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Eban Says Peace Prospects Have Receded; Blames Soviet-Egyptian Breaches

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that prospects for peace with Egypt have receded in recent weeks and blamed it on "massive violations" of the standstill cease-fire agreement by the Egyptians with Soviet backing. Addressing a press conference here Mr. Eban said, "these flagrant violations have caused the suspension of the Jarring talks and have cast doubts as to the earnest intentions of their (Egypt's) signature to an agreement." Israel lodged its 14th complaint of Egyptian cease-fire violations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) today. Based on information in the possession of Israel Army intelligence as of yesterday, the complaint charged for the second time that Egypt has brought Soviet-made SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles into the standstill cease-fire zone in addition to the previously introduced SAM-2 missiles. Mr. Eban said "there are violations up to this very day. The Russians are backing up the actions of the Egyptians. The flame of hope is burning low. To re-kindle it, there must be an initiative in the part of the Russians and the Egyptians." He said resumption of the Jarring talks did not depend on a settlement of marginal differences between Israel and the United States. "There must be a return to the situation on the eve of the cease-fire," he said. However, Mr. Eban indicated that Israel wanted to perpetuate the cease-fire as long as possible even if the Jarring talks are not resumed.

Guerrilla Release By European Nations Would Harm Only Israel

The Israeli Foreign Minister spoke bitterly of the Arab terrorists who hijacked and destroyed four aircraft last week and are still holding more than 50 hostages somewhere in Jordan. He said he would stress the need for international and national legislation to stamp out aerial piracy when he addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month. Mr. Eban made it clear that the Israel Government's position is that the nations under whose flags the hijacked airliners operated must be held responsible for the release of all the hostages, irrespective of their nationality. He said there were two Israeli nationals among the hostages apart from those who held both Israeli and American citizenship.

Mr. Eban said that Israel was not opposed to discussions being held for the exchange of hostages for seven Arab terrorists now in custody in Britain, West Germany and Switzerland. However, he said that if those seven are freed, Israel will consider that very fact to be its contribution to the release of all of the hostages. "The only state whose security will be damaged by the release of these seven is Israel," Mr. Eban said. "These people have tried to kill and will try to kill Israelis. Their release would be a death sentence to an unknown number of Israelis. It should be clear that by their release a certain degree of peril is added to Israelis." Commenting on the situation in Jordan, Mr. Eban said that Israel would deal with any government that is the lawful ruler of that country. He said the present Jordanian government seemed unable to control the country and anything could happen, including PFLP leader George Habash becoming Premier. "This, of course, would have an influence on Israel. In any case, Israel is keeping a vigilant eye on events in Jordan that can have a bearing on its own security," Mr. Eban said.

Israel Frees 75 Arab Suspects Cleared Of Ties With Hijack Guerrillas

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Israeli authorities today released 25 Arab women and 50 men who were among 450 residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip arrested over the week end on suspicion of membership in or collaboration with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Officials said that the 75 detainees were freed after questioning indicated that they had no connection with the PFLP. The others are still undergoing interrogation. The mass arrests were seen as a strategic move by Israel to strengthen its bargaining power with the Palestinian terrorists who still hold more than 50 hijacked airliner hostages in Jordan, most of them reportedly Israeli nationals or persons having dual Israeli-American citizenship. The move seemed calculated to provide Israel with potential hostages of its own should negotiations for the release of those held in Jordan break down.

There was uncertainty today as to who was conducting negotiations with the terrorists. The International Red Cross, which started them last week, reportedly bowed out yesterday when the head of its negotiating team in Amman, Andre Rochat, returned to Berne with an associate, leaving one IRC representative in the Jordanian capital. The Vatican reportedly stepped into the breach by dispatching a special Papal envoy, the Very Rev. Jean Rodhain, to Amman. But it was not clear whether he was representing the five nations--United States, Israel, Britain, Switzerland and West Germany--whose nationals are being held hostage. Reports from Amman today said the Arab Red Crescent had taken over from the Red Cross in contacts with the PFLP. (U.S. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey insisted in Washington today that the IRC had not withdrawn and that it continued to represent the five powers in their efforts to secure the hostages' release.)

