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Dayan: U.S. Weaponry Necessary in View Of Sadat's Threats; Peace Talks Continue

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said tonight that American weaponry was all the more necessary for Israel's security in light of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's increasingly hawkish statements. "After all," Dayan told students in Haifa, "when Sadat speaks of progress he actually means an Israeli retreat." The Egyptian leader threatened last week not to extend the cease-fire past Feb. 5 if Israel did not submit by that date a time-table for her withdrawal from the administered Arab territories. "If we achieve in the Jarring talks what we strive for, all right," Dayan said tonight. "If we do not, then the talks will have failed. But the most important thing is that we should not lose our strength. We need a very essential, important thing: We need arms, faith and dynamic action for a basis for co-existence with the Arabs." Dayan added that "it is easier for the United States to supply us with arms while we are talking about peace than when we refuse to talk about peace."

Foreign Minister Abba Eban also repeated his earlier warning that Sadat's almost daily threats of war must stop. He noted these threats should be contrasted with Israel's peaceful declarations. It is learned in this connection that in the current early phase of the Jarring talks, Israel is expected to stress the need for the continuation of the cease-fire as an essential part of the peace talks. Negotiations without a cease-fire cannot even be contemplated, sources here stated. They also noted that Israel will not insist on a formal extension of the cease-fire after it expires Feb. 5 but will be satisfied with an undertaking by the Egyptians that they will not resume shooting. The Jarring talks were assumed by observers to have been discussed at a meeting today between Eban and U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour. But a Ministry spokesman declined to give details of the conversation.

(The resumed Middle East peace talks continued today in New York as Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah met again for a half hour with United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring in the latter's Secretariat Building aerie. Tekoah again refused to talk with waiting newsmen. A policy of silence has once more set in at the UN. The resumption of the negotiations yesterday was marked by an unusual advance announcement of Dr. Jarring's appointments for the day. Today, not only was Tekoah's appointment not announced, but UN spokesmen would not even confirm after the fact that it had even taken place. That is in line with Dr. Jarring's consistent conduct by his UN "boss," Secretary General Thant. The latter met today with Soviet Ambassador Yakob A. Malik, and as usual there was no disclosure of agenda. Meanwhile, there has been speculation that Thant would call for a special session of the Security Council to put pressure on the parties if they appear unable to make any peace progress by Feb. 5.)

Riad Says Big Four Could Play Decisive Role In Efforts For Mideast Settlement

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad summed up his London visit at a press conference today by saying that he shared completely the view of his British counterpart, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, that the Big Four could play a decisive role in the efforts for a Middle East settlement. Riad described Anglo-Egyptian relations at present as very friendly. He said he reciprocated fully the cordiality towards Egypt expressed by the British Foreign Secretary. (Riad arrived in Paris today for a series of meetings with French leaders. French political sources believe the government, having backed the Arab cause in recent years, feels it is entitled to know more about Egypt's long-range intentions.) Regarding Israel, Riad said her withdrawal from occupied Arab territory must precede any settlement. He said Egypt would be willing to accept a Four Power guarantee of frontiers resulting from a settlement with Israel. Regarding Egypt's request for a \$38.4 million loan to pay for equipment for the pipeline on the western side of the Suez Canal, a decision is expected by month's end. There is still no agreement between the Foreign Office, which is in favor of the loan and the Treasury which is opposed to it.

French, Italian CP's Report Trials Might Be Cancelled; 'Leak' Seen As Significant

PARIS, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The French Communist newspaper L'Humanite said today that the upcoming trials of Soviet Jews might be cancelled. Observers viewed the report as a possibly Kremlin-initiated "leak." (A similar statement appeared today in the Italian Communist paper, L'Unita.) There was no immediate confirmation from any authoritative sources that this "leak" meant the trials had been officially cancelled. A source familiar with the inner workings of the Kremlin, however, regarded the "leak" as "significant." The new trial of the Leningrad Nine, scheduled to begin today, was reported by Western sources earlier today to have been postponed until next week because one of the defendants is ill. Other sources, however, reported the trial would begin today as scheduled. The nine have been charged with anti-Soviet activity and with knowing about the alleged hijacking attempt last June 15 but failing to report it to the Soviet authorities. It was still uncertain today whether the court-martial of Lieutenant Wolf Zalmanson, who was part of the 12 arrested at Smolny Airport last June, would begin today as scheduled. Lt. Zalmanson's trial was separated from those of the Leningrad 11 who received severe prison terms.

