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Cabinet's Position For UN Debate; No Talks Until Missiles Are Rolled Back

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet met today and later relayed to Foreign Minister Abba Eban the official government position he is to follow as leader of the Israeli delegation in the General Assembly's Middle East debate which opens this week, probably tomorrow. That position, it was learned is a re-affirmation of Israel's refusal to return to the Jarring peace talks as long as the pre-Aug. 7 military situation in the Suez Canal zone, altered by Egyptian truce violations, is not fully restored. But the government agreed to an indefinite extension of the current Mideast cease-fire beyond its Nov. 5 deadline. A report on today's Cabinet session was telephoned to Premier Golda Meir in Washington by Acting Premier Yigal Allon. Mr. Eban's instructions reportedly were transmitted at the same time. Although Mrs. Meir will be in the United States for several weeks, the government decided that the debate in the General Assembly should be kept on the foreign ministerial level. Israel expects a bitter verbal battle at the world forum and is relying heavily on the United States to forestall Arab-Soviet attempts to push through a new anti-Israel resolution. The government described those attempts as "a move designed to torpedo the peace talks."

Despite acknowledgment here that U.S. pressure can be expected to try to soften Israel's stand on the truce violations, the statement issued after today's Cabinet meeting showed no sign of yielding on demands for resotration of the Aug. 7 status quo ante. The statement re-affirmed Israel's readiness to participate in the Jarring talks "in response to the United States initiative and on condition that all sections of the cease-fire agreement are mutually adhered to." The announcement said further that "Israel rejects acquiescing in the violation of the cease-fire agreement; with the restoration of the previous situation in the standstill zone, it will again be possible to resume the Jarring talks provided that all sections of the agreement are mutually carried out." The statement said further that "The government of Israel is ready to extend the cease-fire agreement for an indefinite period in order to enable the peace talks to go forward. The government regards the Egyptian-Soviet initiative to hold a debate on the Middle East in the United Nations General Assembly as a move designed to torpedo the peace talks." The 25th annual United Nations Day was observed here today when the UN and Israeli flags--both blue and white--were raised ceremoniously over City Hall by Mayor Teddy Kolek in the presence of UN officials, members of the diplomatic corps and Israeli and Arab dignitaries.

Efforts Being Made To Prevent Assembly Debate From Becoming Words Of War

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 25 (JTA)--The General Assembly will be the arena this week for a war of words on the Middle East. Western diplomats are working overtime to forestall the debate from mushrooming into words of war. Efforts behind the scenes and publicly are being mounted, and promise to continue right up to the wire tomorrow when the debate is tentatively scheduled to begin, to reach some compromise that will soften the verbal slugfest. At stake is the meaning of Security Council Resolution 242 which has been the basis for all peace moves so far. Within the past few days diplomatic maneuvering in Washington and in the United Nations has revealed that the United States, which launched the Mideast peace initiative several months ago that led to the cease-fire, is now preparing to soften its demand for rectification of standstill violations that have, according to Israel, been going on almost daily since the truce went into effect on Aug. 7. The most obvious indication of a softer approach was, diplomatic sources at the UN noted, the absence of any reference to standstill violations by President Nixon in his address Friday to the General Assembly. Several hours later, UN Secretary General U Thant announced that the Big Four had agreed to exert their "utmost efforts" to renew peace talks under the auspices of UN mediator Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring but contained no mention of charges that Egypt and the Soviet Union have violated the cease-fire standstill truce.

Sources here noted that the acceptance of Mr. Thant's statement by the U.S. was another indication of a retreat by the administration on insistence of rectification. Further evidence of the U.S. retreat, observers noted, emerged from talks Friday between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad during which Mr. Rogers was reported to have told Mr. Riad that the U.S. was prepared to delay until next July payment of \$112 million in bank debts to Washington as Cairo had requested. In addition, sources in Washington noted that the question of standstill violations was not a topic of discussion between President Nixon and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko when the two met last Thursday in the White House. In his address before the General Assembly, Mr. Nixon appealed for a continuation of the Middle East cease-fire agreement and for the "building" of peace in that troubled area with Big Two support. He declared: "The Middle East is a place today where local rivalries are intense, and where the vital interests of the United States and the Soviet Union are both involved. Quite obviously, the primary responsibility for achieving a peaceful settlement rests on the nations of the Middle East themselves. But in this region in particular, it is imperative that the two major powers conduct themselves so as to strengthen the forces of peace rather than to strengthen the forces of war."