Meanwhile, the Apostolic delegate in Jerusalem, Bishop Pio Laghi, went to Amman today to meet Mnsgr. Rodhain and reportedly to escort him back to Jerusalem. The Papal envoy said yesterday in Amman that he was given a list of 600 Arab guerrillas in Israeli jails whose release is demanded by the PFLP, to convey to Israeli authorities in Jerusalem. Israel has denied receiving any ransom demands from the terrorists, directly or indirectly. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources that Israeli authorities were piqued by the Vatican's intervention. Israel reportedly informed the

Vatican that it was highly appreciative of the Papal endeavors but considered them unsuitable to its purposes. The JTA was told that Israel made it clear to the Vatican that it was not willing to enter into any negotiations with the PFLP or any other terrorist organizations.

There have been no outward signs of wavering by the European powers on the terrorist demands. They have made it clear that they are prepared to release the Arabs in their custody but only under certain conditions, meaning that the terrorists must release all remaining hostages simultaneously, regardless of their nationality or religion. But Israeli officials are reportedly by no means certain that sentiment for a separate agreement might not prevail should the current negotiations reach an impasse. There was growing speculation over the week-end that Israel would re-introduce the death penalty which has not been invoked since the Eichmann trial in 1961. Some observers here thought that these speculations were part of a war of nerves to counter terrorist threats to the Israeli hostages. There was no response to the Israeli arrests from the PFLP in Jordan. But a spokesman in Beirut threatened "unimaginable" reprisals against Israel. In addition to the latest detainees there are between 3700-3800 Arab terrorists or suspected terrorists in Israeli prisons. Some are serving sentences and others are awaiting trial. They reportedly include about 300 known PFLP members.

State Department Insists Red Cross Still Represents U.S. in Hostage Talks

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman said today that the International Red Cross continues to represent the United States and four other governments in negotiations with Palestinian commandos for the release of hostages still held by them in Jordan. According to Robert J. McCloskey, the Red Cross "continues to function in Jordan" and "the United States looks to the I.R.C. to continue its efforts." Mr. McCloskey's statement at a briefing for newsmen conflicted with a statement by a Red Cross spokesman in Geneva yesterday that "from now on it will be up to the governments concerned to negotiate directly for the release of the hostages." Mr. McCloskey said the IRC was negotiating on behalf of five governments--United States, Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and Israel. He said the five governments continued in close consultation in Berne where they were meeting this morning, but could not say "with any certainty" whether they had any new proposals before them. "The common position, as I understand it, is that none of these governments would make a decision to release any Arabs until all (hostages) held by the Palestinians are released," Mr. McCloskey said. He insisted that the Red Cross was negotiating for all five, including Israel.

Mr. McCloskey gave newsmen the latest figures on the number of hostages still held in Jordan and a breakdown of their nationalities. He stressed that the information came from several different sources and represented only the best available estimate. According to Mr. McCloskey's "best information" 370 former hostages departed from Jordan leaving behind "as many as" 55 passengers and crew of the three hijacked airliners. Of the possible 55, Mr. McCloskey said, 38 "may be" United States citizens and 23 are "confirmed" to be U.S. citizens. Mr. McCloskey said that of the 38 possible citizens, as many as 19 have dual nationality, meaning that they hold Israeli as well as U.S. citizenship. He said the other hostages are of West German, Swiss, British and Dutch nationality. None of Israeli nationality was mentioned in the information received from Jordan, he said. (A Government spokesman said in Bonn today that West Germany might have to act alone for the release of its nationals. Konrad Ahlers' remark seemed to contradict an earlier press conference statement that all governments concerned must maintain a united front in negotiations with the hijackers. Pressed by newsmen, he said "theoretically there is a possibility that West Germany will hold bilateral talks" with the guerrillas.)

