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Arab-Israeli Peace Talks May Go Into Deep Freeze As A Result Of Nasser's Death

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--President Nasser's sudden death is likely to freeze the already stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks for an indefinite period, Israeli leaders believe. They are hopeful that a new Egyptian regime will make it possible for both sides to start afresh in the quest for a peaceful Mideast settlement. But they are aware that the late Egyptian President was the only Arab leader who commanded the political power and personal prestige necessary to negotiate with Israel and at the moment there is no leader of similar stature anywhere in the Arab world. Egypt's new interim President is Anwar Sadat, the former Vice President, who is known as a leftist and a bitter foe of Israel. Under Egyptian law the National Assembly must nominate a new president within 60 days, subject to confirmation by a popular referendum. Israeli troops guarding the Suez Canal front and other border zones were put on alert following the announcement of Nasser's death yesterday. Military sources described the move as a routine precautionary measure taken whenever a change of regime occurs in a neighboring country. (Egyptian troops were also alerted, according to Cairo radio.)

Israeli authorities did not expect any change in the Suez cease-fire in the immediate future. As far as shooting is concerned, the Egyptians have observed the cease-fire carefully since it went into effect on Aug. 7. However, it was noted here that President Nasser exerted strong personal control of the Egyptian Army and it remains to be seen whether his successor will enjoy the same influence. Premier Golda Meir met informally with her senior cabinet ministers last night to discuss the implications of Nasser's death but no official comment was issued. (Speaking on a taped television interview in New York last night, Foreign Minister Abba Eban predicted a power struggle in Egypt that would reduce that country's international activities for the time being. "A sudden change like this creates a new opportunity for a nation to appraise its position and its policies," Mr. Eban said. He said the question was whether the vacuum left by Nasser would be filled by a single leader. "I rather think that there will be a struggle for power and the external effects could be beneficial" because Egypt might want to reduce her international involvement, the Israeli diplomat said. He added that there was a danger that out of devotion to Nasser, the new regime would "blindly follow the old course.")

Galili: Israel Ready To Achieve Peace With Nasser's Successor; Violence In East Jerusalem

The only government figure to comment publicly here was Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili who said that Israel stood ready to make a "new start" to achieve peace with Nasser's successors. Israelis generally received news of Nasser's death with indifference. He was heartily disliked by the man-in-the-street and widely regarded as Israel's number one enemy. But in East Jerusalem, some 4,000 Arab youths and adults demonstrated violently and had to be dispersed with fire hoses after they stoned police. Thirty were arrested. In Gaza, troops used firearms to disperse violent demonstrators. An Arab woman was hit. West Bank Arabs began three days of mourning. The Nablus municipality organized a representative delegation of West Bankers to attend Nasser's funeral which will take place in Cairo on Thursday. Shops in Arab villages and towns were closed. In Shefar Am, in Upper Galilee, Arab students paraded with black flags. There were demonstrations in the Arab village of Taibe in central Israel. Israeli newspapers took a generally dim view of Middle East peace prospects following Nasser's death. The English-language Jerusalem Post observed that "despite his enmity, Nasser offered Israel a hope, however slight, which was afforded by no other Arab leader--that of a man strong enough to lead the Arab world to peace."

Haaretz said that "at first glance one might think that Nasser's death will make Israel's situation easier; but no one can know this for certain. It is not impossible that the Soviets will try to turn Egypt into the first Popular Democracy in the Near East." Davar said that "Years will pass before an Arab leader appears who enjoys the same prestige as Nasser. His successor will have to show great talent to overcome the political disintegration of Egypt. It is doubtful whether Nasser's successor will be able to prevent the open or concealed rise of the military to political power." Lamerhav noted that President Nasser had "personified more than any other Arab personality the Arab war against Israel. But it is doubtful that his departure will lead to a reduction of Arab hatred of Israel. On the contrary, the leaders of the Arab states may now vie with each other to deepen that hatred." Eulogies of President Nasser were published today in East Jerusalem's two Arabic newspapers. One of them, El Anba, is edited by Jews; the other, El Kuds, is strongly anti-Israel but nevertheless is permitted by the government to publish.