Rectification Of Truce Violations Absent From Nixon, Thant Statements

The President emphasized that "It is essential that we and the Soviet Union join in efforts toward avoiding war in the Middle East, and also toward developing a climate in which the nations of the Middle East will learn to live and let live." That last phrase was seen as a plea to the Arab states not to seek

the destruction of Israel. Nowhere in his speech did the President mention the Egyptian violations of the standstill provisions of the truce by the introduction of Soviet missiles into the Suez Canal zone. The closest he came to that aspect of the Mideast situation was when he invited the USSR "to join us in taking that new road--to join in a peaceful competition--not in the accumulation of arms, but in the dissemination of progress; not in the building of missiles but in waging a winning war against hunger and disease and human misery in our own countries and around the globe." The statement issued by Mr. Thant Friday night after a dinner at the UN with the Big Four Foreign Ministers - Maurice Schumann of France, Sir Alec Douglas-Home of Britain, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Gromyko - noted that the Foreign Ministers "had a useful exchange of views with the Secretary General and Ambassador Jarring on the situation in the Middle East." In addition to agreeing to exert their utmost efforts to enable Dr. Jarring to resume his mission, Mr. Thant's statement - issued as a joint communique on behalf of the four foreign ministers - also noted the diplomats agreed to "search for possibilities through the agreement of the parties directly concerned to extend the observance of the cease-fire for a period to be determined and to find a peaceful solution on the basis of Resolution 242 of the Security Council."

Mr. Thant's announcement added that the Four Powers would "continue their consultations" and their permanent representatives in New York will meet again tomorrow. Although it was reported that the U.S. objected to the joint communique because it lacked any reference to the U.S.-Israeli charges of standstill violations nor any demand for rectification, French sources interpreted Mr. Rogers' acceptance of the statement as a sign that the U.S. was shifting away from the demand for rectification. American sources said Washington had not actually dropped its demand for rectification but that constant repetition of this demand seemed futile. Meanwhile, Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban left Israel Friday morning for New York where he will lead the Israeli efforts this week against an anti-Israel resolution planned by the Arab bloc in the General Assembly. He was accompanied by David Rivlin, head of the Foreign Ministry bureau. Departing from Israel, Mr. Eban told newsmen at Lydda Airport in Tel Aviv that Israeli soldiers along the Suez Canal would not initiate shooting after the 90-day cease-fire ends Nov. 5. Earlier, Mr. Eban announced that Israel would not be bound by any resolution unfavorable to his country.

U.S. Tanks To Israel Seen As Move To Soften Israel's Stand On Peace Talks

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (JTA)--The United States appeared today to be trading arms to Israel for a softer stand on Egyptian violations of the Suez Canal standstill cease-fire agreement. That was the interpretation placed by knowledgeable sources here on the disclosure Friday that the U.S. has agreed to supply Israel with a hefty arms package that includes more F-4 Phantom jets and 180-200 modern tanks, among them the main battle line M-60s which the U.S. Army regards as the best tank in service anywhere in the world. The impending new arms shipment to Israel was confirmed by Pentagon officials who stressed that the weaponry was intended to maintain the Middle East arms balance by off-setting the heavy Egyptian missile build-up in the standstill cease-fire zone. (Cairo reacted angrily to the reports, accusing the U.S. of menacing shaky Mideast peace prospects. Egyptian sources said the new arms shipments to Israel confirmed President Anwar Sadat's charge last week that the U.S. has always used Israel as a tool to carry out its policies in the Mideast.) Most observers here believe that the U.S. move, or at least its disclosure at this time, represented a last ditch effort to get the Jarring peace talks moving once again. They reasoned that Israel could hardly accept the new arms and at the same time resist U.S. pressure to back down on its insistence that Egyptian truce violations be totally rectified by removal of missiles installed in the cease-fire zone. Restoration of the Aug. 7 status quo ante has been Israel's condition for returning to the stalled Jarring talks.