Mr. McCloskey said the hijackers have made no demands on the U.S. for the release of its citizens. Secretary of State William P. Rogers met for several hours yesterday with top aides to consider what might be done to free the American hostages. Mr. Rogers spoke on the telephone several times with President Nixon to keep him abreast of the latest developments. Officials observed that the U.S., with the largest number of hostages at stake, holds no Arabs in custody with which to negotiate their release. One source said yesterday that the release of the Americans probably depended upon fulfillment of guerrilla demands by the four other countries involved.

West Bank Group Warns Popular Front Against Harming Remaining Hostages

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA)--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was warned over the week-end that any harm done to Jews or other hostages it continues to hold in Jordan will bring reprisals against PFLP members in Israeli jails. The warning was conveyed by a three-man delegation of West Bank Arabs who went to Amman several days ago, apparently at the behest of Israeli authorities. The three returned yesterday and reported that they had gotten no reply from the terrorists. They refused to comment on reports that PFLP leaders in Amman refused to see them. But one of the delegates, Dr. Zawi Kanchawi, a Nablus physician, told newsmen, "You can rest assured that we found a way to have our message relayed to the commanders of the Popular Front." Dr. Kanchawi said he was a close friend of PFLP leader Dr. George Habash and admitted that some of his brothers belonged to the Marxist-oriented terrorist group. The newspaper Haaretz reported today that Israeli military authorities have taken a first step toward invoking the death penalty against terrorists. According to the paper the authorities decided to add at least two civilian lawyers to future military tribunals trying terrorists. This is necessary under the military penal code if the court is to have the authority to impose the death penalty.

Thant Calls For 'International Tribunal' To Deal With Hijacking

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Secretary General U Thant urged, in a speech prepared for delivery tonight, that an "international tribunal" be established to deal with acts of hijacking. He was scheduled to address a dinner sponsored by the United Nations Association of the United States, marking the 25th annual United Nations Day. He said it would be helpful if all governments pledged themselves to extradite all hijackers. Although he again denounced hijackings as "lawlessness" and the work of "extrem-

ists," he did not refer specifically to the Aug. 30 hijackings by Arab guerrillas nor to the Arabs who engineered the plane seizures. At a press conference last Thursday, he called the hijackings "savagely and inhuman," but appeared to suggest that they had been carried out because of Israel's earlier detention of two Algerian nationals. (Israel's right under international law to detain the Algerians was upheld over the weekend by UN legal experts, who based that opinion on the right of a country at war to protect itself when enemy citizens pass through. Algeria has proclaimed itself in a state of war with Israel.)

The crime of hijacking, the Secretary General said tonight, "must be brought before an international tribunal defending the interests of all peoples and nations and not of any particular people or nation." If such a panel should be accused of breaching national sovereignty, he said, his answer would be that "the world has no other choice" and that "nations and people must have the courage to resort to adequate new methods of international law and order." Discussing the work of the UN over 25 years, he commented that "we have failed to pacify two persisting and bloody conflicts," an apparent reference to the Middle East and Viet Nam.

3,000 U.S. Travel Agents Advised To Boycott Pro-Hijack Arab Nations

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA)--The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) has advised its 3000 member agents in the United States and Canada to cease arranging for travel to any Arab country that harbors or sympathizes with hijackers, it was disclosed today. The disclosure was contained in a telegram sent yesterday by ASTA president Charles B. West to the governments of Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria and Syria demanding that they declare themselves "opposed to the unconscionable hijacking of international air travellers and take whatever steps are necessary to halt these acts of air piracy." Mr. West, whose organization is the world's largest travel association, warned in his telegram that "If necessary assurances are not received from your government this week on behalf of our 9,700 world-wide members, international travellers and the entire travel industry, additional severe steps will be recommended to ASTA member agents that can effectively divert international tourism from Arab countries with consequent economic hardships and cultural losses to that part of the world."

