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State Department Mum On Report Of Joint U.S.-Israeli Action In Jordan

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 (JTA)--The State Department refused to comment today on a report in the New York Times that the United States and Israel were ready to take joint military action last month to save the regime of King Hussein of Jordan if the King's forces were unable to halt an invasion by Soviet-made Syrian tanks. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington correspondent if the report by Times reporter Benjamin Welles was "substantially true," Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey replied, "no comment." He offered the same reply when asked about a report in the Oct. 5 edition of Time magazine which claimed that the Nixon administration never intended at any time before or after the Jordanian civil war to intervene in that country. The JTA was informed by a knowledgeable source later that nobody in the administration wanted to "leap" into the Jordanian situation but neither was there any opposition within the government to intervention. A spokesman for the Israel Embassy, contacted by the JTA, said he was "not prepared to deny or confirm" the published reports. (In New York, a United Nations spokesman said Secretary General U Thant "will not" have any comment on the Times report.) According to Mr. Welles, plans for closely coordinated military operations were worked out between Washington and Jerusalem at the height of the Jordanian civil war when Syrian invaders, supporting the Palestinian fedayeen, captured Irbid, Jordan's second largest city and threatened the capital, Amman.

Fulbright, Stennis Indirectly Confirm U.S. Planned To Aid Jordan In Civil War

Mr. Welles said the plan envisioned Israeli air and ground attacks on the Syrian armored force while the U.S. Sixth Fleet and other units guarded Israel's flanks against attack by Egyptian and Soviet forces from the Suez Canal area. The U.S. was also said to be prepared to drop paratroops on Amman airport, followed up by airborne infantry and equipment. President Richard M. Nixon was in personal charge of the plans on the American end and was in contact with the Israeli government by cable and in round-the-clock consultations at the White House, Mr. Welles reported. He said the events were reconstructed from interviews with State and Defense department officials, members of domestic and foreign intelligence corps, Arab and Israeli diplomats in Washington and reports from Times correspondents in Beirut, Cairo, Jerusalem, Moscow, the United Nations and with the Sixth Fleet. Indirect confirmation that the U.S. did plan some sort of action to rescue King Hussein emerged in Washington yesterday from remarks by Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and Sen. John Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Speaking at a seminar sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute, Sen. Fulbright, a frequent critic of administration policy, complained that the President failed to consult Congress on his plans to meet the Jordanian crisis. The senators responded to questions by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington correspondent. Sen. Fulbright claimed that there had been no reason to intervene in Jordan and that the President had ample time to consult with Congress on the plans he did make. Sen. Stennis said the U.S. had been involved "in a bit of gun-boat diplomacy" but noted that "we didn't mobilize" for the Jordanian crisis.

Report Calls Plan Defensive; Israel Planned No Acquisition of Territory

Observers here tended to regard the Times story as substantially correct and attributed its appearance to the Nixon administration's desire to impress the Soviet Union that the U.S. is prepared to use force to protect its interests in the Middle East. Some observers detected domestic political overtones in the administration's apparent eagerness to publicize its purported plans now that the Jordanian crisis has abated. One Washington commentator observed last week that the White House was trying to create the image that President Nixon, single-handedly, forced the Syrian armor to retreat from Jordan. He said the administration was ignoring the primary role played by King Hussein's army and the secondary role of Israel which stationed a tank column on the Golan Heights border as a warning to Syria. One source observed that in any foreign crisis, contingency plans of action by the U.S. are worked out as a matter of routine and that the story given to the Times was an attempt to dramatize the most sensational of the plans developed during the Jordanian crisis for political reasons. Mr. Welles wrote that "The bond between the United States and Israel in this crisis was their joint determination that King Hussein must not be overthrown by outside intervention in Jordan because they assumed he would be replaced by a regime closely linked to Moscow." There was also a feeling in Washington that Israel would strike on its own if Syrian forces had continued to penetrate into Jordan, Mr. Welles said.

