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Premier Meir, Eban Deny U.S. Charges Of Israeli Cease-Fire Breaches

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban rejected today State Department assertions that Israel had violated "some provisions" of the current 90-day cease-fire standstill. Mrs. Meir denied the charge during an informal news conference after her heavily-guarded arrival at Kennedy Airport for talks tomorrow with President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers. The Foreign Minister similarly rebuffed the charges in a statement before his departure for New York to attend the 25th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly. Mrs. Meir said at the airport that she had not seen the report but declared "I can say that Israel is not guilty of some violations or of any violations whatsoever." State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey declared at a briefing yesterday that there was some "evidence" that Israel reconnaissance planes had flown past a 10-kilometer limit over the Suez Canal truce zone and that Israel had "strengthened" some of its fortifications on its side of the canal. He indicated, however, that United States evidence of Egyptian violations, by introduction of new SAM missiles on its side of the canal was much more serious.

Security Arrangements Strict For Visiting Premier

Mrs. Meir came under strict security arrangements on an El Al jet. The plane was moved to a remote section of the airport where she disembarked in the presence of U.S. Secret Service men and Port Authority police. She made a brief statement and then mounted a low platform to answer questions from reporters. Asked about reports that Israel might relax its stand on releasing Arab prisoners in exchange for hostages held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Amman, she replied, "I'm sorry. Those who are in our prisons are men and women who have been brought to trial for killing or attempting to kill Israelis. They will have to serve their terms." She said she hoped her meetings with President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers would give her an opportunity to "discuss problems in the Middle East, problems which I believe we have in common with the United States." Though details of her itinerary were being withheld, it was indicated she planned to leave for Washington today for her conferences tomorrow morning with the President and the Secretary of State. She is scheduled to be back in New York for two major addresses Sunday.

Missiles In Zone, But Israel Planes Not, Eban Stresses

(Mr. Eban observed in his Jerusalem statement that "Israeli planes are not flying over Egypt while Egyptian missiles are piling up" in the truce zone. He emphasized that "one should talk about the missiles that are there and not about planes that are not." He charged that "the party that brought about the suspension of the peace talks" conducted briefly by UN peace emissary Gunnar Jarring at the UN "by violating the cease-fire is now blaming us for responsibility for the standstill in the talks." He added that Israel would agree to an extension of the cease-fire, which will expire in November, but added that Israel "would like to know clearly" what it would be asked to agree to in any new arrangement. He declared that the main problem was the forward movement by Egypt of missiles on its side of the canal. He said that if the United States charges against Israel were true at all, they were trivial compared to the Egyptian violations.)

Israel Says It Has Released 307 Of 450 Arabs Held In Roundup

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--An Army spokesman disclosed today that 307 of some 450 West Bank and Gaza Strip residents arrested last weekend on suspicion of membership in or collaboration with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have been released. He said they had been released after investigations had cleared them. The spokesman gave no other details but presumably the 307 included 25 Arab women and 50 men who were released last Monday. Some observers viewed the mass arrests as a strategic move by Israel to strengthen its bargaining position with the terrorists holding more than 50 airline hostages in Jordan. However, Foreign Minister Abba Eban strongly denied such reports, asserting that the roundup had been purely a security matter.

Israel Emphatically Denies Reports It Will Free Algerians For Hostage Exchange

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Reliable sources here emphatically denied today reports from Berne that Israel had offered to release two detained Algerian officials as part of a multi-nation agreement for release of the remaining 54 hijacked hostages still held in Jordan by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, in a statement made here before departing for New York to attend the 25th anniversary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, refused to discuss the reports. He said that the question was a dangerous one to discuss openly and that the position of the hostages might be hurt through such discussion. He expressed the view that the five states involved in the hijacking--the United States, West Germany, Britain, Switzerland and Israel--had not used all the options open to them.

Meanwhile, the despatch by the International Red Cross of a new negotiator, Pierre Boissier, to Jordan was being described in Geneva as a success in the efforts by West Germany and Britain to revive the negotiations, which were suspended by the Red Cross last Sunday. Informed sources in Geneva said the Popular Front had agreed to resume talks with Red Cross negotiators. West German

officials were reported to have insisted they would start independent talks for the release of the British hostages unless the Red Cross could get a quick settlement but later, it was reported the West German Government was satisfied that joint discussions were being resumed under Red Cross auspices. The Popular Front has demanded the release by Israel of the two Algerians, a Swiss suspected by Israel of being a guerrilla agent, 10 Lebanese soldiers and an unspecified number of Arab terrorists held in Israeli jails. The Popular Front said it would not present Israel with a list of the jailed guerrillas the hijackers want released until Israel agrees "in principle" to the release of the Algerians, the Swiss and the Lebanese. They also are demanding the release of seven guerrillas held in Europe in exchange for eight Britons, eight Swiss and two West Germans.

