Mrs. Meir To Report On Cease-Fire Status To Knesset; Cancels Cabinet Meeting On U.S.
JERUSALEM, August 11 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir will report Thursday to the Knesset on the status of the cease-fire and the political situation. But she has cancelled an extraordinary cabinet meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss differences with the United States. The cancellation followed a further exchange of notes with the U.S. State Department over United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring’s letter to Secretary General U Thant last week stating the basic and objectives of the negotiations to be held under his auspices between Israel and the Arab states. Government officials were serious and disturbed because the Jarring letter failed to state Israel’s basic condition for acceptance of the U.S. peace initiative, namely that withdrawal from the occupied territories and future boundaries would be determined by peace agreements with the Arabs.

Israel’s acceptance of the American peace plan was based on certain assurances from the U.S. and its reproofs regarding the Jarring letter were addressed to the State Department. The latter reportedly countered by stressing that the most important thing was that Egypt and Israel have agreed to talks and any reservations should be raised logically in the course of negotiations. Views differ within the government on this but a majority of Israeli ministers felt that no quarrel with the United States should be provoked at this stage. The incident is being referred to as a “mini-crisis.” The two leaders of Kahal, Menachem Begin and Joseph Sapir, who quit the cabinet last week over acceptance of the American peace plan, were briefed on latest developments by Premier Meir today.

Report U.S. Does Not Expect Israel To Repatriate Entire Mass Of Arab Refugees
JERUSALEM, August 11 (JTA)—The United States has indicated to Israel that it does not expect that country to repatriate Arab refugees en masse, it was learned today. That is the interpretation of official circles here are placing on a reported statement from Washington that the U.S. expects Israel to do its share to solve the refugee problem in the context of an eventual peace agreement, but only on the basis of the principle that Israel is a Jewish state. Israel’s position has been that the mass repatriation of Palestinian refugees would destroy the Jewish character of the nation. Israel’s official note to the U.S. accepting the latest peace initiative made that point clear. According to sources here the U.S. has assured Israel that it favors compensation for the refugees and that it will not support Arab demands that they be allowed to reside in Israel or return to their former homes. Insistence on repatriation would wreck any peace accord, the sources said. Israel government circles support the principle of compensation but don’t think the entire burden should fall on Israel. Their view is that the payment of compensation to the Arabs should be an international undertaking and should be balanced by payment for property seized from Jewish citizens of Arab countries, mainly Syria and Iraq.

Rabin Hopeful Israeli-Arab Talks Will Be Conducted On Highest Diplomatic Level
WASHINGTON, August 11 (JTA)—Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel’s Ambassador to the United States, said today that he hoped the impending Arab-Israeli peace talks under the auspices of Gunnar Jarring will be conducted on the highest diplomatic level. “Since our intentions are serious, we hope the representation will be on a high level. The higher the level, the more serious the negotiations,” he said. Ambassador Rabin spoke to newsmen after emerging from two-and-a-half hours at the State Department where he met with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joseph J. Sisco. The Israeli envoy returned to Washington today and issued a statement in Jerusalem where he was summoned for consultations several days ago. He said that Dr. Jarring, the United Nations’ special envoy for the Middle East, is trying to work out the level of representation and the site of the negotiations among the parties concerned.

Mr. Rabin said that in Israel’s view, “the closer the site is to the Middle East, the better.” He said he could not say who Israel’s representative at the talks will be. “When it is decided, Jr. Jarring will be the first to know,” he said. Asked the purpose of his visit to the United States today, Ambassador Rabin said that all countries which have accepted the U.S. Peace initiative are maintaining close contact with the U.S. government “and this is part of it.” A reporter who asked if he was “upset” by the omission of Israel’s conditions for withdrawal from occupied territories in Ambassador Jarring’s letter to UN Secretary General U Thant, was told by Gen. Rabin: “I believe that our position has been made clear in our reply to the U.S. government’s initiative. It has not been changed.” Ambassador Rabin said there were “mixed feelings” in Israel about the 90-day cease-fire. “People have to think a little forward to see what the outcome will be.” Asked to assess Mideast peace prospects, Gen. Rabin replied, “When it comes to peace in the Middle East I am no prophet.”

