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Nasser Dies Of Heart Attack At 52; Death May Affect Middle East Situation

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA)--President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, died suddenly today of a heart attack. He was 52. His death, confirmed by Cairo radio will have unpredictable consequences for the Middle East conflict and prospects for peace, diplomatic sources said here today. A spokesman for the Israel Embassy here said he didn't think Nasser's death "affected Israel at all. He was not Israel's President," he remarked. Other diplomatic sources said however that Nasser's untimely death was a serious blow that would affect the entire Middle East because "there is no one around of the same stature" in the Arab world. Col. Nasser was born in 1918, was educated at the Cairo Military Academy and made his career as an Army officer. He fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and was leader of a group of young Army officers who overthrew the late King Farouk in the coup d'etat of July 23, 1952.

He was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Egypt in 1952-54, Prime Minister and Military Governor in 1954-56 and became Egypt's first President in 1956, the office he held at the time of his death. It was during Nasser's tenure that the Soviet Union gained its first foothold in the Middle East, becoming Egypt's chief military supplier and diplomatic supporter. As President, Col. Nasser frequently visited the USSR. He was awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union, one of the highest orders bestowed by the Soviet Government. President Nasser had suffered from diabetes and other ailments for several years and often sought medical treatment in the USSR. His death came only a day after he presided at a meeting of Arab states in Cairo at which King Hussein, of Jordan and Palestinian guerrilla leader, Yassir Arafat, signed a pact ending the ten-day Jordanian civil war. Diplomatic observers here said Nasser's death greatly complicated Hussein's problems since the Jordanian monarch depended on the Egyptian leader for support.

Eban: Israel Will Resume Peace Talks When Standstill Violations Are Nullified

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 28 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban reaffirmed to the General Assembly today his government's determination not to return to the Gunnar V. Jarring peace talks before the Egyptian missile advantage gained in violation of the standstill provisions of the cease-fire is nullified. "When we reflect on our experience with the 'hopes and expectations of 1957' and with this latest incident," the Israeli diplomat declared, "we become fortified in our resolve to insist that all peace engagements be direct explicit and signed and sealed in the most precise contractual form. Israel is ready to resume discussions under Ambassador Jarring's auspices as soon as the violations are rectified and the situation prevailing on the day of the cease-fire restored." Egypt's standstill abrogation, Mr. Eban said, was a singularly "perfidious violation of an international agreement through the exploitation of the good faith and pacific intention of the other side."

It has resulted, he continued, in a "collapse of confidence in the validity of Egypt's pledge," and "has cast an anticipatory shadow on the validity of any peace agreement which we might hope to conclude." In addition, he said, the "endorsement" of that abrogation by the Soviet Union is "a major international event" because "its repercussions go beyond the Middle East; they affect crucial issues of peace and security in other continents of the world." Mr. Eban offered to "use my presence here for talks with heads of Arab delegations on the establishment of peace and on the creation of the atmosphere and conditions in which a fruitful negotiation can take place." There is, he said, "no rational or defensible reason for refusing such an opportunity."

In the first of a series of Arab replies to Mr. Eban's address, Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed H. El-Zayyat said the first violation of the truce occurred when Israeli planes crossed the Suez the night of Aug. 7-8. He said the UN should "forcefully" oppose Israeli "aggression," charging that Israel was "seeking the freedom to invade without hindrance to the parts (of Arab territory) not yet occupied." He said Egypt "cannot allow" the "freedom to intimidate and dictate" possessed by Israel through deliveries of American weaponry that "do away with all the principles of the United Nations Charter." If Mr. Eban is interested in peace contacts, Dr. El-Zayyat remarked, "The way for that is to go and see Mr. Jarring. Mr. Jarring is here in his room." The Egyptian charged that the two dozen anti-Israel Security Council resolutions since 1948 have been "left to gather to dust on the shelf of the United Nations." Regarding what he called the "so-called terrorist groups," he said that if the Palestinians cannot obtain their aims under law, "what's wrong with terror?" Mr. Eban and Dr. El-Zayyat each received 10 seconds of polite applause from the Assembly.

vention of peace between Israel and the Arab states"; "In 1970 Israel's statehood is not something to be explained, defended or submitted to approval or dissent. It is something to be proclaimed as an absolute and inexorable reality, deep-rooted and authentic, on a level of absolute equality with the statehood, sovereignty and national identity of any nation, great or small, represented in this hall."

Mr. Eban also declared: "By its solitude and uniqueness, Israel's secure existence is the overriding moral imperative in this dispute.... To suggest a distribution whereby all Arabs must be sovereign everywhere and all Jews nowhere is to fall into an abyss of paradox and discrimination." Mr. Eban also repeated a proposal for an Arab state with a Palestinian majority in Jordan. "Israel will never move its forces in any cause except its own legitimate security." "Aerial piracy... should never be indulged, condoned or, above all, rewarded.... Physical methods of prevention should be adopted without limitation or reserve." Mr. Eban backed the United States proposal for suspension of airline services to and from any state complying with hijackers or failing to extradite or prosecute them. He called for international action to increase airport and aircraft security, adopt this December's proposed Hague Convention, establish sanctions against nations tolerating hijackers and create a permanent hijacking tribunal. "Humanity and justice call upon the Soviet government to recognize the human rights of its Jewish citizens and to permit them freely to exercise those rights".

