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Officials Do Not Deny Egyptian Planes Fired On By Israelis During Overflight

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Officials declined today to confirm a press report that Israeli antiaircraft artillery opened warning-fire when Soviet-made Egyptian Sukhoi 7 planes overflew Israeli positions in the northern sector of the Suez Canal on Monday. But officials said the report was "not to be ruled out." The incident would mark the third such overflight in a period of 24 hours and the first time Israelis have fired in the Canal area since the cease-fire began. They are under strict orders to wait for firing permission before shooting, even if under attack. There must be confirmation that there is actual enemy action, and not just stray bullets.

The newspaper Maariv reported today that Premier Golda Meir is consulting with cabinet ministers and senior officials on the possibility that the Egyptian overflights were a deliberate provocation instigated by the Soviets, designed to get Israel to fire first. The paper said that was one of the subjects discussed yesterday by Foreign Minister Abba Eban and United States Ambassador Walworth J. Barbour. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency could not obtain confirmation of this from official sources. On a related matter, officials are saying that while the Suez Canal could be made navigable within two or three months after its reopening, the value of its current capacity is doubtful because since the canal was closed in June, 1967, supertankers have become the prime carriers of oil. Before the Six-Day War, oil carriers represented about 80 percent of the canal's shipping tonnage, but the waterway is not deep enough for supertankers.

Another Soviet Jew Arrested; B'nai B'rith And SSSJ Map Actions; Rally Scheduled

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Another Soviet Jew who applied for permission to emigrate to Israel has been arrested, according to reports issued today by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. This brings the total number of Jews arrested in the Soviet Union to 34. The AJCSJ told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it had learned from a traveler who had returned from the Soviet Union yesterday that 23-year old Simeon Abramovich Levit of 8 Svoboda Street, Kishinev, had been arrested. The same traveler reported the home of Alexander Chenin, also of Kishinev, had been searched and a number of publications in Hebrew and Yiddish were confiscated. These are the latest in the series of arrests, searches and seizures by which the Soviet government has harassed Jews over the past several months. Thirty-three Soviet Jews are currently awaiting a "show trial" scheduled for December 15th, charged with alleged hijacking of a Soviet airplane on June 15th.

In view of the pending trial, 100 high-school and college students, members of the SSSJ, embarked upon a door-to-door campaign today in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn to alert residents on the most recent developments of the plight of Soviet Jewry and to "arouse their understanding and compassion for a very concrete crisis," according to Glen Richter, National Coordinator of SSSJ. Mr. Richter told the JTA that the students planned to distribute fliers, explain in detail the recent arrests and their implications, and outline fully a plan of action for community members. The SSSJ's were also planning to urge Flatbush residents to send telegrams to Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin demanding the release of Leonid Rigerman from the Soviet Union. Mr. Rigerman, a young Russian Jew, who was arrested and jailed recently after attempting to enter the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to prove his American citizenship, is presently out of jail, but detained in the Soviet Union, awaiting word from the U.S. on his citizenship status.

Mr. Richter also announced plans for a massive rally on behalf of Soviet Jewry to be held on Human Rights Day, December 10th, at the Hunter College Assembly Hall here in New York. Meanwhile, Dr. William A. Wexler, President of B'nai B'rith, urged an expression of concern over the fate of Soviet Jews facing trials. He told a mass meeting several days ago in Miami Beach, Florida, commemorating B'nai B'rith's 127th anniversary year, that "Jews who live in freedom have a responsibility to speak out forcefully" against the detention and imminent trials of 33 Jews "whose only real offense is their insistence on being Jews and wanting to emigrate to Israel." Dr. Wexler asked the group to "write your sentiments to Soviet leaders." He had done so Monday, he said, in a letter to Premier Alexei N. Kosygin asking that the USSR affirm its own laws and commitments to United Nations Human Rights Conventions by halting the trials and allowing the arrested persons and their families to emigrate.