He said there was no written agreement for joint action by the two countries because events moved too rapidly. "Each government relied on the others' oral pledges for coordinated military action," Mr. Welles wrote. He said that both sides recognized certain contingencies that would have compelled them to put their plan into action. These included re-enforcement by Syria of the original 250-tank force it sent into Jordan during the night of Sept. 19-20; participation of the Syrian Airforce in the fighting; intervention by Iraqi forces stationed in Jordan against King Hussein. Mr. Welles wrote, "The plan was defensive....At no time, sources here insist, did Israel contemplate attacking any targets except the two Syrian tank brigades....None of the sources suggest that Israel's action would have been other than defensive--aimed that is at preventing the overthrow of King Hussein....There have been no suggestions that the Israeli action would have led to the acquisition of additional Jordanian territory by Israel. At no time, it is said, did the United States contemplate attacks on Arabs--let alone Russians--except to protect Israel."

Israel Welcomes Deputies' Talks Suspension; Hope For Similar Fate For Big Four Talks

JERUSALEM, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Israeli officials welcomed last night the "temporary suspension" of the Big Four deputies' consultations in New York caused by the withdrawal from them by the United States. The officials further expressed the hope that the suspension would lead to a total cessation of the ambassadors' talks. They recalled that Israel has opposed the talks from the beginning on the ground that the Four Power forum was heavily weighted against her. The Soviet Union, they noted, is committed to the support of Egypt, and France is openly hostile to Israel. Israel's only real friend among the four is the United States, the officials concluded. (At the United Nations today, a British spokesman stated "categorically" that his government was not hostile toward Israel. Britain, it is additionally understood, feels that a continuation of the cease-fire is most desirable pending a peace settlement--a position similar to Israel's.)

Although American friendship for Israel is felt to be qualified, while that of the USSR for Egypt is not, diplomatic observers here pointed with gratification to what they described as the new "no-nonsense" approach adopted by President Nixon in his handling of Soviet penetration attempts. The observers traced this new policy back to the President's statement this summer firmly opposing Soviet predominance in the Mediterranean area. The observers believe the President's new attitude is due in large degree to his disillusionment at the Soviet Union's breaking its word by not condemning Egypt's standstill violations. The statement Tuesday by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad that Egypt would not "rectify" the missile situation was described by political circles here last night as "a rehash of old stuff, but more of it." His offer to extend the cease-fire without rolling back the missiles did not make much of an impression among the political circles here, being dismissed as "the logical thing to do under the circumstances." But they noted that Mr. Riad's statement as distributed here by Cairo's Middle East News Agency had him saying: "If we can we shall double the number of missiles in the canal zone." That sentence was omitted in his original statement over Cairo radio in which Mr. Riad claimed no new missiles were moved into the truce zone by Egypt after the standstill took effect Aug. 8.

Sadat Vows To Liberate Occupied Territories; Refrains From Threatening Israel

LONDON, Oct. 8 (JTA)--The Egyptian National Assembly unanimously nominated interim President Anwar Sadat to succeed the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser last night. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Sadat pledged to follow Col Nasser's policies at home and abroad, emphasizing the liberation of Arab lands seized by Israel in the June, 1967 war and a settlement of the Palestine refugee problem. Mr. Sadat is considered virtually certain to win an overwhelming "yes" vote in the Oct. 15 national referendum that is required to confirm him in the presidency. (Sources in Israel predicted today that Sadat would not succeed to Nasser's powers but would rule as part of a troika. They said his partners were likely to be Aly Sabry, 50, who was presidential assistant in charge of defense under Nasser, and Shaarawi Gomma, also 50, chairman of the organizing committee of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party. Under the Nasser regime, the posts of president, prime minister and secretary of state were held by one person.) Observers regarded Sadat's speech as moderate. Although he insisted that Egypt's goal was Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, including the West Bank, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem as well as Egypt's Sinai peninsula and the Gaza Strip, he did not threaten the destruction of Israel. Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad claimed in Cairo yesterday that Egypt had not violated the cease-fire because the missiles in the standstill zone were there when the truce went into effect Aug. 7. Israel claims the missiles were introduced to the zone after the truce began and Israeli bombardment of the missile sites stopped.

