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Israel Viewing Jordan As First Arab State With Which It Can Reach Peace Accord

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Political observers here believe that Israel now views Jordan as the first Arab state with which it may be able to conclude a peace agreement. This view marks an important shift away from the previous Israeli assessment of peace prospects which held that Egypt was the key to any Middle East settlement and must be dealt with before Israel's other Arab neighbors. The shift was hinted in Premier Golda Meir's reported remark at last Sunday's cabinet meeting that there was no obstacle to resuming peace talks with Jordan under the auspices of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring because there is no problem of missiles on the Jordanian front. Mrs. Meir's public position has been that Israel will not return to the Jarring talks before Egypt's truce violations in the Suez cease-fire zone are fully corrected. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel lent further credence to this view when he told newsmen at a press luncheon here yesterday that he favors peace talks with Jordan. He added that he thought Jordan was ready to engage in such talks if she really wanted to do so. Referring to the Jarring talks, Hillel stated that what was important was not the framework of the peace talks but what they would deal with. He added that the Jarring framework was only one of several possible ways for negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

Observers here believe that Israel's strategy now is to split the Arab front, an aim that would be achieved if a separate peace could be concluded with Jordan. According to this theory, King Hussein has been that Israel will not return to the Jarring talks before Egypt's truce violations in the Suez cease-fire zone are fully corrected. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel lent further credence to this view when he told newsmen at a press luncheon here yesterday that he favors peace talks with Jordan. He added that he thought Jordan was ready to engage in such talks if she really wanted to do so. Referring to the Jarring talks, Hillel stated that what was important was not the framework of the peace talks but what they would deal with. He added that the Jarring framework was only one of several possible ways for negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

Egypt-Libya-Sudan Federation More Inimical To Some Arab States Than To Israel

The agreement came after several days of talks between President Anwar Sadat, of Egypt, Col. Muammer el-Qaddafi, head of Libya's revolutionary government and Maj. Gen. Gaafer Mohammed al-Nimeiry, leader of the military regime in Sudan. A federation of the three socialist-oriented nations occupying the northeastern quadrant of Africa could pose a greater menace to Jordan and other conservative Arab regimes than to Israel. All observers agree that such a federation is still far off. The three leaders agreed only to the establishment of certain joint bodies which, among other things, would draft a program for federation. Nevertheless, should it come to pass, it would change the entire complexion of the Middle East. Libya, an under-populated country, is one of the world's richest oil producers with oil revenues of about \$1 billion a year. Egypt has a reservoir of professional talent and growing technological know-how while Sudan has a vast agricultural potential to contribute to the federation.

For the time being, Egypt is the only one of the three potential partners with a military establishment that is more than negligible. Nevertheless, the menace to Israel is clear. A federation of the three North African states would form a nation of over 2 million square miles, the seventh largest in the world, with a population of 48 million, ranking it the 14th-most populous nation, just behind France. The Israeli newspaper Davar called the projected federation "a monster designed to impress and frighten but which will soon reveal itself to be merely a scarecrow." The paper predicted that the three partners would be unable to merge their political differences if the federation ever went beyond the paper stage. The newspaper Hatzofe warned that the federation would make it easier for Libya to transfer to Egypt the Mirage jets it recently purchased from France and the Chieftain tanks purchased from Britain. All observers agree that a tri-partite federation would enhance Russia's influence in the Mideast since the three partners are radical, revolutionary regimes opposed to the West. That alone is considered cause for alarm for the conservative monarchies that rule Jordan and Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf sultanates and sheikhdoms.

Israelis Mourn Death Of De Gaulle; Ben-Gurion, Shazar To Attend Memorial Service

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Israeli officialdom expressed sorrow today over the death Monday night of former French President Charles de Gaulle, who prior to the Six-Day War was a staunch friend of the Jewish State. In a message to President Georges Pompidou, President Zalman Shazar voiced "my most sincere condolences" on the passing of "one of the greatest statesmen of our century," continuing: "For us he will forever remain the eternal symbol of the resistance of civilized man to the barbaric oppression of the Nazi hordes. At the darkest moments of that persecution the Jews of the entire world saw in him a living ray of hope. The people of Israel will never forget his actions and his work on the threshold of our national independence." Premier Golda Meir wrote to French Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas that "Israel and her people will always cherish the memory of the illustrious soldier who restored to the French people its honor and liberty in the struggle against the Nazi tyranny." Former Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion said that Gen. de Gaulle was never an enemy of Israel" and that "all the Jewish press very much exaggerated his supposed hostility to Israel and to Jews."