The Israeli Foreign Minister observed that, in 22 years the Arab states and Israel have spent more than 20 thousand million dollars for military purposes. "If one tenth of that sum had been invested in a refugee solution," he stated, "the problem would have been solved long ago in a way that would have promoted economic progress in all the countries in which the resettlement was made." The 55-year-old Capetown born diplomat, concluding his speech, declared: "Above all, (Israel) will keep its mind and heart open to the prospect of a negotiated peace. Its people has the strength, the tenacity and the will to withstand the violent forces which assail its life and threaten its future. But its deepest aspiration is to deploy its energies in the service of a peaceful order of relations in the Middle East. The key to that future lies in a negotiation explicitly directed to the establishment of peace. And the key is now in Arab, and particularly in Egyptian, hands.

Israel Faces Prospect Of Renewed Guerrilla War; Lebanese Troops Gathering On Border

LONDON, Sept. 28 (JTA)--The prospect of renewed guerrilla activity against Israel emerged today following a pact signed by King Hussein of Jordan and El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat in Cairo yesterday which represents substantial gains for the Palestinians. The pact that is supposed to formally end the civil war which broke out in Jordan on Sept. 17 was endorsed by representatives of Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Sudan and Lebanon who added their signatures to those of Hussein and Arafat on the 14-point document. It assures the guerrillas of the support of the Arab world until "full liberation and victory over the aggressive Israeli enemy" is achieved. It also further limits King Hussein's authority in his own kingdom by providing for a three-man supervisory committee to maintain order in the country and oversee military and civilian affairs until a "normal situation" is restored. The committee will be headed by Premier Bahi Ladgham of Tunisia and will include one Jordanian and one Palestinian. The key point immediately affecting Israel's security provides for the withdrawal of guerrillas from Amman "and their deployment in positions suited to raiding action against Israel." The pact insures "the continuation of the Palestinian resistance and respect for the sovereignty of Jordan, with the exception of the needs of resistance activity." The exception appeared to offer the guerrillas considerable freedom of action. In addition, the pact restores the status quo ante of Sept. 17 in northern Jordan, thereby returning to the guerrillas their strongholds in Irbid and other towns captured by Hussein's forces in the civil war.

Israel's borders have been free of guerrilla attacks since the fighting began in Jordan 11 days ago. The guerrillas apparently committed all of their manpower to the battle against King Hussein. (Reports from Tel Aviv today said that Israeli circles expect a "demonstrative action" by Palestinian guerrillas in the next few days prove that they can still function after the heavy losses they suffered at the hands of the Jordanian troops. They will be trying to impress the Arab world and particularly the West Bank residents, the Israelis said. Israel has already warned Jordan that it would be held responsible for any resumption of attacks on Israeli settlements and would take retaliatory action against Jordanian forces as well as against the guerrillas.) (Reports from Israel today said large formations of Lebanese troops were seen in the border area, apparently in expectation of renewed guerrilla activity against Israel. The Lebanese are believed to be deploying to prevent the guerrillas from attacking from Lebanese soil in order to avert Israeli retaliation. Reports from Amman today said shooting continued in the capital despite the Hussein-Arafat pact.) Iraq, Morocco and Algeria, which sided with the Palestinians against Hussein in the civil war and Syria, boycotted the Cairo meeting and rejected the Hussein-Arafat pact. Those countries have supported guerrilla demands that King Hussein abdicate. The representative of Yemen, who went to Cairo, left before the agreement was signed.

Jordanian Authorities Reject Israel's Offer To Help Civil War Casualties

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA)--Jordanian authorities have turned down an Israeli offer to accept wounded Jordanian civilians for treatment in Israeli hospitals. The offer was made last week, at the height of the Jordanian civil war, by Health Minister Victor Shemtov and elaborate preparations were made to receive the wounded. According to reports from Amman, the International Red Cross set up a convoy of wounded to cross the Allenby bridge where the casualties would be transferred to Israeli ambulances. The hospital in nearby Jericho was prepared as a clearing center from which they would be distributed to hospitals all over Israel for treatment. Emergency cases were to have been treated on the spot. But at the last minute, the Jordanians withheld their approval and the convoy never left Amman. Only two wounded, an adult and a child, received permits in Amman and arrived on the West Bank at the appointed hour.