22nd Complaint Of Truce Violations Lodged; Newsmen Report Truck Convoy With Missiles

TEL AVIV, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Israel lodged its 22nd complaint of Egyptian cease-fire violations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) here today. The complaint, based on information that reached Israeli military authorities yesterday, charged that the Egyptians continued to advance Soviet-made SAM-2 and SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles eastward in the 30-mile standstill cease-fire zone west of the Suez Canal. The Israeli complaint said the Egyptians were working on preparations for more missile sites within the restricted zone. It pointed out that the SAM-3 missiles are manned and operated by Soviet personnel. (Reports from Beirut, Lebanon yesterday quoted Western newsmen reporting they had seen a truck convoy carrying what they believed to be SAM-2 missiles parked in the desert inside the cease-fire zone. The location of the trucks was given as about 20 miles west of the city of Suez and a mile north of the main highway from Cairo. Nine trucks were counted, each harnessed to a missile about 35 feet long and four or five feet in diameter covered with canvas. The missile noses were pointed upward at a slight angle indicating to missile experts that they were high altitude SAM-2s. Other types of missiles are transported in a different manner, the reports said.)

Dr. Goldmann: No More Activities Affecting Israel; Will Resign If Necessary

TEL AVIV, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann said today that he will no longer engage in political activities affecting Israel and promised to resign from the presidency of the World Jewish Congress should he change his mind. Dr. Goldmann made his pledge at a stormy session of the WJC's Israeli Executive where he was bitterly attacked by most of his colleagues for his criticism of Israel government policies. His critics represented much of the Israeli political spectrum, from the Labor Party to the right-wing Gahal and the religious parties. They claimed that Dr. Goldmann's outspoken criticism of the policies of the Meir government, especially its approach to peace with the Arabs, reflected on the WJC and implied that it was opposed to the Israeli government. Dr. Goldmann replied that he had the right to express his opinions and to the best of his knowledge most of his political prognostications proved correct. He said on such matters he always spoke as a private citizen and not for any organization. He said he never considered resigning from the WJC because if he did he feared that institution might crumble.

Fulbright: Zionists Have 'Great Power' In Congress; Cites Military Procurement Bill

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas said here yesterday that he believed the Zionists have "great power" in the Congress of the United States. He explained his recent proposal for a security treaty between the United States and Israel as a means to codify and limit "a de facto obligation" of the U.S. government. Sen. Fulbright, who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, advanced his views in remarks prepared for delivery and in impromptu replies to questions by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington correspondent at a seminar on "The Role of Congress in Foreign Policy" sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Research, a private, non-partisan research organization. Sen. John Stennis of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee also spoke. Sen. Fulbright's reference to the influence of Zionists in Congress was made during a discussion of the recent amendment to the Senate's foreign military procurement bill proposed by Sen. Robert M. Jackson of Washington, which authorizes the President to provide unlimited military and economic aid to Israel. An amendment sponsored by Sen. Fulbright that would have deleted the Jackson provision from the legislation was defeated 87-7. Asked by the JTA whether he thought the seven who favored the Fulbright amendment were more correct in their interpretation of the Constitution than the 87 who opposed it, the Senator said the vote "demonstrates the great power the Zionists have in our Congress."

Sen. Fulbright added that there is "no precedent for the unlimited amounts" of aid for Israel provided by the Jackson amendment. A military procurement bill containing the Israel aid provision was subsequently passed in the House by a vote of 341-11. Asked why so many Congressmen wanted to support the Zionists, the Arkansas Democrat replied, "I don't know what is in the minds of my colleagues." Asked to comment on Sen. Fulbright's remarks on the Zionist influence, Sen. Stennis would say only that the Israel aid amendment "had a very good vote in the armed services committee" and was "very well supported" in the Senate-House conference. In his prepared remarks, Sen. Fulbright said his proposed U.S.-Israel security pact was motivated by fear that the "war-making power has been passing out of the hands of Congress." The Senator, a long-time critic of the war in Vietnam, said that "simply by repeating again and again that we have an obligation to someone or other, we have come in a number of instances to suppose that our word and even our national honor are involved as completely as they would be by duly ratified treaties." He went on, "Such has been the case with both Israel and South Vietnam, to take the two most conspicuous recent examples." Sen. Fulbright added, "I recently suggested that the United States conclude a security treaty with Israel on certain specific conditions, not in the belief that we would be contracting a new obligation but, quite frankly, for the purpose of codifying and limiting a de facto obligation."