The latest hijack negotiation developments were complicated by the installation of a military government in Jordan and the outbreak of major warfare in central Jordan between the Jordanian army and various guerrilla groups, whose spokesmen were understood to have declared that they were ready for a "final battle" with Jordan's new military government. Some sources were quoted in Jordan as saying the hostages could become "pawns" for use by the guerrillas in their spreading battle with the Jordanian Army. (Reliable sources in Washington said today that the remaining hostages had been removed from the area in Jordan where some of the most severe fighting between government troops and guerrillas was taking place. Late reports today indicated that the Jordanian army had smashed most of the guerrilla forces and that most of Amman had been cleared of commando fighters.)

Boissier and Marcel Boisard were sent to Amman by the Red Cross, raising to five the number of Red Cross negotiators now in Jordan. Red Cross officials reported the situation in Jordan to be so confused that the negotiators were finding it difficult to locate Palestinian representatives authorized to negotiate for the hostages. The sources here who said the reports on the Algerian officials were wrong added that Israel did in fact want to free the Algerians and had planned to do so until the series of hijackings took place on Aug. 30. The Algerians have not been freed at this time, the sources said, because Israel fears their release might be misinterpreted by the Popular Front as a sign of weakness which could result in prolonging the detention of the remaining hostages. (In London, Prime Minister Edward Heath called today on the Jordanian government and the Popular Front not to harm any of the remaining hostages. The appeal was broadcast by the BBC world and Arab services. He declared that "the outbreak of fighting in Amman this morning has created new dangers for these hostages." He added his government had consulted with other nations to find ways to protect the safety and lives of the hostages and of their governmental personnel in Jordan. A government spokesman said British military action was not envisaged but that plans had been made for evacuation of the estimated 160 British personnel in the embattled kingdom.)

Special Israel Commission Studying Procedures For Coping With Hijackers

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA)--A spokesman for a government commission named to review airline security procedures after the abortive terrorist attempt to hijack an El Al airliner on Aug. 30 reported today that the commission was studying procedures for coping with future hijacking attempts, particularly in which terrorists threaten the use of hand grenades. A grenade was used in the El Al attack but it did not explode. It was found with the pin removed. The spokesman said the commission had concluded that procedures would have to be worked out for such weapons threats because even such a grenade can explode. The commission was expected to recommend continuation of existing rules that plane crews must not surrender to hijack threats even when a live grenade is involved. Meanwhile, it was reported that two Trans World security officers have arrived here to discuss with Israeli aviation authorities and El Al officials aerial security procedures. Their visit followed a decision by the United States to place armed guards on all commercial flights to prevent hijackings.

(In Bonn, government spokesman Konrad Ahlers said today that West Germany would not put armed guards on airliners because it considered the move too dangerous. He said his government preferred stricter screenings of passengers, and that West Germany endorsed international action on air piracy.) (In Washington, the United States recommended today that air transportation rights be denied any nations that tolerate the detention of airliners, passengers or crewmen on their territories or that fail to extradite or prosecute hijackers. The resolution, condemning the "heightened threat" of hijacking "for blackmail purposes," was issued on the eve of the emergency meeting of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization, beginning tomorrow in Montreal. The 27-member council represents the 119 ICAO member states. The U.S., asserting that hijacking contravenes the Tokyo Convention, called for action on its resolution by ICAO's legal committee, which meets in London Sept. 29. A high-level U.S. delegation will attend the Montreal sessions. It will be headed by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe and Federal Aviation Administrator John H. Shaffer.)

Nixon Spokesman Reaffirms U.S. Stand For United Front On Hostage Release

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--A Nixon Administration spokesman reaffirmed today that the United States efforts to free the hijack victims held by Arab terrorists in Jordan are "directed toward the release of all passengers without any distinction whatsoever." In a letter to Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Harold H. Saunders, a senior member of the National Security Council wrote: "As a senior official responsible for Middle East affairs, I would like to say that we share in your concern over the seriousness of the present situation and are strenuously engaged in measures to secure the release of all passengers involved in the hijacking. I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm--despite whatever other reports may be circulating--that our efforts are directed toward the release of all passengers without any discrimination whatsoever. Any implication to the contrary is inaccurate." Dr. Wexler said he was gratified with Mr. Saunders's "assurances." He expressed "appreciation and support" for the White House's efforts to secure the prompt release of all the hijack victims without regard to race, religion, national origin or citizenship.