Dayan: Would Not Be Ashamed To Seek U.S. Aid In Event Soviets Launch Attack

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said tonight that if the Soviet Union were to launch an attack on Israel, "there is only one power in the world that would be able to check the Soviets, namely the United States, and I would not be ashamed of asking the United States for military aid." But he added that he did not expect such an attack. In a nationwide television interview, Gen. Dayan said that Israel and the U.S. maintained good relations and that Washington "has not disapproved" of Israel's withdrawal from the Jarring talks over the issue of Egyptian truce violations. Gen. Dayan repeated his controversial proposal, which has been rejected by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, for a "maximum troop reduction along the Suez Canal zone" as part of a newly negotiated cease-fire. He added that Israel was not strong enough to reject imposed borders.

Tekoa: Solution Of Refugee Problem Possible; Refugees Used As Pawns By Arabs

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 26 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoa told the Special Poli-

tical Committee of the General Assembly yesterday that "A solution to the refugee problem is not only desirable, indeed vital, but also possible." But its attainment, he said, "would require an attitude of understanding and cooperation on the part of the Arab states, an attitude long overdue if it is truly the welfare of the refugees that they seek." Mr. Tekoah added: "No issue arising out of the Middle East situation has ever been resolved or brought nearer solution through confrontation and discord. It must be evident to all that only agreement between the parties is capable of achieving a settlement." The ambassador noted that "the Arab states have refused" to cooperate on a five-year plan to solve the problem--a proposal made two years ago by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban. "There was no reason, no logic in this refusal," Mr. Tekoah asserted. He indicated that the large influx of Arabs into Israel, making them almost half the country's total population, represents "a virtual exchange of population." He added that "The criterion applied in assisting refugees to rebuild their lives has always and everywhere been where they could best live in peace and harmony with society, and not necessarily where they were born." The Special Political Committee has been meeting on the report of Laurence Michelmore, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). He says the agency is in a financial crisis and that the refugee problem must be solved posthaste. Ambassador Tekoah stated that the Arab governments "turned the refugee into an instrument of continued warfare against Israel," to serve as "a reservoir of manpower for...acts of aggression." The Arabs' suggestion that guerrilla terrorists be given an advisory status with UNRWA and the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) "is an irresponsible suggestion fraught with dire implications," he said. He observed that despite "impediments," Israel has admitted some 50,000 refugees since 1948 and 55,000 Arab visitors this year alone, and that since 1967 "little more than half of the permits have been utilized by the displaced persons."

Mr. Tekoah stressed that "The recent hostilities in Jordan have strengthened even further the need to weigh most carefully the effect that the return of refugees in large numbers would have on public order and security." He pointed out that according to the UNRWA report, only one-third of the refugees of 1948 live in camps. Two-thirds reside within the general population. He noted that Israel had contributed \$2,830,000 to UNRWA since 1967, and that "It is interesting to compare this with the contributions of other governments in the area." Arabs in Israel are well-employed with high wages, and their children receive increasingly improved education, Mr. Tekoah added. Regarding security, the envoy stated that necessary Israeli measures are mild compared with "drastic" measures by Arab governments. "It is important to note," he added, "that the refugees themselves are frequently targets and victims of the terror operations"--1,204 of the 2,000 such victims since 1967. He appealed to the Arab governments "to abandon warfare, to forego belligerency and bloodshed and to begin to think of peace and act for peace."

Officials Not Confirming Reports That Israeli Tankers Proceeding Down Suez Canal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Israeli officials are declining to confirm press reports yesterday that Israeli tankers have been proceeding down the gulf of Suez toward Eilat carrying oil from Sinai oilfields about 100,000 barrels a day. Although Egypt is officially irate over this, she was said to favor not doing anything about it because of what an Egyptian official called a "mutual deterrent"--the Israeli tankers have been allowed to use the gulf in return for no Israeli attacks on Ras Shukair, location of a major Egyptian oil field. Ras Shukair is an active, multi-million-dollar business-and-leisure center with tanks capable of holding 3 million barrels of oil. Its three offshore loading sites are made use of by many nations, including the Soviet Union.