1,000 Demonstrate For Soviet Jews At Pugwash Meet; Present Petition

FONTANA, Wisc., Sept. 14 (JTA)--The 120 delegates to the international Pugwash Conference on "Peace and International cooperation" were urged yesterday "to take into your own hands and hearts the oppression of the Soviet Jews." The appeal was delivered by a delegation of Jewish community leaders from Illinois and Wisconsin as 1000 persons demonstrated in a downpour of rain outside the hotel where the Pugwash Conference is being held. The demonstration, dubbed "Operation Exodus," was organized by the Chicago Community Council of Jewish Organizations, representing 41 major Jewish organizations, according to its co-chairmen, Dr. Paul Hurwitz and Mitchell Dredze. They said the appeal was intended especially for the notice of the 18 Soviet delegates to Pugwash. Sufficient copies for all the delegates were accepted by Bernard Feld, of M.I.T., a member of the U.S. delegation, who promised that they would be distributed among all of the conferees. The appeal asked for assistance for Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel but are refused exit permits by Soviet authorities. It also urged an end to the repression of Jewish cultural and religious life in the USSR. (In Mexico City, 2,000 persons, most of them young, attended a public rally yesterday demanding permission for Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. Resolutions to that effect were addressed to the Soviet Government.) (In Jerusalem, it was reported that Soviet Premier Kosygin apparently heeded Tina Brodetskaya's appeal for permission to emigrate to Israel. The 36-year-old school teacher from Moscow arrived here with her aged parents and a 20-year-old sister. Miss Brodetskaya addressed an open letter to Premier Kosygin last year which was published abroad.)

Number Of Cholera Cases In Israel Jumps; Advice Sought From Foreign Experts

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Israel's cholera outbreak has reached alarming proportions and the government is seeking advice from international health experts, it was disclosed today. Seventeen new cases were reported in the Jerusalem area raising the total to 120 cholera cases diagnosed since the disease was first detected here last month. So far only two fatalities have been reported. Public anxiety is growing. Nevertheless, Health Minister Victor Shemtov said today that the Government was standing by its policy of abstaining from mass inoculations on grounds that they were unjustified medically and psychologically. He said that view was supported by the university medical schools in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. According to Mr. Shemtov, intestinal diseases including cholera cannot be rooted out of the Jerusalem area as long as there is no sewage treatment plant. He said three such plants are needed and their cost is estimated between 21-43 million Israel pounds. Three foreign health experts invited for a week of consultations on the cholera outbreak arrived here yesterday. They are Dr. Alexander Longmore, head of the epidemiological services of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; A. Rodan, head of the epidemiology department of the British Ministry of Health and B. Svetanovic, representing the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Haifa Tugboat Men Refuse To Tow Ship Owned By Italian Boycott-Backers

HAIFA, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Haifa tugboat men have refused to tow a damaged Italian ship beyond Israeli territorial waters today on grounds that they would be abetting the Arab boycott. The Italian-flag M/S Altair, a chemical tanker, was towed into Haifa last week after her engines broke down. Her owners decided to have repairs made in Italy and dispatched Italian salvage tugs to pick up the ship. But the salvagers refused to let their craft enter Israeli waters for fear of being placed on the Arab blacklist. Haifa Port Authority tugs were asked to tow the Altair out to sea where she would be picked up by the Italian salvage tugs. But the Israeli tug crews insist that either the Italian tugs pick up their charge in Haifa or Israeli tugs get the job of towing the vessel to Italy.

Most Americans Doubt Nixon Mideast Effort Will Succeed, Harris Finds

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA)--American attitudes toward the Middle East conflict are overwhelmingly sympathetic to Israel but sharply divided as to whether the United States should send troops to defend Israel if its existence was threatened by the Arabs with Soviet backing, according to the latest Louis Harris poll made public today. The poll results also showed that a majority of Americans give President Nixon a great deal or some credit for initiating the current 90-day cease-fire in the Middle East but 57 percent doubt the likelihood of a settlement resulting from the American initiative.

The poll was described as an in-depth survey of American attitudes toward the Middle East conflict. It is based on a survey of 1437 households, representing a national cross-section, made between Aug. 25 and Sept. 1, before the wave of Arab plane hijackings. When asked where their basic sympathies lay, 46 percent singled out Israel compared with only six percent who said the Arabs. But a significant 25 percent reported no sympathies with either side and 23 percent were not able to make a judgement. Mr. Harris reported that pro-Israel sentiment was strongest among people with college education and those in the higher income brackets; pro-Arab sentiment was highest among blacks.