738 Israelis Killed, 2700 Wounded Since Six-Day War; 1778 Guerrillas Killed

TEL AVIV, Oct. 8 (JTA)--The Army reported today that 738 Israelis were killed and over 2700 were wounded as a result of military actions since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. The toll of Arab guerrillas killed was placed at 1778, but the figure does not include guerrillas killed by shellings or bombings of their positions across the borders. According to the statistics, 659 of the Israeli dead and 2000 of the wounded were hit along the cease-fire lines. The largest toll was taken on the Suez Canal front where 377 were killed and 1000 wounded.

Rallies For Soviet Jewry This Weekend And Next; Special Yom Kippur Prayers Scheduled

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Herman L. Weisman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, called today on American Jews to show their concern for the plight of Soviet Jews by participating in demonstrations this weekend and next in scores of communities throughout the nation demanding that "Soviet Jews be freed from the yoke of anti-Semitism and that they be granted the freedom to stay or emigrate to other lands of their choice. Mr. Weisman noted that traditionally on Simchat Torah there is an outpouring of Jews in front of synagogues in the Soviet Union to demonstrate their abiding Jewishness in the face of oppressive anti-Semitism. "We who are blessed to live in a democracy must demonstrate our support of their struggle," he said. Approximately 3000 students from more than 30 communities are expected to mobilize in Washington on Oct. 11-12 to protest Soviet suppression of Jewish rights. These students are members of 22 national Jewish youth movements affiliated with the North American Jewish Youth Council. The mobilization will take place near the Soviet Embassy according to Eric Yoffie and Margy-Ruth Greenbaum, Council co-chairmen. It will conclude with a candle-lighting ceremony in a Washington synagogue.

Rabbi Joseph C. Teichman, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, said today that rabbis throughout the city have agreed to offer a special prayer for Soviet Jews during Yom Kippur services this weekend and to urge their congregants to attend a rally in Philadelphia on Oct. 17. This demonstration, marking the Simchat Torah holiday and a follow-up of this weekend's Washington mobilization, will be conducted at the Memorial to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs. Albert D. Chernin, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia executive director, said that while visiting Russia last year during Simchat Torah he was told by young Jews that they were aware and encouraged by the solidarity celebrations conducted in the United States. "I know from first-hand experience," Mr. Chernin said, "that Soviet Jews take heart from these demonstrations and become more determined to act on their own behalf."

Reports Denied That Israel's Envoy To France Told To Accept Money For Mirages

JERUSALEM, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Political circles here denied reports today that Israel's new Ambassador to France, Asher Ben Nathan, has been instructed to accept a French offer of \$60 million for 50 embargoed Mirage jets bought and paid for by Israel. Mr. Ben Nathan, formerly Israel's envoy to Bonn, will take up his Paris post later this month. The circles here said the possibility of accepting French reimbursement for the jets was "not under consideration at all." The Mirages were embargoed by former President Charles de Gaulle during the June, 1967 war when he accused Israel of aggression.

Metropolitan Life Ends Ban On Observant Jews For Computer Jobs

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA)--Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. has been hiring Orthodox Jews as computer programmers since it accepted a conciliation agreement last August with the New York State Division of Human Rights to end its refusal to hire observant Jews for such jobs, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) reported today. Julius Berman, COLPA president, said the conciliation agreement was worked out with the assistance of COLPA. Howard Rhine, a COLPA vice-president, acted as attorney for two Orthodox Jews who charged the huge insurance firm with Sabbath discrimination after they were refused jobs as programmers. The company had contended that meeting the Sabbath requirements of observant Jews could be harmful to its computer operations. The effort to induce Metropolitan to hire observant Jews began in 1966 when Bernard Rubin applied for a programmer job and was rejected as a Sabbath observer. Melvin Dershowitz, the other applicant, applied for a job last spring and was rejected for the same reasons. Each sought help from COLPA. Mr. Berman reported, COLPA took the Rubin complaint to the state division in 1966 and lost when the division ruled that the company uniformly applied a standard work-week of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and that there was, therefore, no discrimination in the refusal to hire Mr. Rubin.