The Israeli press praised the Frenchman's attitude toward Jews and Israel up to the Six-Day War. One Israeli newspaper carried a cartoon showing de Gaulle with the inscription 1890-1967. The date 1967 was seen as a reference to the time some Israelis feel de Gaulle died so far as Israel was concerned. (In New York, Foreign Minister Abba Eban cabled condolences to his French counterpart, Maurice Schumann, and to Mrs. Yvonne de Gaulle.) Mr. Ben-Gurion, who left today to attend a memorial service in Paris tomorrow with President Shazar, sent a letter to Gen. de Gaulle hours before his death in which he noted two errors in the Frenchman's just-published fourth volume of memoirs. The first concerns Gen. de Gaulle's contention that in 1960 Premier Ben-Gurion told him of Israel's ambition to expand her borders. "The majority of the Knesset never thought for a moment of expanding the borders," Mr. Ben-Gurion wrote. The second error concerns Gen. de Gaulle's references to the "Tel Aviv government." Mr. Ben-Gurion wrote him that "The Israeli government sits in Jerusalem, and I never heard any French minister or Army man say that it has to sit in Tel Aviv." Before June, 1967, Gen. de Gaulle supplied Israel with sophisticated aircraft and other arms as well as a wide range of modern equipment. Then he suddenly advised Israel not to strike at the massed Arab armies--at a time when he saw himself as the leader of the "third world" and was trying to bring the Arabs into it. He also had an eye on French influence in Northern Africa and the rest of the Arab world.

After the Six-Day War, Gen. de Gaulle caused much bitterness in Jewish circles with a comment about "Jewish arrogance." The general, as President of France, subsequently suspended the deal for 50 Mirage jets for which Israel had already paid \$50 million and then imposed a complete embargo on arms to Israel. French diplomacy since then has taken on an anti-Israel coloration. In a confidential interview on Feb. 14, 1969, with correspondent C. L. Sulzberger, published in today's New York Times, Gen. de Gaulle said: "You (the U.S.) were against France and Israel in 1956 at the time of the Suez invasion for reasons that are just the contrary of our differences now. Now the United States is with Israel, which wishes to take the Suez Canal. The United States has changed its policy--and so has France. We agree that Israel should exist and should be a state--but not in an exaggerated way. The situation in the Middle East is not good today and it is not soluble along the lines Israel wishes. On this subject perhaps Nixon can draw closer to our policy." After explaining that France was neutral in the Mideast, President de Gaulle said: "In 1967 I told Israel not to attack. I also told the same to the Arabs. We told both sides that we would hold either one responsible if it attacked the other." Lebanese Premier Saeb Salam said today that "The Arabs have lost a great friend and a firm supporter of their cause." King Hussein of Jordan wrote President Pompidou that the general had understood "the just Arab cause."

Gen. Weizman Accuses Government Of Minimizing Threat Of Soviet Missiles

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Gen. Ezer Weizman, former commander of the Israel Air Force and a former cabinet minister, accused the government yesterday of "playing down" the threat of 50 Soviet-made SAM missiles installed in the Suez cease-fire zone by Egypt. Gen. Weizman, who entered politics barely a year ago as Minister of Transport representing the Herut faction in Premier Meir's coalition government, addressed the Herut national convention. "We are at a very dangerous point of self-delusion," he declared. "One month ago the government was up in arms about the missiles. The Army intelligence chief displayed to the world the dimensions of the threat. Suddenly, within a few days, the 50 missile sites have vanished, if not from the west bank of the Suez Canal, at least from the political landscape," Gen. Weizman said. He was referring to recent statements by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan that Israel is militarily stronger now than it was three months ago despite the missile build-up, and was fully capable of defeating any Egyptian thrust.

