Two Pilots

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (JTA)--An Israel Air Force Phantom jet was shot down by ground fire in a raid on a Soviet missile base in the central section of the Suez Canal zone today. The two pilots were seen bailing out over Egyptian territory. An Egyptian Army spokesman later confirmed that the two were captured. They were identified by an Israeli spokesman as Yigael Shochat and Moshe Goldwasser. The Egyptian Army spokesman did not say whether the jet was downed by surface-to-air missiles or conventional artillery. Israel conceded the loss of the aircraft which it said was the 16th Israeli plane downed on the Egyptian front since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Egypt has lost 111 planes in the same period according to Israel's count. The Phantom was hit at 1:20 p.m. local time, the Israeli spokesman said.

Other Israel Air Force jets continued to blast Egyptian positions in the canal zone today and returned safely to their bases. A storage shed at Kibbutz Manera in Upper Galilee was sabotaged early this morning by infiltrators from across the Lebanese border. Mortars were fired at Metullah from Lebanese territory last night. Two Israeli soldiers were wounded last night when an Israeli position on Mt. Hermon was fired on from Lebanon. Lebanon said one civilian was killed by Israeli return fire. The capture of the two downed Israeli pilots today brought to 14 the number of Israeli prisoners held by Egypt. Nine are Air Force personnel. The other five include an Israel Army officer, Dan Avidan, two sergeants and two civilian canteen workers captured by Egyptian forces in commando raids across the Suez Canal.

Presence Of Soviet Air Commander In Egypt 'Evidence' Downed MIGs Were Russian Piloted

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Rumors persisted here today that four Egyptian MIG-21s shot down by Israeli fighters over the Suez Canal last week were piloted by Russians. There has been no official comment on either side. One report said the U.S. State Department and Israel are treating the matter with "extreme caution" but do not see the likelihood of Soviet retaliation. The rumors were given additional credence today by reports that the commander of the Soviet Air Force, Marshal Pavel Kutakhov, is visiting Cairo. The newspaper Maariv said his visit was in connection with the downing of Russian-piloted MIGs. Other papers quoting sources in Beirut, said he went to Cairo to investigate the loss of the four MIGs, an indication that they were flown by Russians. There was no word reported as to the fate of the Russian pilots allegedly shot down. There was also some speculation that Kutakhov was in Egypt to inspect Soviet defenses in the Canal zone. The Russian Air Force commander arrived in Egypt on Saturday but a tight lid has been clamped down on details of his visit.

(In New York, Time magazine reported today that it learned last Thursday, the day before Israel agreed to a cease-fire in the Middle East, some Soviet pilots flew Egyptian air force MIG-21 fighter planes against Israeli jets. It was, says the news magazine, the first time that Soviet-piloted MIGs had been shot down. The magazine says all sides involved in the incident have "prudently refused to admit" that the Russian pilots were in the MIG planes, noting that it was an event "fraught with awesome consequences and feared by the U.S. and Israel since the Red air force began to fly missions in Egypt nearly four months ago.") A military spokesman here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that

the identity of pilots flying any planes can be determined only if their conversations with ground control have been intercepted and taped. But the military officials refused to disclose whether they had picked up any such conversations in Russian or in Russian-accented English. The spokesman also told the JTA that combat tactics are not a clue to the identity of the flyers because the Egyptian pilots had been trained by Soviet airmen and use Soviet methods. He added that Soviet pilots would not fly in Egyptian units but only in Soviet units which are based on a minimum of eight aircraft for a sortie.

Jarring Begins Talks; Meets With Rogers; Will Discuss Other Steps In Mideast Peace

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 3 (JTA)--The formalities of laying the basis for peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt and Jordan began here today as Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special Middle East envoy initiated his round of talks with Secretary General U Thant and his top aides. The Swedish diplomat also met with United States Secretary of State William P. Rogers for what a UN spokesman termed an "overview of the Middle East situation." Mr. Rogers, who had been weekending at the summer White House in San Clemente, California, flew into New York this afternoon. A UN spokesman said the meeting between Mr. Rogers, Dr. Jarring, Mr. Thant and Under-Secretary Dr. Ralph J. Bunche was at the request of the Secretary of State. Rumors had been rife during the day that Mr. Rogers felt his peace plan, rather than any proposal by the Big Four, should be the guideline for Dr. Jarring resuming his peace mission. Emerging from his meeting Mr. Rogers was asked if he resolved his differences with Mr. Thant as to whose instructions should guide the ambassador. The Secretary of State replied only that he had no differences with Mr. Thant over Ambassador Jarring. Until now, the Swedish diplomat has taken his instructions from Mr. Thant and his peace mission activities have been mandated by the Security Council. The role of the Big Four is to find a guideline for reactivating the peace mission but the guideline has to first be approved by Mr. Thant as "positive."