COLPA then took the issue to the State Supreme Court in New York City. While the case was pending, the federal Economic Employment Opportunity Commission promulgated guidelines which required employers to hire observant applicants unless they could prove doing so would cause "undue hardship" in their business operations. The case was remanded to the state division in August, 1967 for reconsideration in the light of the federal guidelines and the state division, on application by COLPA, applied the guidelines to the Rubin case, finding that hiring Mr. Rubin would cause "undue hardship" to Metropolitan operations. Mr. Rhine contended the ruling was based on inadequate information. COLPA did not contest the ruling, however, and subsequently, the state division began applying the federal guidelines to hiring practices for computer programmers throughout the state. However, a test of that practice for Metropolitan had to await another observant Jewish applicant for a programmer job. The Dershowitz complaint was the first at Metropolitan since that of Mr. Rubin, who took a similar job elsewhere.

After Mr. Rhine filed a complaint with the state division last spring, charging Metropolitan with violation of the state Human Rights Law in refusing to hire Mr. Dershowitz, the state division held a hearing and found that the insurance company had practiced discrimination in rejecting Mr. Dershowitz because of his Sabbath needs. After negotiation, the company agreed to a conciliation procedure under which it pledged to consider qualified Sabbath observers for jobs as computer programmers "and in all other job classifications, on an equal basis with other candidates for employment, until the point may be reached where undue hardship would be caused to the conduct" of the company's business. Under the agreement, the insurance firm agreed to inform its supervisory personnel about its rules for giving time off to employees "for the purpose of religious observance." Mr. Rhine told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the company's acceptance of the conciliation agreement meant it had accepted the federal guidelines as applying to not only computer operations but all other areas of its operations, in respect to the needs of observant job applicants, for the first time.

Responsibility Of U.S. Jews To Aid Israel Stressed As UJA Begins 1970-71 Campaign

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA)--"The people of Israel cannot and should not be asked to carry any part of the responsibility which is really ours," Edward Ginsberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal said yesterday in a message to the UJA's executive committee meeting here to plan the agency's 1970-71 campaign. "The people of Israel are sacrificing themselves, their youth, their resources and their economy in a tenacious determination to survive," Mr. Ginsberg said. "Almost all tax revenue is spent on defense, and the taxes paid by the people of Israel have long been the highest in the world. Just recently, they voted even greater taxes on themselves, proclaiming their determination that they will pay the price for survival, no matter how costly it may be." Mr. Ginsberg said that American Jews "have a traditional responsibility to support life-saving and life-sustaining programs" in Israel for new immigrants, for the aged and infirm "as well as vocational and higher education opportunities for Jewish youth and adults. We must meet that responsibility with strength and courage." He added that as the Jews face the New Year "we must meet the crisis with equal determination" because the survival of the Jewish people in Israel "depends on us. Survival means sacrifice. They (the Jews in Israel) measure their sacrifices in blood. We are only asked to sacrifice substance."

JDL Official Arrested In Connection With Hijack Attempt By Two JDL Members

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (JTA)--A 24-year-old rabbinical student identified as the "administrative director" of the Jewish Defense League was arrested here yesterday on charges of having falsified passport affidavits and later released on \$5000 bail. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elliot G. Sagor declared that Harry Pearl, a resident of Forest Hills, Queens, lied to obtain passports for Avraham and Nancy Joan Hershkovitz who were arrested at Kennedy Airport Sept. 27 when they attempted to board a London-bound plane armed with four loaded guns and a live hand grenade. The Hershkovitz couple, also linked to the JDL, are residents of Boro Park, Brooklyn. Law enforcement officials said they intended to fly to London where they planned to hijack a United Arab Airlines plane and divert it to Israel. Mr. Pearl is charged with signing affidavits to obtain passports for the Hershkovitzes under fictitious names and addresses. U.S. Commissioner Earle N. Bishopp of Manhattan Federal Court, set a hearing for next Tuesday. The JDL was also implicated in the bombing of the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization here Tuesday night. An unidentified member of the group was picked up by police for questioning yesterday but was later released. Police are searching for a suspect described by office-building personnel as an "Arab type man." An official for the PLO said yesterday that as a result of the bombing, the antagonisms in the Middle East could be extended "into the streets of New York." The official, Saadat Hasan, was attacked last May by persons he charged were JDL members.