Pincus Says Funds Vital For Israel's Welfare, Education, Health Services

LONDON, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, told Anglo-Jewish leaders today that "It is the Israelis who are shouldering the burden of our defense, and it is costing us the shirts off our backs almost literally." The "intrusion of the Soviet Union" in the Middle East "has meant that Israel had to indulge in an unprecedented arms race; she had to spend hundreds of millions of pounds for her security." Because of "this enormous expenditure," Mr. Pincus said, "we have had to look elsewhere for the funds needed for immigration, social welfare, education and health services," which "stand today on the brink of serious difficulties." Appealing for financial aid, Mr. Pincus declared: "It is the home front which causes us deep concern. We must show those who guard our frontiers that we can take care of their families while they are away on the front lines. If our home front is healthy and strong, then we can be sure that we will win in the end, no matter what the enemy hurls against our borders."

More Than 4,000 Youths Participate In German-Israeli Student Exchange Program

BONN, Nov. 26 (JTA)--More than 4,000 young men and women have participated in the Student Exchange Program between West Germany and Israel during the recent years, it was announced here today. Figures released by the West German government showed that 3,215 young Germans visited Israel this year while 1,286 Israeli students attended West German universities. The West German government contributed approximately \$378,000 towards this effort and it was announced that this grant would be increased for 1971.

Colombian Children, Victims of Floods, To Receive Drugs, Food From Israel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Colombian children, victims of the recent floods there, are to receive a shipment of drugs and food from Israel. The shipment will be turned over to the Colombian Ambassador tomorrow at Lydda Airport and will then be flown to Colombia by an El Al transport plane.

Mrs. Meir Says Israel May Not Get All Conditions Demanded For Resumption Of Talks

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir said last night that "It is almost certain we shall not be able to get all the conditions we demanded for the resumption of the Jarring talks." But she observed that "The Americans do understand our security problems and the economic difficulties which are the result of the security burden," explaining, "Not every year does an American President ask the Congress for \$500 million aid for Israel." Premier Meir addressed a gathering of long-time women members of the Labor Party. Conceding that "we have differences of opinion" with Washington, she nevertheless noted: "We have discussions with an Administration which wants Israel existing and strong. The discussion is mainly on the interpretation—what is needed for Israel to be strong?" Regarding peace, Mrs. Meir said, "Something must be done so that the quiet we knew for over three months should continue." She reasserted Israel's desire for an indefinite cease-fire. She observed that "Even now there are Russian planes with Russian or Egyptian pilots that fly over the Israeli positions (and) I am not sure the Egyptians would be able to hold their fire till the end of this cease-fire period ending Feb. 5."

Israel Galili, the influential Minister-Without-Portfolio and former Haganah commander, said last night that there were no obstacles to immediate Israeli-Jordanian-Lebanese negotiations under the auspices of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations' special Middle East mediator. Speaking at a meeting of local academicians in Haifa, Mr. Galili said that while the two Arab countries might postpone the conclusion of the talks, there was no justification for their postponing the opening of them. He said Israel favored early resumption of the Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian talks under Dr. Jarring, but "not before Israel would try and get the necessary conditions for the resumption of talks." Meanwhile, in northern Jordan yesterday, the Army smashed a Palestinian guerrilla unit, killing, wounding or capturing "many troops" in what it called the "biggest violation" of their truce. It was their third major encounter in 10 days. The army said it suffered no casualties. A government spokesman said the Army acted against the guerrillas at Sagrat el-Asfour, north of Jarash, when they failed to leave as agreed. The Palestinians said the Army "opened up on guerrilla positions."

Seven Soviet Scientists Denounce Israel, Deny Existence Of Soviet Jewish Problem

LONDON, Nov. 26 (JTA)—Seven scientists from the Vavilov Optics Institute in Leningrad signed a statement which was carried in yesterday's edition of Izvestia assailing Israel and denying that a Jewish problem exists in the Soviet Union, according to reports reaching here from Moscow. The statement in the government newspaper was similar to those issued last spring during the Soviet anti-Zionist campaign in which thousands of persons, including many Jews, denounced Israel. According to reports here, some of the signers of this latest statement are believed to be Jewish. In printing the statement by the scientists, Izvestia explained that numerous Soviet citizens expressed indignation at receiving a bulletin in their mail published by students in Tel Aviv University entitled "Israelis Reply."