(According to reports from Jerusalem today, the U.S. has indicated in its latest diplomatic contacts with Israel that it would accept "token" rectification of the truce violations. The Israelis infer from this that resumption of the Jarring talks is the overriding goal of American diplomacy at this time. Israel's demand for total restoration of the pre-Aug. 7 military situation in the truce zone, which Premier Golda Meir re-affirmed in her speech to the General Assembly in New York last Wednesday, now seems more difficult to maintain, sources in Jerusalem said. Israel is in vital need of firm U.S. support during the scheduled Middle East debate in the General Assembly. The aim of the Egyptians and their Soviet backers appears to be the drafting of a new Mideast resolution that would undermine Resolution 242. Intensive lobbying by the U.S. is considered the only sure way to forestall such a resolution. Israeli circles believe that Washington will make such an effort contingent on Israeli concessions with regard to rectification of the cease-fire violations.) According to sources here the new arms deliveries represents part of the nearly \$500 million in assistance to Israel under the foreign military sales authorization bill still pending in Congress. The bill contains a procurement authorization measure overwhelmingly passed by both houses of Congress which allows the President to sell Israel unlimited quantities of arms at his discretion.

Designed to maintain the balance of power in the Mideast, the bill is expected to be passed when Congress returns to session following next month's elections. The M-60 tanks are intended to provide Israel with a solid battle line to counter-attack in the Sinai desert should Egypt decide to exploit its missile umbrella by launching a major armored attack across the Suez Canal. The M-60 is the best tank in the American arsenal. It mounts a 105 mm. gun and two machine guns, can travel at 30 m.p.h. and has a range of about 300 miles. In addition, the arms package will include an unspecified number of American M-48 Patton tanks. Some of the tanks will be new and others second hand. Israel's tank force presently consists of about 1000 old American Sherman and Patton tanks and British Centurions. The arrival of the M-60s would permit Israel to deploy its older tank force along the Jordanian and Syrian frontiers where, according to U.S. sources, they could deter a repetition of last month's invasion of Jordan by a Syrian tank force.

Mr. Sapir Fearful That Continued Peace Might Induce Unemployment

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir is seriously concerned over the economic repercussions that would ensue if the present 90-day cease-fire is continued indefinitely and Israel is

forced to revert to a peace-time economy. Mr. Sapir stated his fears bluntly in a radio address Friday night. He said that unless adequate planning is carried out, a continuation of the cease-fire would slow down the economy and result in a certain amount of unemployment. He said that persons employed in jobs related to national security would have to be diverted to non-defense employment and it is not certain whether there will be enough such jobs to absorb them all. He has instructed his staff to draw up plans for such a contingency. One source said here today that the situation in Israel parallels that in the United States where many politicians fear rising unemployment if the Vietnam war were to end. The U.S. economy is already feeling the pinch of reduced defense spending. The source noted that in the U.S. no politician has had the courage of Mr. Sapir to come right out and say that peace could be a menace to prosperity.

UAR, USSR Insincere About Mideast Peace; Jewish Partners Of New Left Scored

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA)--Three Knesset members sharply questioned the sincerity of Egyptian and Soviet intentions toward peace in the Middle East here last night but said that peace will come to the region in the long run if the United States backs up Israel and maintains its military strength. Moshe Carmel, a member of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defense committee, said that until a genuine peace is achieved, "Israel prefers security without peace to peace without security." Mr. Carmel and his colleagues, Aharon Becker and Hans Klinghoffer, addressed the first national board meeting of the American Zionist Federation. The three are parliamentary advisors to the Israeli Mission to the United Nations. Mr. Klinghoffer, a leader of Gahal, an opposition faction in the Knesset since it quit the coalition government last July, said that the current "cease-fire could have served the purpose of creating new hopes for the establishment of peace" but "was misused by Egypt and Russia." Furthermore, he noted, the Arab-Soviet move to force a Mideast dispute in the General Assembly also demonstrated a lack of interest in achieving peace.

Mr. Becker, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, declared that the new Soviet missiles in the truce zone were a more realistic indicator of the Kremlin's intentions than all the speeches of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the UN. At an earlier session in the meeting, Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the AZF, denounced Jews who are "maligners of Zionism" and espouse the cause of the New Left. He predicted that the Federation, established six months ago as the umbrella organization of the Zionist movement in this country, would soon have units in 20 major American cities. Units have already been set up, he said, in six cities--Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Rochester, N.Y. Rabbi Miller claimed that the Federation's growth was the answer to those "who maliciously, wilfully or through ignorance reject the basic concepts" on which Zionism is based. He assailed "self-hating Jews who mouth the canards of the New Left and who join the venom brigade of spokesmen for the Black Panthers and Arab terrorists." Rabbi Miller declared that "What is involved in the Middle East is not merely the fate of Israel, but the fate of the entire free world."