A group of prominent French intellectuals including Nobel Laureate Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir issued a declaration which appeals to "all progressive forces" to rally to the aid of Soviet Jews in their struggle for human rights. Among the signatories were the Communist poet Vercours, and the former Czechoslovakia Communist Party leader, Arthur London, who was purged during the Slansky trials in 1952. London is the author of "The Confession," which deals with that period and has now been made into a motion picture. A protest meeting against the treatment of Soviet Jews sponsored by the French Left took place in Paris today. In Jerusalem, the head of the Soviet Ecclesiastical Mission, Archimandrite Yeronim, refused today to accept a petition submitted to him by 150 demonstrators

calling for the release of the Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union. He told the demonstrators "today is a holiday and I cannot engage in workday affairs." Yeronim was referring to the Greek and Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday which begins tonight and is also celebrated in Monophysite churches such as the Syrians, Copts and Ethiopians.

In London, Jews continued to conduct protest demonstrations in support of Soviet Jewry and are receiving support from non-Jews. A petition has been signed by 3000 non-Jewish members of various youth organizations protesting the Leningrad trial and the treatment of Soviet Jews. A silent demonstration, conducted by Jewish women marching to the Soviet Embassy carrying torches, was sponsored by the Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry. Another silent demonstration took place outside Intourist, the Soviet travel agency. A spokesman for the latter demonstration said it would continue as long as the Leningrad trials go on. Six Soviet workers reportedly visited the United States Embassy in Moscow today to present a letter condemning what they called anti-Soviet hysteria and Zionist hoodlumism in reaction to the Leningrad trial. The letter was reportedly accepted by Embassy official Sol Polansky.

Eban Vows Israel Will Continue To Fight For Right Of Soviet Jews To Emigrate

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in the Knesset this afternoon that Israel would continue to fight for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate. The plight of Soviet Jewry will not be allowed to pass from the consciousness of the people of Israel, he said. Eban was answering an agenda motion presented by five parties, to debate the trial of Lieutenant Wolf Zaimanson and the oppression of Soviet Jews. After his reply the Knesset agreed to refer the matter to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The pro-Moscow Rakach Communists were absent. In presenting the motion, S. Z. Abramov of Gahal said Israel should consider the problem of Soviet Jewry as a general problem. Shalom Cohen of Haolam Hazev said the establishment of peace would facilitate a solution. Aryeh Shoshita of the Free Center suggested that a permanent framework be established in Israel to deal with the problem of Soviet Jewry. Rabbi Zvi Moshé Neriya of the National Religious Party said that all circles of the population must show a sense of responsibility. Mordechai Surkiks of the Labor Alignment said Israel must shake the conscience of the world to enlist its aid in the rescue of Soviet Jewry.

Canadian Government Intercedes On Behalf Of Soviet Jews; Trudeau Personally Involved

OTTAWA, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has announced that the Canadian government has made known to the Soviet Ambassador its concern over the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union and said he would pursue the matter further when he visits the USSR in the spring. In making the announcement, Trudeau made it clear that normally his government would not intervene in the internal affairs of another nation since pressures may cause a "hardening of attitudes." However, he added, because the Soviet Union has shown sensitivity to criticism on the issue of Soviet Jewry, Canada will continue using whatever constructive opportunities arise, in public or private, to help alleviate the plight of the Soviet Jews. "To this end," he said, "we are holding continuing discussions with Jewish organizations in Canada and the topic will be very much on my mind during my visit to the USSR next spring."