Four Convicted Popular Front Terrorists May Face Death Sentences

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Four members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who were convicted yesterday by a Gaza tribunal on charges of attacking Israel patrols and of causing the death of at least three soldiers, are subject to capital punishment, officials said here today. A verdict is expected later, they said. Under the Israeli army code, only a panel of three, two of whom must be jurists, may hand down a capital punishment verdict. That was the composition of the Gaza tribunal. In four prior cases in which capital punishment verdicts were returned, all of the sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. A fifth Popular Front member was acquitted of killing but found guilty on charges of sabotage for which he is likely to get a ten-year sentence, officials said. A military tribunal in Jenin sentenced another group of Popular Front members yesterday to long terms. Mahmoud Abdallah, 30, a graduate of Beirut University, was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor. Two subordinates received 20-year terms. A 17-year-old defendant was sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

Two Israeli civilians, Itzhak Graieff and David Cohen, were killed and a third Israeli injured when their tractor hit a mine on a main road southwest of Raffah in the northern Sinai. Security officials opened an investigation. A curfew was imposed today on Raffah and on three nearby refugee camps in connection with the probe. Seven Arabs are being held for questioning in connection with the bombings in Nathanya last Monday night. Four of the suspects, from the Samaria district, work in Nathanya. The other three are residents of Arab villages in Israel.

Guerrilla Head Would Welcome World War III 'To Crush Zionism'

BONN, Sept. 17 (JTA)--George Habash, leader of the guerrilla group responsible for the four airline hijackings on Aug. 30, said in an interview with Der Stern that he was ready to risk touching off World War III if that would "crush Zionism and Arab reactionaries." The interview, which will appear next week, was made before the Aug. 30 hijackings and detention by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of more than 300 airline passengers. Asked if he was aware that activities of the Popular Front could lead to a new world war, he replied "oh, yes, but that does not unnerve me. The whole world has something to lose" in such a war "but we haven't. If this is the only possibility to destroy Israel and Zionism and Arab reactionaries, we even wish a world war to come."

He bitterly attacked all Arab regimes, except that of Iraq, for opposing the Popular Front and praised the support of Communist China because that regime has declared that "Israel must be eliminated." He explained Popular Front attacks on airliners by saying that the airlines did not have the "financial status and strength that Israel boasts" and that the Popular Front had to give a "sign" of its goals. He said the Popular Front could achieve that objective without paying too great a cost only by getting "100 percent results in their operations," which was feasible by attacks on airlines. He said that since West Germany and the United States were supporting Israel, "they were involved in the battle." (Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the world Zionist leader, told the Cologne Stadtanzeiger that if Habash's Popular Front seized power in Jordan, this would be a reason for Israel to intervene but he added he did not believe the terrorists would win in Jordan.)

Newsbriefs

JERUSALEM, Sept. 17 (JTA)--A private firm that provides security guards for a mental home at Beer Yaacov was charged with negligence in the escape of Denis Michael William Rohan from the institution two weeks ago. The board of inquiry set up by the Health Ministry also blamed the institution's medical staff but decided that there was insufficient grounds for legal action against any individual. Rohan, a former Australian sheep-herder who confessed to setting fire to the El Aksa mosque in Jerusalem on Aug. 21, 1969, was recaptured by Israeli police several hours after his escape. He has since been confined to a mental ward in the old Crusaders' fortress at Acre.

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--The port of Ashdod has been shut down by a strike of maritime workers which is opposed by Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation. Histadrut warned that it would withdraw its support of the workers unless they return to their jobs and negotiated their demands under normal conditions. The harbor pilots, navigators and tugboat operators are demanding higher wages. Ships bound for Ashdod have been diverted to Haifa. The port, Israel's newest, has been plagued in the past by strikes and slowdowns by longshoremen.

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--The head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department has urged better coordination between his agency and the government's Immigrant Absorption Ministry to facilitate the integration of 40-50,000 new immigrants who arrived or are expected this year and a like number anticipated for 1971. Gen. Uri Narkis said improved cooperation was necessary to avoid bottlenecks that may develop in receiving and absorbing the newcomers. He said 8000 of this year's immigrants are from the United States and 10,000 are expected next year. Gen. Narkis said that 120,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War.

TEL AVIV, Sept. 17 (JTA)--For the first time in many years, hotel rooms are available in Israel for the High holiday season after some hotels, which had been booked to capacity, received a number of cancellations. There was speculation that the cholera scare and the recent hijacking of airliners by Arab guerrillas led to the cancellations. However, officials added, there is still a constant stream of tourists arriving for the High Holy Day season.