Anxiety Expressed That Nasser's Death Shatters All Hope For Mideast Peace Settlement

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The sudden death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, has shattered hopes for a Middle East peace settlement, at least in the near future. It also vastly complicates the already complex Middle East situation in which growing Soviet influence and the rise of the Palestinian guerrillas loom as the most important factors. This was the consensus today of American diplomatic and intelligence officials and of Middle East experts in official and non-official capacities here. They concurred in the view that Nasser's death will set off an internal power struggle in Egypt in which the contest will be waged between the military on one hand and civilian politicians on the other. No strong man was seen emerging in Cairo in the immediate future. Officials here believe

that Egypt will be governed for the time being by a collective leadership, probably composed of War Minister Mohammed Fawzi, Minister of Interior Sharawi Gumal and the heads of the military services. Col. Nasser never groomed his subordinates for possible succession and constantly shifted men in key positions to avoid an accumulation of power by any individual. His hand-picked Vice President, Anwar Sadat, now the interim President of Egypt, is not regarded here as strong enough to step into Nasser's shoes.

Washington's diplomatic community was unanimous in its acknowledgment that President Nasser was the only Arab leader in a strong enough position to lead the Arab world toward peace with Israel. Egypt, though still the largest and strongest of the Arab states, may lose much of its influence as a result of Nasser's death, diplomatic sources here said. They noted that the late Col. Nasser was a hero to millions of Arabs beyond his own country's borders. His death was also seen as a blow to the Soviet position in the Mideast. Nasser was the spearhead of Soviet influence in the region and Kremlin leaders carefully cultivated him to the exclusion of other Arab leaders. Egypt is wholly dependent on the USSR for the equipment and training of its armed forces and Egypt's air defense is said to be totally in Russian hands. But the question is how strong Russian influence will be on the Egyptian military now that Nasser is gone, observers here said. They noted that there has been friction between Egyptian military officers and their Russian advisers which only Nasser's influence held in abeyance. They believe the Soviet Union will now do its utmost to assure Egypt of its continued military and political support. Such assurances are expected to be conveyed by Premier Alexei Kosygin when he comes to Cairo to attend Nasser's funeral Thursday.

Russians Expected To Move Into Power Vacuum; 90-Day Truce Expected To Continue

The Russians are also expected to try to exert a decisive influence on the selection of Egypt's future leadership. There are pro-and anti-Soviet elements in the Egyptian hierarchy. Of the two men already mentioned as possible successors to Nasser, Former Vice President Zakaria Mohieddin is said to have pro-Western leanings and Air Marshall Ali Sabry, long a Nasser intimate, has a pro-Soviet reputation. Also mentioned as a possibility is Mohammed Heikal, Minister of Information and editor of the Cairo daily Al Ahram, who was one of Nasser's closest confidants. But the view emerged here that Egypt's future strong man may be someone who is now as obscure as Col. Nasser himself was before he master-minded the 1952 coup that ousted the late King Farouk. Authorities on Egypt said a new leader could rise from one of the three major political forces in Egypt. These are the military, the Arab Socialist Union which Nasser established as the country's only political party and the Moslem Brotherhood. The latter is a fanatical religious group which Nasser forced underground. It is an advocate of holy wars and a return to the ways of the Koran, eschewing all the modern embellishments of statehood. The Arab Socialist Union is said to have little influence without Nasser's personal leadership.

According to most experts, the Egyptian military establishment seems the most likely to produce the country's future leadership, either in the form of a junta or a single strong man. Observers here believe that for the time being Egypt will continue to observe the 90-day Suez cease-fire with Israel. They predict a period of relative calm on the war front while Egypt sorts out its internal affairs. An unpredictable factor is the militant Palestinian guerrilla movement whose extremist elements were held in check by Nasser's personal influence and prestige. The late President had served as a mediator in savage disputes between the guerrillas and the Lebanese government earlier this year and most recently in the Jordanian civil war. Nasser's death occurred only a day after he successfully brought King Hussein of Jordan and guerrilla chief Yassir Arafat together in Cairo to sign a pact ending the bloodshed. Without Nasser's support, Hussein's position appeared more precarious than ever. Some observers here thought the guerrillas would seize the vacuum in Egypt as an opportunity to destroy what remains of U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Mideast peace initiative.