Problem Of Soviet Jewry Capable Of Solution, Italian Communist Leader Says

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--An Italian Communist leader has stated that he does not believe that the problem of Soviet Jewry is incapable of solution even though it is complicated by the Arab-Israeli conflict. Umberto Terracini made that assertion in a letter last Aug. 22, to Emanuel Litvinoff, a British author and publisher who had forwarded an appeal for help by 93 Soviet Jews to the Communist parties in several Western countries. Litvinoff disclosed today the text of the letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. In it Terracini observed that in other Communist countries, permission is being given Jews to go to Israel. Two of the Jews who signed the appeal were later among the 11 defendants tried and sentenced to prison terms in Leningrad last month. Two others are among the nine accused Jews in the second Leningrad trial that was to have opened today but was postponed.

Terracini's letter stated in part: "I have received the memorandum addressed to the Communist Party of Italy asking it to intervene on behalf of Soviet Jews. The problem is well known to me. It gives rise to questions of principle as well as political expediency. I have called attention to it more than once. My interest in it is independent of considerations connected with the factual situation. It is very difficult to find a satisfactory solution to this problem because of the complication injected by the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yet I do not believe that it is incapable of solution. In other Communist countries permission is being given to go to Israel. I have already passed on the memorandum to the Secretary of the Italian Communist Party. Please inform the signatories immediately." Litvinoff said he has had no further communication from the Italian Communist Party itself on this matter.

Muskie: U.S. Committed To Israel; No Formal Defense Pact Between U.S., Israel Needed

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine, said today that there is no need for a formal defense pact between the United States and Israel "because America is committed to Israel's survival, it has always been and I expect it will always be that way." The 1968 Democratic Vice Presidential candidate arrived here this morning for a four-day visit, his first to Israel, during which he will meet with Premier Golda Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Muskie, frequently mentioned as a possible Presidential nominee in 1972, said that according to law contracts can be oral as well as written. "We have commitments to Israel in terms of economic and military assistance," he said.

Muskie will go to Cairo and then to Moscow after he leaves Israel. He told newsmen at Lydda Airport that he did not intend to carry any message from Premier Meir to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. "I won't put Mrs. Meir in a difficult position," he said. "I am here to meet Mrs. Meir and other leaders, to try to understand their points of view and their hopes and I am not going to volunteer as messenger for anyone at this point," he said.

Israel Determined To Exhaust Every Prospect To Make Jarring Mission Work

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Israel said today that it was determined "to exhaust every prospect, however slight, to make the Jarring mission work despite the two abortive efforts of the past." That statement was contained in a policy background paper issued by the Israel Embassy here as indirect peace negotiations were resumed yesterday in New York under the auspices of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. The background paper reviewed the course of the Jarring mission from its inception in Dec. 1967 until last summer when Israel, Egypt and Jordan accepted the United States' Middle East peace initiative establishing a cease-fire which created the climate for the Jarring talks to begin. The paper said that Israel had serious reservations over the intentions of Egypt and its Soviet backers to establish a genuine peace but agreed to the Jarring talks in the hope that they "would at least serve as an avenue to a more genuine direct negotiation out of which a peace settlement might emerge."

The paper stated, "It may be said in retrospect that no other party did as much and risked as much in order to assure the start of the Jarring talks as did Israel in August, 1970." It noted that Israel made unilateral concessions by agreeing to the procedure of indirect negotiations, by agreeing to a limited cease-fire, and accepting New York as the site of the talks and by not making an issue of the Arab refusal to delegate their foreign ministers to the talks as Jarring had requested. Noting that the standstill aspects of the Aug. 7 cease-fire was violated by Egypt from the start and still is not rectified, the paper declared: "That Israel has agreed now to make a third attempt to talk peace with its neighbors through Jarring, despite all that has occurred, is a reflection of its continuing resolve to leave no stone unturned in its quest to test to the end the prospects of peace." The paper concluded by stating that "The Arab-Israel conflict can be ended only by contractual binding peace agreements. Until this is achieved and defensible borders agreed upon, Israel will maintain the cease-fire lines on all fronts without withdrawal."