The bulletin, published by the Israeli Students of Middle East Affairs at the University, is geared toward expressing views on current Mideast developments by way of answering Arab views. Izvestia did not disclose the contents of this issue of the bulletin but contended that it contained "standard" Israeli "slander" of the Soviet Union's support of Arabs and an attack on the Kremlin's policy toward Soviet Jews. The letter appeared as the Soviet government is preparing a show trial against 33 Jews accused of involvement in an alleged plot to hijack a Soviet airliner last June. The show trial of nine of these Jews, which was scheduled to begin last Friday, has been postponed to Dec. 15. Many of the Jews arrested in connection with this trial were actively seeking to emigrate to Israel. Izvestia, according to reports, did not link the letter by the seven scientists to the forthcoming trials.

February Trial Set For Seven Jewish Students Who Took Over Tass Offices

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 26 (JTA)—Trial has been set for Feb. 16 for seven of eight Jewish students, members of the Washington Committee for the Release of Captive Soviet Jewry, who staged a demonstration last Friday at the local offices of Tass, the Soviet news agency. The eight were arraigned Tuesday in General Sessions Court. One of them, a juvenile, was released. Five of the remaining seven were released on personal recognizance and ordered to appear at the District of Columbia Bail Agency every Tuesday until their trial. They are Mark Rosenbaum, 20, of Falls Church, Va.; Mark J. Brand, 20, of Middletown, Conn.; Terrie Gore, 19, of Hempstead, N.Y.; Eve Berger, 19, of Ventnor, N.J.; and Sheldon H. Zeller, 18, of Annapolis, Md. Mr. Zeller attends the University of Maryland and the others are enrolled at American University here. Miss Gore's first name was erroneously reported earlier as Peri.

Gil Genn, 18, of Cheve Chase, Md., was released in his father's custody, and Ronald C. Cole, 19, of Baltimore, in a cousin's custody. Both attend American University. In listing the participants last Friday, the demonstrators' spokesman, Dr. William G. Perl of College Park, Md., did not include Mr. Cole. He did include Deborah (Divi) Faber of the University of Maryland, but it was determined today that she had not entered the Tass premises and had not been arrested. Sue Parker of American University, one of those arrested, was declared a juvenile today and released. The attorney for the students is Laurence B. Feingold, 27, of Seattle, who is enrolled at Georgetown Law School here. Members of the Washington Committee denied today press reports that they were members of the Jewish Defense League and told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Committee members were "in no way affiliated" with the JDL.

Rally Draws Some 1,000, Rabbi Charges Soviet Government With Outright Anti-Semitism

MONTREAL, Nov. 26 (JTA)—More than 1,000 members of Montreal's Jewish community gathered here at a mass meeting last evening to protest the position of Soviet Jewry and the imminent trial of 33 Soviet Jews. "Only the wakening of world opinion can stem the dissolution of the Jewish community in Soviet Russia," Rabbi Dr. W. Gunther Plaut of Toronto told the members of the audience.

Jewish Leaders Denounce Bombing Of Soviet Office As Inimical To Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- The bombing of the Soviet Aeroflot and Intourist building here early yesterday morning has been denounced by Jewish leaders here and in Washington, D.C. The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry called the act one of "barbarous terrorism," emphasizing that "it is especially repugnant that it should be presented to the public as a form of Jewish reprisal for the Soviet government's outrageous oppression of Jewish life in the Soviet Union and the denial of basic human rights to Soviet Jews." Such actions by "small groups of misguided zealots" are not the way "to obtain basic rights for our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union," the Conference statement continued, "Anyone who applauds the bombing or its perpetrators violates all principles of responsible behavior in a civilized society." At a news conference yesterday, Rabbi Meir Kahane, chairman of the Jewish Defense League, said he had "no idea" who had planted the bomb, but said he "applauded" them. A JDL spokesman, Lucy Moskowitz, added to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "Obviously the JDL had nothing to do with it, but we praise the brave, humanitarian people who did it. It couldn't happen to nicer people." Shortly after the bomb blast, about 3:30 a.m., an anonymous caller told the Associated Press: "Let the world know that while Jews are on trial in Russia, the Soviet Union will be on trial. 'Never again!'"