Jarring: 'Premature' To Write Off Peace Mission; Nixon: Mission Still 'Valid Initiative'

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring said through a spokesman today that it was "premature" to write off his Middle East peace mission because of the death of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. There were unconfirmed reports that President Nixon had said aboard his ship on the Mediterranean that the United States peace initiative, which relaunched the moribund Jarring mission, was now dead. U.S. sources said today that it was still "a valid initiative". The Big Four ambassadors were scheduled to meet again tomorrow in what a source close to them described as a state of "acute awareness" of the developments in the Mideast. The Big Four deputies met again this morning on the question of peace implementation guidelines. The president of the General Assembly, Dr. Edvard I. Hambro of Norway, called Col. Nasser "a statesman of far-reaching views" whose death is "particularly tragic and untimely." U.S. Ambassador Charles W. Yost said Mr. Nasser "has been a great leader of his people for almost two decades, in times of triumph, in times of tragedy," and that "he will be profoundly missed." A foreign diplomat at the UN called Mr. Nasser "a statesman of the first rank, a towering figure" whose departure from the world arena is "a major setback" to peace.

Pincus Urges World Jewry To Provide Massive Material, Moral Support For Israel

LONDON, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, told a meeting of Zionist leaders that in the months ahead Israel would be facing political pressures more critical than those she faced in 1967. Addressing the meeting sponsored by the Zionist Federation in connection with the membership drive of the World Zionist Organization, Mr. Pincus said "massive moral and material support" was required from world Jewry at this time. Avraham Schenker, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, will head the membership campaign which will begin in Britain's provincial centers.

Eban: Too Soon To Despair Over Fate Of Peace Mission; Would Like To Renew Jarring Effort

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 29 (JTA)--Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, said today that it was "much too soon to despair" over the fate of the Gunnar V. Jarring peace mission as a result of the death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. "There is room for appraisal," he told members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, adding "The outlook is uncertain and unsure... The future is utterly obscure." Mr. Eban said he hoped to meet again with Dr. Jarring, of whom he said "we have trust in his international judgment." But, continued Mr. Eban, Israel remains firm in not returning to the peace talks here until Egypt "corrects" its "illicit" missile buildup. Regarding a charge in the General Assembly yesterday by Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed H. El-Zayyat that Israel abrogated the standstill cease-fire first by sending planes across the Suez, Mr. Eban said they were merely reconnaissance planes and that they were no longer still in the air after nine weeks, while the new Egyptian missiles were still emplaced. He called Dr. El-Zayyat's charge "formalistic and frivolous," "we would like to renew the Jarring mission," Mr. Eban asserted. "We believe the cease-fire should be permanent and not a temporary truce." The Soviet Union and Egypt, he said, "must create the conditions in which the dialogue can be renewed." Meanwhile, he said, Israel has "the sense of having been duped" into accepting the United States initiative. The Israeli diplomat declined to comment on the impact the death of President Nasser would have on the Mideast situation.

IRC Says Six Remaining Hostages Safe In Amman; Britain To Release Woman Hijacker

GENEVA, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A spokesman for the International Red Cross said today that the remaining six hostages have been handed over to the Red Cross in Amman and were safe. Meanwhile, in London, it was expected that Laila Khaled, the Arab terrorist who was captured while trying to hijack an El Al airliner on Sept. 6, will be set free by the British after the hostages have left the Middle East. British authorities have never disclosed how she would be sent out of England or to which country she would be sent. At the same time in Bonn, Germany, government spokesman Konrad Ahleers said that if any of the three Arab terrorists held in West Germany requested asylum, the request would be considered by the West German government. Diplomatic circles considered the statement a "loophole" which would permit the Government to release the terrorists even if the other governments opposed the move. The government fears new acts of terrorism would occur if the three terrorists now being held were placed on trial.