Gen. Weizman is a brother-in-law of Gen. Dayan and, like him, a career military officer whose views are highly respected. Politically, however, he adheres to the right-wing, nationalist Herut which, along with the Liberal Party, constitutes Gahal, Israel's second largest political party. Gahal quit the coalition government last July in protest against Israel's acceptance of the American peace initiative which included the Jarring talks and the cease-fire. Gahal, especially its Herut wing, is more vehemently opposed than ever to the Jarring talks. Herut leader Menachem Beigin has run into opposition in his efforts to have Herut and the Liberals merge into a single faction. He proposed a merger in a speech Sunday night. Yesterday, Liberal Party chairman Joseph Sapir said he did not think a merger was feasible. He said the present partnership was satisfactory and has proven its effectiveness in the parliamentary life of Israel. Gen. Weizman said the immediate military menace to Israel is not as great now as it was in June, 1967. However, he said, in its desire to re-enter the Jarring talks, the government might bargain away the nation's security. "The Russians are here and there should be a clear cut policy toward a permanent Soviet presence," he said.

Return To Peace Talks Contingent On Three Conditions; Jarring Exerting Pressure

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--High level consultations are in progress here on conditions under which Israel would agree to return to the Jarring talks. Although the government has not publicly abandoned its insistence that Egyptian truce violations must be corrected before the talks can resume, the feeling grew here today that Israel's position would be eased. According to some sources, Israeli government officials have in mind three conditions which, if fulfilled, could lead to the resumption of the Jarring talks. These were said to be an American pledge to maintain the Mideast arms balance and Israel's relative military strength at least through the end of 1971; American economic aid including easy credit terms to finance Israel's arms purchases; and a clear American commitment to deter possible Soviet aggressions.

Reliable sources said here today that the U.S. has assured Israel that it shares the Israeli view that the Jarring peace talks are based exclusively on the United Nations Security Council's Mideast Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967. According to these sources, Foreign Minister Abba Eban brought this fact to the attention of Dr. Jarring when they met in New York. Dr. Jarring voiced no objections and Mr.

Eban was said to have gained the impression that the UN envoy accepted the American-Israeli position. (Reports from New York last night claimed that Dr. Jarring has set Jan. 5, 1971 as the deadline for his peace-seeking mission. He reportedly said that unless some progress is made in peace talks under his auspices by then, he will formally resign his mission. A UN spokesman said he could not confirm this report. Diplomatic sources at the UN, however, said Jarring was exerting diplomatic pressure to get the parties to return to the peace talks.)

Report Eight Leningrad Jews To Be Subjected To 'Show Trial'

LONDON, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Eight Leningrad Jews arrested last June for allegedly attempting to hijack a Soviet airliner will be subjected to a "show trial" intended to intimidate other Jews from seeking emigration and an end to cultural repression in the USSR, according to documents recently smuggled out of the Soviet Union. The documents were released here today by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, a research organization associated with the World Jewish Congress. According to Dr. Stephen J. Roth, director of the institute and Jack Miller, its senior research officer, the documents were received from travellers returning from the Soviet Union. They indicate that the charges against the Leningrad eight are completely false and based on evidence manufactured by the KGB, the Soviet secret police, Dr. Roth said. The documents also include copies of "Exodus," an underground publication of the Jewish protest movement in Russia. According to published reports, the hijack trial will open on Nov. 20. The defendants, two of them women, were arrested at Smolny Airport in Leningrad on June 15. All are between 21 and 31 years of age.

The released documents contain biographical data on them but do not mention non-Jews arrested at the airport at the same time. The documents say that the arrests occurred at 8 a.m., yet less than an hour later on the same day, KGB agents had visited some 40 Jews in their homes, offices and at resorts as far away as Odessa and carried out searches which yielded articles on Jewish or Israeli subjects. The eight arrested Jews turned out to be active members of the Jewish protest movement. According to Dr. Roth, the documents make it clear that they were the targets of an official plot. One copy of "Exodus" contained in a letter from Victor Boguslavsky to R.A. Rudenko, the Soviet prosecuting attorney, charging a conspiracy against the Leningrad Jews and demanding their immediate release. Another letter in "Exodus" signed by Gregory Vertlib and Hillel Shure, compared the forthcoming Leningrad trial with the Bellis ritual murder trial of the Czarist era, the Dreyfus trial in France and the doctors' plot of the Stalin era.