While Dr. Jarring is in New York he is also expected to meet with the ambassadors of the Big Four powers and those of Israel, Egypt and Jordan. It was learned that Dr. Jarring will "call" Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah tomorrow but there was no indication that the two officials will meet immediately. UN spokesmen said today that there is no "time table" for Dr. Jarring's stay in New York. One source noted that the duration of his stay here will "depend on what happens during his talks (here) and developments in the Middle East." But while he is here, the Swedish diplomat is expected to explore three areas concerning the next steps in the Mideast peace settlement: the size of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to supervise the cease-fire; the duration of the cease-fire; and the location for the peace talks. Any one of these elements, observers here said, could stymie actual peace negotiations for weeks, if not for months. Another problem that is bound to slow the gears in the machinery of peace talks is whether the cease-fire or the talks will take place first or whether they will coincide. On this question, Israel was the only nation of those who accepted the U.S. peace plan that stated affirmatively that it will appoint "at the appropriate time, a representative for peace negotiations without prior conditions, under the auspices of Ambassador Jarring, within the framework of Security Council Resolution 242, and with the aim of reaching a binding contractual agreement."

Clarification Due On Whether Jarring Has, In Effect, Already Reactivated His Mission

Continuing its statement, which the government of Israel issued last Friday accepting the U.S. initiative, Israel noted: "Israel's position in respect of a cease-fire on all sectors, including the Egyptian front, on the basis of reciprocity, in accordance with the resolution (242) of the Security Council, remains in force. Taking into account the clarifications provided by the government of the United States, Israel is prepared to subscribe to the proposal of the United States concerning a cease-fire for three months at least on the Egyptian front." Observers here said this statement came closer to spelling out the sequence of a cease-fire followed by talks than that issued by either Egypt or Jordan. Egypt did not spell out the sequence and Jordan, a few days after Egypt announced its acceptance of the U.S. plan, announced merely that it would accept what Egypt accepted and reject what Egypt rejected.

It remained unclear, however, whether Dr. Jarring's peace mission would be contingent on this sequence or whether he would resume his peace mission on the basis of the acceptance by the three Mideast nations involved in the primary conflict and to whom Mr. Rogers addressed his peace proposals last month. According to Mr. Rogers' letter to Egypt dated July 19, the sequence was formulated in this order: "The UAR, Jordan and Israel advise (Dr. Jarring) that they agree that having accepted and indicated their willingness to carry out Resolution 242 in all its points, they will designate representatives to discussions to be held under my (Dr. Jarring's) auspices, according to such procedures, and times as I (Dr. Jarring) may recommend. Mr. Rogers proposed that such a statement be issued by the three nations to Dr. Jarring which the ambassador could then use as a report to Mr. Thant. UN spokesmen, asked whether Dr. Jarring's return to New York meant that his peace mission was actually reactivated or whether he was just here to consult with "parties" about the feasibility of reactivating his mission, said they would have to "seek clarification."

Asher Ben Nathan, Former Envoy To West Germany, Appointed As Envoy To France

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Asher Ben Nathan, a Haganah veteran who served until the end of last year as Israel's Ambassador to West Germany, has been appointed Ambassador to France succeeding Walter Eytan; it was announced here. Mr. Ben Nathan, a former director general of the Israel Defense Ministry, was posted to Bonn from 1965-69, a tenure that was regarded as highly successful for relations between the two countries. His assignment to Paris will put him in what for Israel is the second most sensitive diplomatic post outside Washington, D.C. France's close involvement in efforts to bring about a Middle East settlement are colored by that nation's sharp shift in attitude toward Israel since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Mr. Ben Nathan, a native of Vienna, was active in the procurement of arms for Haganah during and after World War II and was an organizer of illegal Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Dr. Wexler Urges U.S. To Adopt Firm Policy To Roll Back Soviets In The Mideast

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, warned today that the United States must not permit the Soviet Union to take advantage of a "military or political vacuum" in the Middle East. Addressing the annual convention here of B'nai B'rith District Four, Dr. Wexler said the American initiative for a Middle East settlement must be bolstered by a "firm and resolute" American policy to roll back the Soviet Union's efforts to dominate the area. Dr. Wexler claimed that "The totality of American national interest is inextricably bound to the survival of Israel." The U.S. initiative, he cautioned, must guard against actions which could "legitimize the aggressive military presence of the Soviet Union." The B'nai B'rith leader said he was satisfied with President Nixon's assurances to Israel that there would be no military build-up by the Arabs during the 90-day cease-fire. But he warned that the temporary truce "can create the impression that the unlimited cease-fire which Egypt and other Arab states have repudiated, is a dead issue." This, he contended, could give sanction "in the public mind" to any resumption by Nasser of his "war of attrition" when the 90-day period ends.