Bazooka Shells Fired From Lebanese Border Injures Five Border Policemen

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA)--Five Israeli border policemen were injured this morning when their vehicle was hit by bazooka shells fired from the Lebanese border north of Shetullah in Upper Galilee. The incident was the first in several weeks along the Lebanese frontier. A local resident was injured and three Israeli soldiers sustained minor scratches when a hand grenade exploded yesterday in the Jabaliya quarter of Gaza. Several suspects have been detained for questioning.

Barbarash Says U.S. Jews, Unlike British Jews, Lack Dynamic Leadership

LONDON, Oct. 25 (JTA)--Ernest Barbarash, English columnist of The Day-Jewish Journal in New York, here on a visit in connection with research work for an American publishing house, stated today that "American Jewry at present lacks dynamic leadership." In contrast to this, said Mr. Barbarash, was the impressive fact that British Jews have a fully representative body -- the Board of Deputies -- speaking for all of them. Mr. Barbarash, who is the former editor of The American Zionist, stated that American Jewry was in great need of restructuring and crying out for a representative body "on the lines of the Board of Deputies but attuned to the American conditions." He observed that "despite President Nixon's friendly relations with Mrs. Golda Meir (Israel's Prime Minister) and other Israeli leaders, no Jewish representative group or delegation has been received by the President since his election two years ago. This may not be entirely due to his unwillingness to receive a Jewish delegation," declared Mr. Barbarash. Finally, Mr. Barbarash said that wherever there was a Jewish assertiveness or militancy within American Jewry, one found the Orthodox branch in the forefront.

15,000 Jews Celebrate Simhat Torah In Moscow; Largest Number In Recent Years

LONDON, Oct. 25 (JTA)--About 15,000 Jews gathered in front of Moscow's Choral Synagogue Thursday night in celebration of Simhat Torah--the largest number of celebrants to do so in recent years. According to eye-witness reports, Soviet police did not interfere as thousands of young people sang and danced in the streets, watched by thousands more elderly persons. But according to one source, the neighborhood was "dotted with secret agents." An estimated 1500 young British Jews attended services at Marble Arch Synagogue here last night to demonstrate their solidarity with Soviet Jewry. Many of the group carried torches and placards. They stood in silence as letters were read from Russian Jews protesting the refusal of Soviet authorities to let them emigrate to Israel. There were also readings of poetry by Russian-Jewish poets.

Israeli Trade Mission Seeks To Narrow Balance Of Payments With Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 25 (JTA)--An Israeli trade mission arrived here yesterday to try to sell the Argentine government items that are produced in Israel but not manufactured here. They include electronic apparatus, communications equipment, toys, solar heaters and aeronautical equipment. The Israeli mission, headed by Col. Benyamin Gihli, vice president of the Israel Export Institute, is seeking to narrow the serious balance of payments gap between Israel and Argentina.

Jewish Community Expresses Fear Renewed Attack By Puerto Rican Youth Possible

BROOKLYN, N.Y., Oct. 25 (JTA)--In wake of the unprecedented terrorist attack by 50 Puerto Rican youths on a Brooklyn synagogue during concluding Yom Kippur services, residents in the Boro Park area in which the attack was launched have expressed their fears that a second and more serious confrontation may take place. Members of the attacked synagogue, Khal Adath Sochochow, and other persons residing in this neighborhood, told a JTA reporter that in the days following the incident, they have been accosted by Puerto Rican youths who taunt them with insults and pledge "blood and revenge." The arrest of two Puerto Ricans allegedly involved in the assault has infuriated the youths and a threat was reported to have been made upon the life of an Orthodox woman who identified one of the assailants arrested. The unnatural quiet which has settled over this neighborhood particularly alarms the residents who fear that "something bad is brewing." A 24 hour police patrol which was stationed near the synagogue immediately following the attack was removed this weekend and some persons voiced their wish for the Jewish Defense League to continue its patrol of the neighborhood which was initiated the day following the incident.