Americans Sharply Divided On Sending U.S. Troops To Israel

The question of American intervention with troops was phrased in two ways and in both the respondents were almost evenly divided. Told that "If it looked as though Israel were going to be taken over by the Russians and the Arabs, the U.S. would have to do everything to save Israel, including going to war," 38 percent agreed and 38 percent disagreed. When the statement was reversed to say, "Even if it looked as though Israel were going to be taken over, the U.S. should not send any of our troops to defend Israel," 41 percent agreed and 38 percent disagreed. Mr. Harris reported that interventionist sentiment on behalf of Israel ran strongest in rural areas and small towns centered in the South. He said that 43 to 24 percent of the public does not believe that Israel should give back the Arab territories it captured in the June, 1967 war. By 73 to six percent, Americans agreed to the claim that "Israel is a small courageous country which is trying to preserve its independence." By contrast, Americans disagreed 60-14 percent with the Arab claim that Israel is an intruder in the Middle East.

Many Agree Russia Seeks To Destroy Israel, Poll Finds

The public agreed to 30-26 percent that "Arab refugees are badly treated in areas occupied by Israel and should control their own lands" but 44 percent said they lacked sufficient facts to render an opinion. Israel's claim that the Russians have moved their missiles and pilots into the Mideast with the intention of destroying Israel and dominating the area was given credence by a margin of 41-29; 36 percent of Americans shared Israel's distrust of United Nations and Big Power pledges while 40 percent thought such peace-keeping efforts would work.

Asked about the prospects of a U.S.-Soviet nuclear confrontation over the Mideast, 47 percent of the public said they were worried and an equal percentage said they were not. Twenty-seven percent gave President Nixon high marks for his Mideast diplomacy, 45 percent gave him some but not a lot of credit and 15 percent hardly any credit. On the likelihood of a settlement, 21 percent thought American moves would bring results, 57 percent doubted it and 22 percent was not sure.

Abbie Nathan Barred From Leaving Israel In Income Tax Dispute

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Abbie Nathan, Israel's one-man unofficial "peace mission," was barred from leaving the country yesterday because of unpaid income tax amounting to IL 40,000. Mr. Nathan returned home two weeks ago to liquidate his property in order to finance the operation of his "peace ship" which has been berthed at a New York City pier for more than a year. The internal revenue bureau claims that Nathan has paid no income tax on his property since 1965. He gained international fame for two solo flights into Egypt to persuade President Nasser to negotiate peace with Israel. He was promptly expelled on both occasions. Latterly Mr. Nathan was involved in the Biafran relief movement.

His "peace ship," a former Dutch coaster donated by private parties and now registered in Panama, was intended to cruise the Eastern Mediterranean beaming "peace messages" to Israel and the Arab countries. But Mr. Nathan needs money for shortwave radio equipment and a crew. One of his properties here is the Cafe California which became popular at the time of his flights to Egypt and is now frequented mainly by a Bohemian crowd.

Lazar Fogelman, Former Editor Of Jewish Daily Forward, Dies At 79

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here yesterday for Lazar Fogelman, former editor in chief of the Jewish Daily Forward. He died Wednesday at the home of his son in Minneapolis, where he had been living since his retirement. He was 79.

Born near Minsk, he attended the Imperial University in Warsaw and after graduation he attended the Psychoneurological Institute in Petrograd, emigrating to the United States in 1921. He was an editorial and feature writer for the Daily Forward and became editor-in-chief in 1962, retiring a few years ago. He also had been editor of the "Zukunft," a Yiddish magazine and was president of the Jewish Writers Union. He was treasurer of the Workmen's Circle and had been active in the Jewish Labor Committee and the Jewish Culture Congress.

Mr. Fogelman was the author of a number of biographies and had written a history of the Workmen's Circle. He had been a director of the Jewish Peoples Seminary.