N.Y. Official To Represent Jew Barred From U.S. Embassy In Moscow

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Daniel Greer, First Deputy Commissioner for Ports and Terminals, said today he will handle legal details here for Leonid Rigerman, a 30-year-old Russian-born Jew who has met Soviet resistance in his attempts to assert his United States citizenship. Mr. Rigerman was scheduled to appear in court in Moscow today on charges of failing to leave the premises of the American Embassy there on Sept. 8 and twice this past Monday, when he tried to see U.S. officials about certifying his citizenship. Mr. Rigerman's mother, who also lives in Moscow, was born in Brooklyn and wants to return with her son. She had gone to the Soviet Union in 1931 at the insistence of her late husband, a Communist. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow has protested to the Soviet Foreign Ministry the barring of Mr. Rigerman from the embassy in violation of a Soviet-American consular treaty. Mr. Rigerman said the policemen called him "an enemy of the Soviet people," removed him from the embassy steps and bore him away by car. Mr. Greer, who recently spent two and a half weeks in the USSR with Rabbi Steven Riskin of Lincoln Square Synagogue, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Mr. Rigerman, a bearded computer programmer, had signed "a few" petitions demanding emigration rights for Soviet Jews, as a result of which he has been "harassed" at work and followed and bugged "for quite some time." Mr. Greer, who was not present at the times of the apparent rebuffs to Mr. Rigerman by the Soviet police, emphasized that he would be handling Mr. Rigerman's citizenship procedures as an individual, not as a member of the Lindsay administration.

Histadrut To Continue Campaign In U.S.; Full Support For Emergency Campaign

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--At a meeting held in Jerusalem yesterday between leaders of the Histadrut Campaign in the United States, the Histadrut in Israel, members of the Jewish Agency, the United Jewish Appeal and the Israeli government, all participants recorded their firm conviction that the Histadrut Campaign in the United States should continue and be maintained, it was announced here today by the Histadrut National Committee for Labor Israel. Because of the primacy of the Emergency Campaign of the UJA and its importance to the solution of the problems of immigration, absorption and settlement now facing Israel, the Histadrut Campaign is prepared to mobilize its maximum support behind the Emergency Campaign. Further discussion will take place in New York between the UJA and the Histadrut Campaign to work out a practical program which would ensure the fullest backing and success of the Emergency Campaign. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Leon A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency. Participants included: Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, general secretary of Histadrut; Dr. Leon H. Keyserling, president, National Committee for Labor Israel; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive chairman, United Jewish Appeal; Dr. Sol Stein, executive director, Israel Histadrut Campaign; Mr. Sol C. Chaikin, chairman, American Trade Union Council for Histadrut; and Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Finance.

Dayan's Visit To U.S. On Behalf Of UJA; Will Not Meet With Administration Officials

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--A Defense Ministry spokesman said today that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to the United States next month is on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and will be concerned exclusively with UJA matters. The statement was a denial of press reports here today that Gen. Dayan will meet with Nixon administration and Pentagon officials at "the highest level" for discussions of U.S.-Israel relations and U.S. military supplies to Israel. Gen. Dayan will be in the U.S. for a month. The spokesman said no political meetings have been arranged for Dayan in the U.S.

COLPA Submits Brief To New York Court Of Appeals In Support Of Black Muslim

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--An Orthodox Jewish group, supported by three major national Jewish organizations, has asked the New York Court of Appeals to compel Greyhound Bus Company to hire a Black Muslim who was refused a job because out of religious conviction he wears a beard. In August of 1968 Abdullahi Ibrahim, an Orthodox Muslim, applied for a position as baggage clerk with Greyhound. When he appeared for an interview he was advised of the company policy that its employees be clean shaven. Mr. Ibrahim stated that he is required by his religion to wear a beard. Greyhound refused to hire him when he reiterated that he would adhere to his religious practices and beliefs and would not shave his beard. Mr. Ibrahim filed a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Rights, charging Greyhound with violation of the State's Human Rights Law ban on discrimination in employment because of religion. The State Division ruled in favor of Mr. Ibrahim and ordered Greyhound to offer him a job. However, Greyhound appealed this decision to the Appellate Division. Several months ago the Appellate Division reversed the Division of Human Rights and held that Greyhound was not guilty of a discriminatory practice because its policy was not based on any intent to bar employment on religious grounds.