Report El Fatah in Midst Of Internal Struggle; Arafat Seen Losing Influence

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--El Fatah, the largest Palestinian guerrilla organization, is in the throes of an internal struggle. Its chief, Yassir Arafat, has not been challenged directly but there are clear indications that he is losing influence, according to an assessment by knowledgeable Israeli sources given today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The behind-the-scenes struggle stems from the guerrillas' defeat in the Jordanian civil war last September and their failure to form a united front of El Fatah and the dozen or so smaller commando groups. Another factor is the acute shortage of funds and mass desertions from El Fatah's active squads, the Israeli sources reported. El Fatah's military branch, Al Assifa, now enjoys greater influence than ever, even in purely political matters that were formerly left to veteran politicians. Al Assifa is headed by Mamduh Saidam and Khalil el Wazir. Saidam, who is about 40, is a native of Gaza where some of his relatives still live. He succeeded Arafat as commander of Assifa late in 1968 when Arafat became more involved in political wrangling with the various Arab states. Saidam uses the alias of Abu Sabri and rarely appears in public. He is backed by most Assifa commanders and by many officers of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Syria and Jordan. He and his colleagues now blame El Fatah's political leaders for the guerrilla defeat in Jordan and have demanded their ouster or punishment.

Unlike the other guerrilla groups which are mostly left-oriented, El Fatah has professed to be apolitical. But Saidam is known to be a rightist. He has criticized the left-wing tendencies of many of the guerrilla political leaders. Among his chief targets are Faruk el Kadumi, head of the Palestine Popular Liberation Organization and Salah Halaf, generally regarded as El Fatah's number two man after Arafat. Kadumi and Halaf are now in Cairo where they are said to be trying to enlist Egyptian support to prevent a purge in El Fatah's higher echelons. Arab newspapers have reported the rift, although El Fatah organs do not mention it. A secret guerrilla congress to decide on a purge was to have been held last month but was postponed at the last minute by Arafat. Some observers believe El Fatah's difficulties stem from the cold shoulder Arafat received from Kremlin leaders when he went to Moscow last year in search of military support. Guerrilla groups are reportedly turning to Peking. The new commando slogan is said to be, "Our only real friend now is Communist China." Arafat's failure in Moscow is believed to have taken considerable gloss from his leadership. He spends most of his time away from Jordan, the main El Fatah base and leaves the day-to-day running of the organization to Saidam.

Dayan Reports Egypt Permitted Red Cross To Visit Israel POWs in UAR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed in the Knesset today that Egypt has permitted representatives of the International Red Cross to visit all Israeli prisoners of war in Egyptian custody, in compliance with international law. Replying to questions from the floor, Dayan said that General Headquarters of the Israeli armed forces were in constant touch with the IRC representatives here on matters relating to the application of the 1949 Geneva Convention on POWs. He said the Foreign Ministry was maintaining contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and with friendly governments and other institutions concerned with the matter. Replying to questions about the Egyptian arms build-up in the Suez standstill cease-fire zone, Dayan said the Egyptians have received 250 medium and heavy artillery pieces in addition to operational SAM-2 and SAM-3 missile batteries.

Report Russians Censor Sadat's Disclosure That Russian Soldiers Killed By Israelis

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Russians are so powerful in Egypt that they were able to censor a speech by President Anwar Sadat, it was reported today by the Daily Telegraph's correspondent John Bulloch. Writing from Cyprus after having visited Egypt, Bulloch referred to Sadat's speech Monday to 15,000 Egyptian farmers in the Nile delta village of Tanta where he disclosed that six Russian soldiers were killed in Egypt during an Israeli raid last year on a missile base 20 miles south of Cairo. This disclosure, made for the first time publicly, was carried by the Cairo radio station summarizing a report of Sadat's remarks issued by the Middle East News Agency. Two-and-a-half hours later, MENA issued a message to all its subscribers marked "urgent" and provided a "corrected version" which made no mention of the deaths of the Russian soldiers.