Catholic Nursing School, Hebrew Aged Center Unite In Pioneering Education Program

BOSTON, Aug. 3 (JTA)--The Boston College School of Nursing and the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged have jointly announced a pioneering, cooperative relationship designed to provide future nurses intensive instruction and practice in the care of the elderly. The far reaching agreement was signed by Rev. Thomas Fleming, treasurer and vice-president of Boston College; Miss Margaret M. Foley, dean of the Catholic-sponsored School of Nursing; Milton Berger, president of the Center; and Miss Bernadine J. Scutta, its director of nursing. Maurice I. May, the Center's executive director, hailed the agreement as "a strong manifestation, by a school of nursing of high quality, of concern for providing future nurses with more training in the problems and needs of the aging.. It is a source of satisfaction to the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged that Boston College has linked itself with us in the unique program. I am certain that the ultimate beneficiary of the experiences gained by the B.C. nursing students will be our elderly."

Last spring the Center conducted a special seminar for students who completed their nursing training and who became degree candidates. The favorable reaction from Center teachers and B.C. nursing preceptors led to the historic agreement. Under the new arrangement between the two institutions, the Center's facilities for instruction in nursing in the aging process and related health needs of the aged will be utilized for clinical experience. The program will be planned and implemented by the Center's director of nursing and a faculty member from the Boston College School of Nursing. Students assigned to the Center will be in the first and second semesters of their Junior year. They will have five days, of from four to five hours weekly at the Center, and will return to Boston College for their afternoon classes. Students will also have the option of three full days of clinical experience at the Center. The Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged serves, also, as a teaching base for Boston University School of Social Work, and as a vital teaching unit in internal medicine for first, second, and third year students from Harvard Medical School. It also provides training for graduate students in long term care administration for The George Washington University.

Magen David Adom Launches Blood Program; Leaders Urge American Aid

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Leaders of Magen David Adom, Israel's official Red Cross agency, have announced a major effort to expand and re-equip Israel's major blood banking facility, the Colonel David Marcus Blood Bank and Fractionation Center in Jaffa. The announcement was jointly made by Magen David Adom's president, Dr. Eliahu Elath, and the head of MDA's Foreign Relations Department, Mr. David Tesher, who each issued an urgent appeal to American friends of Magen David Adom to help in this vital project, designed to upgrade the capabilities of the Blood Bank Center in order to meet the emergency blood needs of the nation. Dr. Fred Rothstein, newly appointed Director of the Marcus Blood Center, called the project "the most important effort ever undertaken by the Blood Center."

The prime purposes of the blood project, which include the act of separating whole blood into its component parts and the ability to store these components for an indeterminate time, "are absolutely essential to the maintenance of the health and well-being of Israel's 2 1/2 million citizens in the coming months and years," according to Dr. Rothstein. Hundreds of items of equipment are desperately needed to assure the success of this effort, Dr. Elath and Mr. Tesher said, and only through vigorous support by members of American Red Mogen Dovid for Israel, Magen David Adom's supply wing, can this monumental task be effectively implemented. Benjamin Saxe, National Executive Director of American Red Mogen Dovid for Israel, stated that "every possible method at our command is being employed to acquaint the American people with the urgency of the Marcus Center blood program, and to seek nationwide support for this highly significant project."

Settlement House Offers Yiddish-Content Program For Aged In Bronx

NEW YORK, Aug. 3 (JTA)--Three Yiddish-language programs are being offered for the first time for elderly Jews by the Bronx House, a settlement house affiliate of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. The programs are a Yiddish language class, a Yiddish culture group and a Yiddish drama group. Leah Rosen, assistant Bronx House director, said that the settlement house programs were developed for members of its Senior Citizens Club and for members of a similar club in the nearby Pelham Parkway Houses. Each of the six programs has between 15 and 20 members with little overlapping in membership, she added. The courses were started last September. While most of the senior citizens know Yiddish, about five percent do not and the language courses were organized for them. The culture club participants read and discuss the works of Jewish poets and writers, as well as current events and social issues. The programs were instituted and conducted by Mrs. Bessie Auerbach, a staff member, until her death in April.