An appeal was then taken to the Court of Appeals by the State Division of Human Rights. Because of the broad implications that the case may have to Orthodox Jews who wear beards or other religious garb, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) decided to submit an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief urging the State's highest court to uphold the Division of Human Rights. COLPA's brief is supported by the New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the Metropolitan Council of the Anti-Defamation League. In its brief COLPA argues that "the impact of a company's employment policy on the individual's employment opportunity must be decisive--and not the presence or absence of a specific intent to discriminate. . . . Thus, in the case of persons such as the complainant, to refuse to hire because of religion of necessity means to apply to such individual an employment policy which ineluctably forecloses him from employment if he adheres to his religious requirement." According to Howard Rhine and Sidney Kwestel, COLPA officers who wrote the brief, the decision of the Court of Appeals may have an important bearing on the employment rights of Sabbath observers--Orthodox Jews, Seventh Day Adventists and members of other religious groups. Many Sabbath observers have encountered difficulty because they are required to leave work early on Friday afternoons during the winter months.

Jewish Groups Hail Decision That School Prayer Reading Is Unconstitutional

NETCONG, N.J., Nov. 11 (JTA)--Twenty Jewish organizations have welcomed Monday's unanimous decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court that daily prayer readings at Netcong High School are unconstitutional even if voluntary. The New Jersey Ad Hoc Committee on Church and State, representing the organizations, said the ruling was an advance toward "strengthening the wall of separation between church and state. John Kaufman and Meyer Fine, chairman and executive secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, stressed that "such prayer practices in the public schools are divisive and harmful to all faiths by diluting the value of prayer." The Ad Hoc Committee represents the Rabbinical Council of New Jersey (Orthodox), the Rabbinical Assembly of Northern New Jersey (Conservative), the New Jersey Association of Reform Rabbis, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and 14 Jewish community councils.

The legal opinion that first barred the voluntary prayer-readings in the Netcong school system was issued last year by then-Attorney General Arthur Sills at the instigation of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County. Monday's 7-0 Supreme Court ruling upheld the State Board of Education's suit against the Netcong school board. The case arose from the reading of a nondenominational prayer before school hours on Sept. 16, 1969, by the Netcong H.S. principal in the school gymnasium. The prayer had been delivered on the floor of the United States Senate on Aug. 8. Students were not required to attend the reading of what the principal called "inspirational remarks." On Feb. 9 this year, Superior Court Judge Joseph H. Stamler prohibited further readings, declaring: "To call some of the beautiful prayers in the Congressional Record 'remarks' for a deceptive purpose is to peddle religion in a very cheap manner under an assumed name. This type of subterfuge is degrading to all religions."

Two American Artists, Recent Emigres To Israel, Awarded Jerusalem Artist's Prize

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Two former New York residents, who recently emigrated to Israel, have been awarded the Jerusalem Artist's Prize for innovative work in pencils and oils. The Jerusalem Municipality announced here recently that Joshua Neustein, 30-year-old Brooklynite, and Mrs. Naomi Sultanik Davidson, formerly of Buffalo, were the winners of the \$300 cash prize which is awarded annually. The works of both artists are currently being shown in the autumn exhibition of the Jerusalem Painters and Sculptors Association. Mr. Neustein, who was born in Poland and grew up in Borough Park, Brooklyn, graduated from The City College of New York, and studied at the Arts Students League and Pratt Institute in New York before moving to Israel in 1968. The vivid and stark dramas being played out on the Israeli scene every day, the colorful and unusual characters who dwell there, and the breathtaking views that Israel is renowned for, attracted him to Israel where he is occupied full time with his painting. Mr. Neustein's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alter Neustein, who still reside in Boro Park, beamed proudly when talking of their son and told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "believe it or not, he has been painting since the age of two."

JWV Leader Warns Jewish Communities Menaced By Leftist-Arab Alliance

MILTON, Mass., Nov. 11 (JTA)--The national commander of the Jewish War Veterans claimed today that Jewish communities throughout the world were "menaced" by an "alliance of the New Left, Black militant extremists and Arab propagandists." Albert Schlossberg declared that "some effective counter-measures must be taken to prevent insidious anti-Jewishness from emanating from this colation."