33 Hijack Victims Return To U.S.; Some Say They Were Treated Well By Terrorists

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA)--Thirty-three airline hijack victims, freed by their terrorist captors in Jordan on Saturday, are due at Kennedy Airport at 5:40 p.m. today on a TWA charter flight from Nicosia, Cyprus. By early afternoon, relatives and friends of the passengers began to converge on the TWA flight center at the airport to await a reunion with the men, women and children who held as hostages for three weeks by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The returnees--27 men, five women and an infant--are mostly Jewish. They were flown out of Amman yesterday by the International Red Cross and were picked up at Nicosia by TWA early today. All were passengers on TWA flight 741 which was hijacked by Arab commandos Sept. 6 after taking off from Frankfurt, West Germany, on a flight from Tel Aviv to New York. Six other passengers of the ill-fated flight 741 were still in Amman today, reportedly in the custody of the Egyptian Embassy there following their release by the guerrillas. There was no information available as to why they did not proceed to Cyprus with the other freed hostages. U.S. officials in Washington cautioned yesterday that the episode was not yet closed. A TWA spokesman in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this morning that as far as the airline knew the six were no longer hostages and would leave Amman shortly, probably today. He said it was likely that they too would be flown by the Red Cross to Nicosia where they would board a TWA flight for New York.

All of the remaining six detainees are males. The TWA spokesman identified them as Gerald Berkowitz of New York, a college chemistry teacher; John Hollingsworth, a State Department foreign service staff officer; Robert Schwartz and James L. Woods, both scientists employed by the Defense Department and Rabbis Abraham and Joseph Harari-Rafoul of New York City. The latter two are believed to carry both U.S. and Israeli passports. (Sarah Malka, one of the 33 freed hostages, told the JTA in Nicosia last night that she was interrogated for eight hours by the Palestinian guerrillas who accused her of being an Israeli spy. Miss Malka, 20, a school teacher in North Bergen, N.J., said the guerrillas found in her possession a photograph of herself posing beside a burnt-out Syrian tank. She said it was a souvenir of her holiday in Israel but they insisted that she was a member of the Israel Army women's corps, and, because she speaks Arabic, that she was a spy. Miss Malka said her knowledge of Arabic was helpful because she was able to act as an interpreter for the other hostages. She said that "many times" she feared they would not live through the ordeal. She said her main problem was to obtain food and water.)

(The freed hostages told newsmen at Nicosia airport last night that they were treated very well by their Palestinian captors who shared food and water with them and were very polite. Although most of the hostages were Jewish and some had dual American-Israeli citizenship, there was no discrimination. Kosher food was provided for the observant Jews among the hostages and they were permitted to observe the Sabbath, the returnees said. David Miller, 18, a Jewish youth from Brooklyn told newsmen, "I made friends with them. I became a little more sympathetic toward their cause. They are human beings, like everyone else." Barbara Mensch, a 16-year-old high-school girl from Scarsdale, N.Y. said, "They really had no intention of harming us. We had some very close calls. It was extremely frightening." However, another Jewish youth, who did not want to be identified, commented, "I suppose we're saying just what they wanted us to say--what great guys they are and how they've got a real point. As somebody said, we're worth more alive to them than dead." Mark Shain, a 20-year old University of Wisconsin student, said, "We felt they knew if anything happened to us it would be the end of them as far as world opinion is concerned." He said he thought the guerrillas finally released the hostages because "We were a liability" to them.)

Nixon Greets Hijack Victims; Confers With Italian Leaders About Mideast Situation

ROME, Sept. 28 (JTA)--President Richard M. Nixon and Premier Emilio Colombo, of Italy, greeted 33 released American hijack victims today when their chartered TWA jet touched down at Rome airport enroute from Nicosia, Cyprus to New York. President Nixon, who arrived in Rome yesterday on the first leg of a European tour, boarded the airliner and talked briefly to the passengers. Speaking to newsmen afterwards he credited United States policy during the hijack crisis with securing the release of the hostages. He said America's problem was to show force and at the same time practice restraint and that the presence of the hijack victims here today unharmed confirmed that the U.S. had acted correctly. (In Washington today State Department spokesman John King said that no deal was made with the Palestinian guerrillas for release of the hostages. He said he spoke for Secretary of State William P. Rogers who is in Rome with President Nixon. "We are all gratified at the release of our fellow citizens following their three weeks' ordeal as hostages," Mr. King said, adding, "We pledge our continuing and unremitting efforts to obtain the release of the remaining six Americans now held against their will. We call upon those holding those passengers to release them immediately." Mr. King referred to six Americans, all males, who were passengers on the TWA flight 741 hijacked Sept. 6. They were reported to have been freed by the guerrillas and handed over to the Egyptian Embassy in Amman. But they did not leave Jordan with the 33 other hostages. Mr. King said "We must assume they are in the hands of the guerrillas." One U.S. official said the U.S. Embassy in Amman has been in touch with the Egyptian Embassy intermittently by phone but was unable to confirm that the six Americans are in Egyptian hands.)

The Middle East situation and the Mediterranean area generally were the main subjects of Mr. Nixon's talks with Italian leaders today. He met with President Giuseppe Saragat, Premier Colombo and Foreign Minister Aldo Moro. The Italians endorsed the U.S. peace initiative and expressed hope that the cease-fire engineered by Secretary of State Rogers can be prolonged and that peace talks can resume under United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. Mr. Rogers reportedly expressed optimism. He said that both sides in the conflict lately showed greater "disposability" to talk peace. Mr. Moro stressed that the climate for negotiations within the UN framework must be re-established. He said efforts should be made to reach a definitive political solution of the problem of the Palestinians.