Jews, Non-Jews Participate In Solidarity Day With Soviet Jews; Special Church Services Held

PARIS, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A "Day of Solidarity With Soviet Jews", organized by the French Jewish population, was observed today throughout France. Special prayers were conducted in Catholic and Protestant churches for the welfare and well being of Soviet Jewry. Demonstrations were held in Paris and other major cities. Eighty Jewish and non-Jewish intellectuals met here today and adopted resolutions calling for the right of emigration for Soviet Jews, for equal social, cultural and religious rights for Soviet Jews, and for the release of Jews being held in Soviet jails. In Paris the "Solidarity Committee" distributed leaflets in the center of the city calling for the release of imprisoned Jews. In Lyons, a caravan of eighty cars covered with leaflets proceeded through the center of the city. Demonstrations were also held in other major cities, Jewish communities in those cities also sent protest telegrams to the Soviet Embassy in Paris and to U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations.

Arnov Realigns JTA Editorial, Administrative Operations To Strengthen Agency's Structure

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Robert H. Arnov, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced today a number of administrative and editorial changes designed to "strengthen the professional structure" of the JTA. Murray Zuckoff, acting news editor of the JTA Daily News Bulletin since last January, was appointed news editor. Jack Siegel, vice-president, was appointed executive vice-president. John Kayston, business manager, was appointed general manager. Mr. Zuckoff has been a reporter and columnist for a number of newspapers in the New York metropolitan area for the last 16 years. From 1963 to 1969 he worked for The Morning Call in Paterson, New Jersey, as its specialist in urban affairs, civil rights and the labor movement. His news stories, features and columns also appeared at the same time in The Record in Hackensack, N.J. Last year he was awarded the New Jersey Press Association First Prize for news enterprise stories for a 6-part series co-authored with another reporter dealing with the war on poverty. Many of his articles have been reprinted in the Congressional Record and in the Urban Writers' Society Exchange Magazine. On at least two occasions, Mr. Zuckoff's stories made national headlines.

Mr. Siegel, who has been with the JTA for the last eight years, has a 25-year record of Jewish communal service. During World War II he was an information specialist in the Office of War Information and served overseas in military intelligence in the Army of the United States. A prolific writer and columnist, Mr. Siegel has had two of his novels published and a third one is scheduled for release this winter. Mr. Kayston has been with the JTA for the last 35 years. In his new position he will be responsible for the overall business management of all JTA operations. Mr. Siegel will be responsible for the budget, finances and administration of the total JTA including its regional offices. Mr. Zuckoff will be responsible for the daily news operations in terms of coordinating news received in the JTA office in New York from all parts of the world, transmitting news to bureaus throughout the world, editing the Daily News Bulletin, and sending reporters into the field for up-to-the-minute news developments. In announcing these changes, Mr. Arnov stated: "We want to advance the JTA to where it will function effectively as the best news agency of its kind in the service of the Jewish community."

There will be no Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin on Friday, Oct. 2, due to Rosh Hashanah. Happy New Year.

Hostages Return Home With Mixed Feelings About Their Abductors; Cheered By Hundreds

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA)--With chorus upon chorus of "Hevenu Shalom Aleichem" rising to greet them, 33 former hostages of Arab guerrillas in Amman landed last evening at John F. Kennedy International Airport and were happily crushed by newsmen, relatives and friends. "I just want to go home!" exclaimed Fran B. (Foozie) Chesler, a 20-year-old student at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. But she was not put off by the hot lights and the rapid-fire questioning, during which she contended that "We don't condone the hijacking, but we understand their cause." It was not long before she was engulfed by a 15-member bouquet-bearing ad hoc Foozie Fan Club from Stern College, which had enlivened the atmosphere of the Trans World Airlines terminal with a string of rousing Hebrew songs and now importuned her to "Take the darned flowers, already." Thirty-one of the returnees were released Sunday. For the majority of them who were Jewish, they were just in time for Rosh Hashanah. David Raab of Trenton, N.J., wearing a yarmulka and greeted by fellow Noar Miz-rachi members, flashed a wide smile as he declared: "It feels great!" He, too, said he did not have a feeling of anger toward his abductors, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Mitchell Meltzer of Orlando, Fla., also said he was "not bitter against them." Under questioning, he said that while he did not believe Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser had been a "moderate," he had nevertheless "helped us a lot," in their desert ordeal. Two former hostages--Miriam R. (Mimi) Beeber, 20, of Brooklyn, a senior at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and Sarah Malka of North Bergen, N.J., a senior at Rutgers University, New Brunswick made an attempt to submit to question under the hot glare of the television lights, but were apparently overcome by that combination and withdrew almost as quickly as they had appeared. All three of those who ran the gauntlet--Miss Chesler, Mr. Raab and Mr. Meltzer--stated separately but with equal assertion that their experiences in Amman would not deter them from flying again. "Yes," answered Miss Chesler with finality when asked if she would consider taking another plane. "Yes," echoed the two young men. Jeffrey Merle Newton of the Bronx, a student at Yeshiva University High School, agreed. Returning to the ground after a mini-flight on the shoulders of his classmates, he exclaimed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "Not fly? That's just what they (the guerrillas) want me to do. Next summer I'm going right back to Tel Aviv."