Israel-Jets Hit Guerrilla Bases In Lebanon; Terrorists Throw Grenades In Nabulus, Hebron
TEL AVIV, August 11 (JTA)—Israel Air Force jets blasted guerrilla bases on the western slopes of Mt. Hermon in Lebanon today and returned safely. The targets of the 30-minute attack were guerrilla concentrations in the so-called “Fatah Land.” Shooting from that area last night wounded an Israeli soldier manning a position on the slopes of Mt. Hermon at Djabel Rouss. An Israeli patrol in the Belsen Valley came under fire this morning. A mortar shell was fired at an Israeli position in the Golan Heights. There were no Israeli casualties in either incident. Two Arab guerrillas were killed and eight were captured this morning in a clash with an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip. There were no Israeli casualties. A military spokesman said the captives were members of the Popular Liberation Front. Another Arab guerrilla was killed last night in a shoot-out with an Israeli patrol in the Golan
Heights. A Kalamnikov rifle and a bazooka were found on the body. The West Bank towns of Nablus and Hebron were the scenes of grenade incidents today. A grenade thrown at a bus in Nablus this morning injured several by-standers but not the occupants of the vehicle. A grenade thrown at a group of Israelis in Hebron in the afternoon hurt no one. Security forces are searching for the terrorists. A life sentence was imposed on a 21-year-old Arab saboteur by a military tribunal at Lydda yesterday. The prisoner, Haled Al Attrash, was said to be the leader of a sabotage gang and was charged with delivering arms from Jordan to the Hebron area. He was captured in a clash near the Dead Sea in which four Arabs and one Israeli were killed.

Two Splinter Terrorist Groups, Who Endorsed Cease-Fire, Now To Aid Other Terrorists

LONDON, Aug. 11 (JTA)—Dr. Isam Sartawi, head of the splinter Action Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, said today that his group and the Arab Palestine Organization, another minor terrorist group, no longer endorse the temporary Middle East cease-fire and Egypt’s acceptance of it, according to reports from Amman. Those two organizations had been the only guerrilla groups supporting the shooting halt and had battled last week with commando outfits opposing Egypt’s stand. Dr. Sartawi said the groups had mistakenly thought that Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser had agreed to the cease-fire only as a “temporary factor.” But after Nasser’s cease-fire went into effect,” he said, “we realized that our conclusion was wrong.” He said the two groups would aid the other guerrillas in attempting to wreck the cease-fire. On television today, Jordanian Foreign Minister Anton Antullah reiterated the government’s position that guerrilla activities are outside the purview of the cease-fire. He said the government could not still “Palestinians fighting for the liberation of their country.”

Dultzin Charges Certain Colleagues Of Gahal’s Liberal Faction Of Wrecking Coalition

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA)—Leo Dultzin, who, with five other members of the Gahal Party resigned from Premier Golda Meir’s cabinet last week, accused certain fellow members of Gahal’s Liberal faction today of wrecking Mrs. Meir’s coalition. Gahal quit the Cabinet in protest against the government’s acceptance of the American peace initiative calling for a 90-day cease-fire and negotiations with the Arabs under the auspices of United Nations envoy Gunmar V. Jarring. The Liberal faction, led by Joseph Sapir, wanted to remain in the government but the views of the more militant Herut, headed by Menachem Begin, prevailed in a close vote by Gahal’s central committee. According to Mr. Dultzin, five or six Liberal Party members broke ranks and voted with Herut to provide a narrow margin of 117-112 vote for leaving the cabinet.

Mr. Dultzin said he did not blame Mr. Begin who was “perfectly consistent, honest and honorable, even if I disagree with him.” He charged that Liberals who voted against their own party were not motivated by “qualms of conscience over the issue but by a desire to settle personal accounts.” Meanwhile, two Liberal leaders were ousted this week from the Gahal Executive for opposing the party leadership on political issues, especially on the question of the American peace initiative. The Executive is composed of five members each from the Liberal and Herut factions of Gahal. The ousted members were Joseph Serlin and Zvi Zimmerman, both members of the Knesset. They were replaced by Simha Ehrlich and Josephu Tamir. Mr. Dultzin will soon return to his old job as treasurer of the Jewish Agency, a post he resigned when he was named to the Cabinet after last year’s national elections. The Liberal Party at the time was unable to agree on a successor.