Boukstein Named To Head Weizmann Institute Executive Council

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Maurice H. Boukstein, a member of the board of governors of the Weizmann Institute since 1949, has been named chairman of the Institute's executive council, it was announced today by Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the board. Mr. Boukstein, a leading American attorney, succeeds Meyer Weisgal, who held the post of chief executive officer of the Weizmann Institute from 1947 until his retirement in 1969, when he was named Institute Chancellor. Mr. Boukstein's appointment and a strengthening of the executive council are part of a policy initiated by Dr. Albert Sabin when he became president of the Institute last January, Dr. Stone said. The plan divides responsibilities of the presidency, the board and the executive council, placing greater responsibility for the maintenance of the Institute and assuring adequate funds for its support on members of the board, it was explained.

Mr. Boukstein, who is also a vice-president of the American Committee for the Institute, has served as legal advisor to the Jewish Agency for Israel since 1948, and as counsel to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany since 1953. He was a member of the 1952 Conference delegation to the Hague which negotiated the agreement with West Germany on indemnification of victims of Nazism. He has since been active with the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, having served as its president and chairman of its executive committee.

Wiesenthal Suing Austrian Socialists Over Documentation Center Threats

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal has filed suit against the central secretariat of the Socialist party of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the Nazi-hunter reported in a Sept. 14 letter received here today by Harry Evans, a supporter of Wiesenthal's Documentation Center in Vienna. Wiesenthal wrote he had started the suit because the secretariat had denied his charge that the Austrian government had threatened to shut down the center. He labeled as "blasphemous" the Austrian government's statement that the center would be allowed to remain open as long as it adhered to Austrian law. He condemned the implication of that statement, asking "Is there anything illegal that the Documentation Center has already done?" A spokesman for the Austrian Consulate here, queried about the suit, said he had no information about the matter.

Project Equality Member Agencies Strengthen Job Requirements For Poor

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--Twenty-nine Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religious and social action agencies, banded together in Metropolitan New York Project Equality, have announced that all construction contacts they give hereafter must provide increased job opportunities for the disadvantaged. Project Equality members include the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues.

Previously, builders seeking contracts from member agencies of Project Equality were required only to promise to provide such opportunities and spot checks were made to determine compliance, according to Harry Fleishman, race relations coordinator for the American Jewish Committee. Under the new arrangements, builders and sub-contractors will be required to sign contracts pledging they will "train and employ" members of minority groups and other disadvantaged persons, with one trainee for every four journeymen, he said. He said none of the three member Jewish organizations had done any building in recent years but that all future construction and alteration contracts will be let only under terms of the new arrangement.

Rabbi-Caseworker Suffers Anti-Semitic Taunts; Gets Shift From Ghetto

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--A 31-year-old Hassidic rabbi and municipal caseworker has praised the American Jewish Congress for its assistance in gaining him a transfer to another area after he was subjected to anti-Semitic taunts for three months in his assigned area. Rabbi Howard Scheiner, a member of the city's Social Services Department for three and a half years, was transferred on Sept. 8 to the Bay Ridge center in Brooklyn, his original choice, after complaining of taunts by undesirables while working at the Wyckoff center in the largely black and Puerto Rican Bedford-Stuyvesant and Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn. "I feel that words alone cannot convey my expressions of gratitude to you and the American Jewish Congress for your intervention on my behalf to rectify a potentially dangerous situation that would only have a negative outcome," Rabbi Scheiner wrote to Herman Brown, director of the AJCongress' Metropolitan Council.

Rabbi Scheiner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that although he wore a business suit and a hat when visiting clients of the Wyckoff center, the drug addicts and alcoholics in the area "can tell who 'the Jew' is." He said it was "very, very difficult for a Hassidic person with a beard to walk into a ghetto neighborhood." The area covered by the Bay Ridge center, where he is now situated, includes 500 Hassidic families on welfare, according to the AJCongress.

U.S. Bishops Conference Names New Moderator For Catholic-Jewish Relations

NEW YORK, Sept. 17 (JTA)--The upcoming fifth anniversary of the Vatican's renunciation of the concept of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus was emphasized today by Msgr. Francis Mugavero, Bishop of Brooklyn and newly designated moderator of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He spoke at a reception in his honor in the offices of the American Jewish Committee, where he called for mutual efforts to erase anti-Semitism. The reception was one of a series of observances planned by the AJCommittee to mark the promulgation of the Vatican proclamation in October, 1965. The series will include a seminar at the Institute of Judaic-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., Oct. 25-28. Msgr. Mugavero was welcomed today by Morris B. Abram, honorary AJCommittee president, and by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director for interreligious affairs, who presented him with a Bible.