'Scared', 'Anxious', 'Pain', Some Of The Feelings Experienced During The Hijacking Ordeal

Capt. Carroll D. Woods of Prairie Village, Kan., who had not expected to spend his 52nd birthday as a prisoner of Palestinian commandoes, told the press he and his passengers had been treated "fairly" and "humanely," and that "at no time were we ever starving to death." In addition there was "no threat, no indoctrination." The temperature during the drama ranged from 55 degrees at night in their temporary "cells" to 110 degrees inside the airliner before they were taken out, he said, and four shells landed within 20 to 40 feet of them. "It isn't the best experience," he conceded. "I wouldn't recommend it more than once in a lifetime." But he said he would not hesitate to captain another flight to the Middle East--"I don't see why not." The only bitter note expressed by a former hostage at the terminal came from Myron (Myer) Fund of Brooklyn, who was encountered by the JTA amid his relatives near the airline bus depot. Asked if he felt as little hatred for his abductors as some of his fellow prisoners had expressed inside the terminal, he said of the guerrillas: "They are a bunch of murderers. Whatever reaction you think you would have with a gun to your head, that's my reaction." The 33 ex-hostages, who were met away from the news conference hubbub by 175 relatives, were also deluged by cheers from several hundred more classmates, friends and general well-wishers. "Scared," "anxious" and "pain" were some of the feelings friends told the JTA they had experienced during the hijacking ordeal halfway around the world.

In addition to the outpouring of Miss Chesler's classmates, some 90 Yeshiva classmates of Mr. Raab and Mr. Newton showed up--four at the point of arrival and some 85 in a receiving room upstairs. There was difference of opinion on Col. Nasser. A young man from Yeshiva said that it did not matter who the leader of Egypt was, as "the situation is being controlled by the Russians, more or less." A young lady from Stern College said: "He was very moderate--for an Arab leader." A woman who called the release of the hostages "a joy to the whole Jewish people" averred that "If he (Nasser) had had it in his power to push the Jews into the sea, he would have done it." Twenty-seven of the 33 passengers, including Miss Beeber and Miss Malka, declined to face the press. They included Rabbi and Mrs. Jonathon David, Rabbi Isaac Hutner and Yaacov Drillman, 19, all of Brooklyn, the last-named a rabbinical student and son of Rabbi Solomon Drillman. Sebastian Leone, the new borough president of Brooklyn, told the JTA he was planning a reception Thursday at Borough Hall for the eight returning Brooklynites. A beaming Mayor John V. Lindsay, after expressing his "thrill" at the release of the captives, added a holiday note: "We are now on the threshold of the Jewish New Year, days of prayer and contemplation. I hope and pray that the happy return of the hostages will signify for mankind a year of peace among nations and reconciliation among the people of the world." For another two dozen or more households that had feared the worst, Rosh Hashanah was again to be a family affair after all.

II Nation Committee Adopts Resolution To Suppress Hijacking

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 29 (JTA)--A draft convention to suppress hijackings, kidnappings and terrorism in general was completed here Sunday by the II-nation Inter-American Juridical Committee, established by the General Assembly of American States. The text of the draft was not immediately disclosed, but sources said it recommended that the above-named acts be designated common crimes and that political asylum be denied those accused of such crimes. The United States, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Uruguay voted for the draft, which Chile and Peru voting against and Mexico and Colombia abstaining.