50,000 Israelis At Western Wall Celebrate Tisha b’Av; Worshippers Fill Synagogues

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA)—An estimated 50,000 Israelis crowded into the 75-acre square facing the Western Wall last night to usher in Tisha b’Av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, commemorating the destruction of the Second Temple, except for that wall, by the Roman general Titus exactly 1,900 years ago. Synagogues here and in other Israeli cities were filled with worshippers who heard excerpts of the Old Testament scroll of Lamentations. Banners and television broadcasts were limited to news and programs befitting the solemn nature of the occasion, which the Orthodox hold to be a day of mourning. But only a small minority of Israelis fast, and restaurants throughout the country were open for business as usual. The Orthodox among the worshippers at the Wall had not cut their facial hair for three weeks, the period of Titus’ attack on this city prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, which had been built by Herod. Modes of dress ranged from military uniforms to informal shirts and slacks, with only a few wearing the black rabbinical robes. Head coverings were in colors as well as black. Many of those attending were youthful—including a blind man who prayed from a Braille Bible. It was noted that no other observance by any other ethnic or religious grouping has been maintained over so many years. Only from 1948 to 1967, when Jordan controlled the Wall, were there no gatherings there. The observance ends at sundown tonight.

Labor Zionists Call For Radical Changes In Jewish Education; Aliya Given Top Priority

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA)—The Labor Zionist movement ended a five-day ideological conference here last night with a call for radical changes in Jewish education “to prepare youth for Jewish life and for the struggle for the continued existence of Jewish life.” The conference adopted a manifesto calling for a “New Jewish Immigration—at the top of the agenda of Zionist educational and propaganda efforts.” The manifesto also urged the Labor Zionist movement and Israel’s Labor Party to concentrate on socialist education and support of Histadrut, Israel’s trade union federation. The Labor Zionist youth group produced a manifesto of its own stating that the primary objective of socialist Zionism is the promotion of immigration to Israel. The youngsters urged the movement to “speak to youth in the language of the seventeen.” Earlier in the conference, Histadrut General Secretary Izhak Ben Aharon said that “anything that will bring more immigrants and will better our defense is more important today than building socialism.” Mr. Ben Aharon noted that there was a “certain stagnation in socialism in Israel,” but said immigration and defense have priority over social experimentation in Israel today and “it will not change it.”
Clarification Sought On Jarring Letter And Whether UNTSO Is Observing Military Build-Up

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 11 (JTA)—The official merry-go-round continued in its orbit here today as spokesmen for the United Nations said they were continuing to “check out” whether or not Israel officially approved of or saw in advance the text of the letter submitted by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring to Secretary General U Thant which omitted Israel’s condition for withdrawal from occupied territories. Spokesmen also said they would seek “further clarification” as to whether the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) is charged with observing any military build-up that might be undertaken by either Israel or Egypt during the cease-fire period. Pending clarification of this matter, spokesmen said there were no reports of complaints by either Israel or Egypt of violations of the cease-fire. Israeli officials have complained that Dr. Jarry’s letter omitted Israel’s condition that withdrawal to secure, reconstituted and agreed boundaries would be determined in the peace agreement. Israeli sources noted that Egypt’s conditions were not included either. One spokesman pointed out that any conditions that have been or will be raised by negotiators for each of the three countries will have to be taken up during negotiations. He asserted: “Dr. Jarring’s letter was nothing more than the wording of the U.S. peace initiative. This is the basis of discussion for Middle East peace. Israel has made its objections known on the issue of withdrawal. From now on it’s a matter for the negotiators to resolve.”

A UN spokesman said that Dr. Jarring was still waiting for replies from Israel, Egypt and Jordan as to who would represent them in the negotiations. He said that when a decision is reached on representation, “Jarring will issue a statement.” This announcement was greeted by surprise from newsmen who noted that this would be a precedent setting move by the Swedish peace envoy. Dr. Jarring has never permitted himself to be interviewed by the news media nor has he ever issued any statement to the public concerning his mediation efforts and procedures. This apparent change of pace was credited by some here to Dr. Jarring’s concern that there be no misunderstanding possible through second-party announcements at a time when negotiations begin. Spokesmen, who were asked what role the UN would play in the further developments of negotiations and truce observance replied that its role would be described “at the proper moment.” The role of UNTSO, they added, would continue as before the cease-fire went into effect. “There is no change in the function or responsibility of UNTSO regarding cease-fire,” the spokesman said. Reports by UNTSO on either side would be issued “when conditions warrant it.” Israel’s Ambassador Yosef Teshou was scheduled to meet later this afternoon with Mr. Thant. The topic for discussion was reportedly the Middle East. It was not immediately known whether Mr. Teshou would discuss the Jarring letter with the Secretary General.