That final phrase is the slogan of the JDL, which has been accused of similar incidents in the past. Most recently, during a JDL demonstration at the Soviet Mission on Monday night, a car allegedly driven by a JDL member plowed through wooden barriers and injured six policemen. But the police have indicated that anti-JDLers may be trying to implicate that controversial militant group in the Aeroflot-Intourist bombing. Neither the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry nor any of the Jewish leaders who made statements in Washington accused the JDL directly of responsibility for the explosion at the Soviet air line and tourist offices. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform) said the "irrational act of terrorism" was carried out "apparently by Jewish extremists" and "inevitably must redound to the greater harm of Jews everywhere." In Washington, Dr. William A. Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith, called the bombing a "cowardly form of confrontation" and a "mindless act of terrorism that badly serves the Jews of the Soviet Union." He said "the violence is as shocking as it is inexcusable," and stressed that "it distorts the serious plight of Soviet Jews, weakens efforts to mobilize public support in their behalf, and hands the Kremlin a propaganda weapon."

Three officials attending in Washington the 72nd biennial convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America condemned the bombing. Rabbi Joseph Karasick, the Union's president, said it was "an undisciplined and unjustified action of a small group that does not represent any Jewish consensus nor any major responsible Jewish organization." He predicted the bombing would "reflect negatively upon the situation of our brethren in Soviet Russia." Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, provost of Yeshiva University, New York, and former president of the Rabbinical Council of America, while not specifically implicating the JDL in yesterday's incident, observed that it "has gone so far afield" from its declared aims that "it has spent its energies on areas in which its tactics were often destructive rather than helpful--indeed, they were irresponsible." He also said "reprisals" were not the way to react to Soviet oppression. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, dean of Tifereth Jerusalem in New York, declared that JDL actions were "contrary to the Torah, which prohibits us from such deeds of violence," and not welcomed by oppressed Jews throughout the world.

Rabin To Address Labor Israel Convention; Nixon Sends Greetings

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin will be principal speaker at the 47th annual convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel, according to an announcement by Leon H. Keyserling, president of the pro-Histadrut organization. Over 2,000 delegates representing trade unions, Labor Zionists, Workmen's Circle, fraternal and social organizations, women's groups, and business and professional affiliates, will attend the conclave which opens tomorrow and ends Sunday, whose theme is: "Histadrut Airlift--Destination Israel." In a message to the convention, President Richard M. Nixon hailed the Israel labor federation on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee. The text from the White House reads, in part: "For half a century Histadrut has made vital contributions toward the economic health and social welfare of the State of Israel. Your humanitarian achievement have been in the finest spirit of a free society, and your golden anniversary brings you the gratitude not only of Israeli citizens but of Americans who have benefited from the fine example you set."

NYU Awards First Doctoral Degree To Student Who Wrote Dissertation In Hebrew

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA)--For the first time in its 139-year history, New York University has awarded a doctoral degree to a student who wrote his dissertation in Hebrew. Rabbi Grainom Lazewnik, a native of Poland who came to this country in 1946, wrote his thesis on a Talmudic subject--another first at NYU. A resident of Brooklyn, Dr. Lazewnik, analyzed a medieval Hebrew manuscript, using a microfilm copy of the original European document brought to New York University's Library of Judaica and Hebraica, and concluded that it is a commentary on the 11th-century Rif Code on the Sanhedrin rather than on the original text of the Talmud as had been believed by many scholars prior to his study. Dr. Lazewnik, who received his degree from NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science, did his research in the School's Institute of Hebrew Studies under the direction of Dr. David Rudavsky, the Institute's acting director.

Four Organizations Comprising Jews, Non-Jews, Blacks Unify Efforts Against Racism

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA)--The National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference have agreed to unify their efforts against "racism and polarization." It will create units to raise funds across the country, beginning during "Brotherhood Week" next February. The four organizations' National Committee for Commitment to Brotherhood will be headed by Willis T. Gossett, former vice president and general counsel of Ford Motor Company, and Mrs. Gossett.