In reaction to the synagogue attack, more than 500 persons gathered in Boro Park on the night of Shmini Atzereth last Wednesday to hear Rabbi Meir Kahane, National Chairman of the Jewish Defense League, speak about what he termed increasing anti-Semitism and terrorism occurring in Jewish neighborhoods during recent weeks. The crowd assembled at Congregation Ohel Avrohom, located in Boro Park, in response to placards posted in the area which read: "While Jewish People in This Neighborhood Were Being Terrorized - What Did You Do? We Were There! Come Hear the Facts!" Rabbi Kahane spoke at length about the synagogue attack and other problems confronting Jewish neighborhoods to a solely Orthodox crowd which filled the synagogue and overflowed into the street. Many persons in the audience were members of the ultra-Orthodox synagogue which had been attacked. One of the leading members of the synagogue, who asked not to be identified, told a JTA reporter that although she had at first believed that the JDL's patrol was "unnecessary and unwanted," she had changed her mind and was now grateful for its help. Others stated that they had become members of the JDL following the attack.

Priest Calls For Greater Respect, Understanding Between Christians and Jews

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., Oct. 25 (JTA)--A three-day interreligious convocation opened at Seton Hall University tonight to mark the fifth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's statement on the Jews which rejected the concept of the Jewish people's collective responsibility for the crucifixion. The meeting, which is bringing together distinguished Catholic, Protestant and Jewish theologians and scholars from several countries is being sponsored jointly by the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall and the American Jewish Committee. The co-chairmen are Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, director of the Institute and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of the AJCommittee's interreligious affairs department. In the opening address, Msgr. Oesterreicher said the statement at Vatican II marked "the discovery, or rediscovery, of Judaism and the Jews in their intrinsic worth, as well as their import for the Church."

He added that "Israel has died a thousand deaths and yet it is alive. The survival of the Jewish people through the centuries is not only a biological fact, it is a theological reality. Jewish survival must therefore, become a part of our theological textbooks." Concluding his address, Msgr. Oesterreicher expressed the hope that Christians and Jews learn to "appreciate and respect each other's thought and work...that we, the hostile kinsmen of yesterday, learn to be loving brothers today and tomorrow. Our participants in the gathering which will continue through next Wednesday include the Rev. Cornelius Rijk, of Rome, director of the Vatican Office of Catholic-Jewish Relations, Dr. Charlotte Klein of London, director of the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies of our Lady of Zion Order; and Profs. U. Tal and Shmaryahu Talmon of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Lithuanian Jews Eager To Emigrate To Israel; Proud To Be Jews

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA)--Lithuanian Jews are "very, very anxious to live in Israel," but have "no hope whatsoever to get out," a relative said today after a visit to Vilna. Miss Mascha Benya, a Lithuanian-born former singer of Hebrew and Yiddish songs, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Jews of her native country "are so anxious to hear what is going on outside the Iron Curtain in Jewish circles," and in fact are "interested in everything" pertaining to Israel. "They are very proud to be Jews," she said, "even proud of the (Jewish) Defense League." Lithuanian Jews were always Jewish-minded, especially Zionist-minded. But they feel so trapped there. If they do apply (for emigration permission) there's the danger of losing their jobs." Miss Benya, who visited her "very few living relatives in Vilna" last month, said that residents of Dubno, the site of a Soviet atomic reactor, "are not permitted to get any mail from abroad." A cousin of Miss Benya's in Kovno was deported to Siberia at the age of 11, along with her father, who died there of starvation, and her mother. The cousin is married to a Russian non-Jew. Miss Benya said that Lithuanian Jews have been the chief victims of Soviet persecution, with more than 90 percent of them "killed off." Most of the survivors live in Vilna, she said.

U.S. Christian Family Waiting To Be Admitted Into Israel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA)--The Interior Ministry has been delaying for more than a month a decision on the admission of an American Christian family who sailed here in a home-built yacht and to settle in Israel. Warren Hardy, a 44-year-old aero-space engineer from Virginia, arrived at Haifa port Sept. 22 with his wife and their five children, aged five-14. They applied for alien residents permits but the Interior Ministry has so far refused to grant them. Haifa police have given the family Nov. 15 to get their permits or leave. Mr. Hardy told newsmen today, "Now that we're actually here after eight years of preparations, we love Israel even more than we expected and we are now more determined than ever to stay."