Security Council Resolution Means Total Israeli Withdrawal, Says French UN Ambassador

PARIS, Aug. 11 (JTA)—The French delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Jacques Kociusko-Morizet, declared today that in France’s view the wording of the Security Council resolution on withdrawal “clearly indicates a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories.” Speaking over the French national radio, France Inter, the French diplomat said that Washington had kept both Paris and London fully informed of all developments during its negotiations with Moscow. “Agreement on the Rogers plan,” he said, “is the result of the four-power consultations in which France played an active part.”

Vatican Denies It Planned To Ask Mideast Belligerants To Accept U.S. Peace Plan

ROME, Aug. 11 (JTA)—The Vatican today denied reports that it had planned an appeal to the belligerents in the Middle East conflict to accept the peace proposals advanced by United States Secretary of State William P. Rogers. While acceptance of the plan by Israel, Egypt and Jordan was hailed here, a spokesman stressed that the Vatican never enters into the technical aspects of international dispute and limits itself to “admonishing antagonists to meet and discuss their problems in a climate of mutual understanding.” According to reports emanating from “usually well-informed Vatican circles,” an appeal to Israel and the Arab states was on the agenda of a recent meeting chaired by Pope Paul himself. The Vatican newspaper, “Osservatore Romano” welcomed the cease-fire in an unsigned editorial today. Pope Paul-VI, on Sunday, complimented Israel and the Arab states for their “high-minded decision.” Why should not nations worshiping the same God, calling him Father, discover that they therefore are all brothers,” the Pope said. Italy’s new Premier, Emilio Colombo, promised in Parliament yesterday that his government would continue its efforts to strengthen peace prospects in the Middle East. He referred to efforts by Foreign Minister Aldo Moro who served in the same capacity in the government of former Premier Mariano Rumor.

Soviet Jewry Day Proclaimed In Latin America; Meetings Scheduled In Jewish Communities

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA)—The Jewish communities of Latin America have proclaimed tomorrow to be Soviet Jewry Day throughout the continent, the American Jewish Congress announced here today. The date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the execution of 23 Jewish intellectuals in the USSR during the Stalin regime. Soviet Jewry Day will be devoted to meetings and seminars in all the communities of Latin America at which the present situation of Jews in the Soviet Union will be analyzed and discussed. It is further proposed that these meetings or seminars should be followed up with regional conventions and that in each country there should be set up active commissions with ongoing programs for the defense of the rights of Soviet Jews.

Gen. Peled Appointed Director General Of Ministry Of Education And Culture

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA)—Gen. Elad Peled, a 43-year-old sabra whose brigade captured the southern Golan Heights and northern Samarla during the June, 1967 Six-Day War, has been appointed by the government as director general of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Gen. Peled is a graduate of the Hebrew University where he majored in economics and social sciences. The Ministry is headed by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon.
Thousands Participate in Rallies in Four Cities protesting Plight of Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA)--Rallies protesting the plight of Soviet Jewry were held in Denver, Boston, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles over the weekend. In Denver a Catholic nun joined 32 students and adults Sunday for a three-day fast on the steps of the Capitol Building to protest the recent arrests of nine Leningrad Jews. Sister Patricia Parker, a graduate student in education at Colorado State College at Greeley, decided to join the fasters after reading about them in the Denver Post. The fast was begun on Sunday by 23 students and faculty members of the University of Colorado who decided on a "Fast for Freedom" to bring attention to the plight of the 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union. They were soon joined by nine members of The United Family, a small Protestant religious group. The "Fast for Freedom" was sponsored by the Denver Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry, whose co-chairmen, Rabbi Raymond Zwerin and Mrs. Harry Hoffman, announced yesterday that an additional 50 persons would fast for one or two days. More than 400 persons attended the opening ceremonies in downtown Denver which included a service commemorating the 18th anniversary of the murder of 24 Yiddish writers and intellectuals in the Soviet Union during Stalin's regime. The fast was observed with daily teach-ins by university faculty members and Tisha b'Av religious services.

Signatures were gathered on a "statement of concern" to be presented to Soviet authorities on behalf of "the 3 million Jews trapped in a growing tide of hatred and anti-Semitism," Mrs. Hoffman said. She said tens of thousands of Jews who have applied for exit visas are "being hunted, arrested, imprisoned on trumped up charges, have their jobs taken away, homes illegally searched and are constantly harassed—all because they are courageous enough to stand up publicly and proclaim to the world that they are Jews, they are proud to be Jews, and that they want to live as Jews."

In Boston, Dr. Robert F. Drinan, former dean of the Boston College Law School and chairman of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, was the keynote speaker Sunday at a rally sponsored by the New England Region of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the New England Region of the American Jewish Committee. The rally was held in the Boston Common and featured a "guerrilla theatre" performance of the trial of Boris Kholubiyevsky, a Ukrainian Jew who was imprisoned for "slander" against the Soviet state. Jerry Goodman, European Affairs specialist of the AJCommittee told the rally: "Three million Jews in Russia are facing cultural genocide today. They are denied freedom of worship and the right to purchase religious articles and literature. In the past 14 years, 390 synagogues have been shut down. As part of the systematic Soviet attempt to extinguish Jewish pride and identity, Jews are not allowed to give their children any Jewish education. Applications for visas are met with loss of jobs, police harassment and possible imprisonment."

In Washington, a fast was sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Washington and the Washington Board of Rabbis. Several thousand persons took part in religious ceremonies and at a conference of Soviet-Jewry held at B'nai Israel Congregation Monday and today. In Los Angeles, about 1,000 persons demonstrated on behalf of Soviet Jewry Friday night in front of the Shrine Auditorium, where the famed Moisseyev Ballet Company opened a one-week engagement. Although police were out in force, there were no incidents. According to Ze'ev Yaroslavsky and Si Frumkin, chairman of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, the demonstrators protesting the treatment of Jews in the USSR had the support of "many non-Jewish performers in the ballet company itself." Mr. Yaroslavsky and Mr. Frumkin replied to apparent criticism from local religious elements for holding a demonstration on the Sabbath. "This type of activity is the only alternative we have if we intend to save Soviet Jews," they said.

Prayers are fine when they are done with the true intentions of saving these life-savers. The same moment when the community has an opportunity to make a direct impact on the Soviet Union. Prayers did not save the six million, although there were those who advocated such activity rather that protest during the 1940s."

AJCommittee Informed Austria Does Not Intend Closing Wiesenthal's Documentation Center

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA)--The office of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria has advised the American Jewish Committee that the closing of Simon Wiesenthal's Documentation Center on Jewish Victims "is not being implemented as long as Mr. Wiesenthal's activities remain within legal boundaries of Austrian law," Dr. Ingo Massi, representing the vacating government, replied to a letter from AJCommittee president Philip E. Hoffman, who wrote to the Chancellor last week "to inquire about the status of the center. "Since this organization," Mr. Hoffman wrote, referring to the AJCor mittee, "has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Mr. Wiesenthal, and we have also admired the assistance that post-war Austrian regimes have given to the center's work, we are most anxious to clarify this issue."

Mr. Wiesenthal has charged the Austrian government with threatening to close his center and has singled out Socialist Party secretary Leopold Gratz for having allegedly called the center a "secret agent" operation. Dr. Massi stated: "There is absolutely no truth to these rumors. Nobody in any official capacity and certainly no member of the Austrian Federal Government has demanded the closing of the center and no legal steps are intended as long as the center's activities remain within the scope of Austrian law." The Austrian spokesman added that Minister Gratz has "repeatedly" denied that Wiesenthal's "injust" attacks on him and other government officials. Mr. Wiesenthal has charged that "five of the II Austrian Ministers had a Nazi past." This "criticism" of Mr. Wiesenthal "falls well within the scope of the democratic freedom of opinion," Dr. Massi wrote.

Sen. Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York, wrote to Mr. Wiesenthal yesterday to voice his "great concern over the intended plans to close the historic Jewish Documentation Center in Austria. He said he would be "pleased to render any assistance I can, not only as a United States Senator, but as a human being who shares your sentiments and admires your steadfast determination to save the interests of free men everywhere." New York's other Republican Senator, Jacob K. Javits, said in a letter to Harry Evans of New York City that while he had no authority to act in the matter, he had written to the State Department for "prompt comment and report." Fifty-five persons held a "silent witness" rally yesterday afternoon outside the Austrian Mission here. A concentration camp survivor donned the striped uniform he had worn at Dachau.