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Borders Can Be Discussed in Early Stage Of Peace Talks If Arabs Agree To Peace Pact

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA)--Israel is willing to accede to the Arab request to discuss territorial borders at an early stage in the Jarring talks, provided the Arab governments expressly declare their readiness to conclude a permanent peace pact, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned from a very reliable source. The source said this proposal was the main subject of the conferences Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special Middleast mediator, had here Friday and yesterday with Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Israel announced officially only that the conferences had been "useful and constructive" and that "Israel submitted to Dr. Jarring suggestions and ideas on the establishment of peace and Dr. Jarring on his part stated that he would convey them to the other side." The Swedish diplomat left this morning and was due back in New York later today. He had flown to Israel last Friday morning, accompanied by Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah and his own advisor, Ian Berendson, at the invitation of Eban. At the airport before his departure today, Dr. Jarring said his talks here had been "useful and valuable for the future."

Israeli willingness--even on a conditional basis--to discuss future borders in the initial stages of the negotiations is a departure from previous policy, inasmuch as she has been insisting that that topic must follow agreement on all other aspects of a settlement. Mrs. Meir and Eban presented to Dr. Jarring a list of seven subjects they are willing to discuss in the first stages of the talks without Arab declarations of intention to seek peace. The subjects are: the character of the peace to be concluded; the nature of the peace treaties; principles of secure borders, without their actually being drawn yet; demilitarized zones; Arab refugees; freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal and the Strait of Tiran, and exchanges of prisoners. The two Israeli leaders also made it clear to Dr. Jarring that they see his main task as getting the parties together for talks. Mrs. Meir denied the Arab and Soviet charge that Israel's invitation to Dr. Jarring to visit here now was a delaying tactic and even "sabotage." But she stressed to the mediator that Israel could not negotiate "while watching the clock" and in an atmosphere of war-threats--references to Egypt's declarations that she was prepared for battle if Israel did not submit a withdrawal timetable by Feb. 5, the date the cease-fire extension expires.

Mrs. Meir also spoke, without elaboration, of the "danger" that would result if Egypt sought a special Security Council meeting to pressure Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab areas. Her remark left room for speculation that she believes such a Council meeting could presage a breakdown of the peace talks. It was noted here that while two high-ranking officials--Dr. Yaacov Herzog, director general of the Premier's office, and Gideon Rafael, director general of the Foreign Ministry--and two subordinate officials joined Mrs. Meir and Eban in the weekend consultations, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan were absent. No reason was announced for this, but a source close to Dayan said the general did not want to be associated with the consultations in case they were unsuccessful. The source added that every one of Ambassador Tekoah's major moves henceforth must first be cleared with Jerusalem, thus giving Dayan enough opportunity to influence the Arab-Israeli talks without being too closely associated with them. At the weekly Cabinet meeting today, Mrs. Meir and Eban reported on their talks with Dr. Jarring. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Haim Bar-Lev reviewed defense matters. Official spokesmen declined to elaborate on the nature of the Cabinet discussion.

Sadat: Palestinians Have Right To Homeland In Israel But Opposes Israel's Destruction

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said in a filmed interview today that he would withstand Palestinian exhortations for the destruction of Israel. In his first interview as President for broadcasting in a foreign country, Sadat reiterated on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" that Israel must withdraw to the pre-Six-Day War boundaries, declaring: "We will not surrender one inch of our land... The Palestinian refugees have a right to their homeland... Israel is their land, their fatherland." Asked by CBS News reporter Walter Cronkite whether his endorsement of Israeli existence under certain conditions would be acceptable to the Palestinians whose rights he also upholds, Sadat replied: "They have a right to accuse me, attack me, but this is a fact." Regarding the more immediate situation, Sadat stated again that "if there is no practical solution by (United Nations mediator Gunnar V.) Jarring by Feb. 5, we shall not continue the cease-fire." But he added: "Even if the problem is settled, we shall have war after five years. Israel wants expansion. It dreams of prophecies of land from the Nile to the Euphrates." Sadat praised the Soviets' role in Egypt, explaining that "they have stood with us in our black hours." He charged that the United States was a party to Israeli "expansionism," telling Cronkite: "(President) Johnson approved aggression in 1967. The whole plan was put before him and he approved it. He can't deny it." Cronkite responded: "I didn't know that."

Excerpts from the interview, conducted at the Presidential palace on the Nile south of Cairo, were aired on CBS-TV and CBS-Radio last Thursday night and Friday night. Sadat told Cronkite that while Egypt and the USSR were "two friends," Egyptian policy "is made here, in Cairo." His country relied for security not on a Soviet "guarantee" but on "the dignity, honor and history of our people," he said, and the U.S. "misunderstands" the Soviet presence in Egypt. Soviet personnel are there as "advisors" to Cairo, he explained, "but the battle is my battle, it is not the Soviet battle." It would be "humiliating" for him, he said, were he to turn his country over to the Kremlin. Sadat told Cronkite that while "it is my right and duty to liberate" the occupied Egyptian territory, "I am not insane enough" to provoke a U.S. - Soviet confrontation. He denied flatly that any Soviet pilots have flown or would fly over the Suez Canal. He said he "can't confirm and can't deny" that Egypt has ground-to-ground missiles, but contended that Israel had them. The Egyptian leader said he would accept a Big Power guarantee of agreed-on borders "because I need the guarantee more than Israel, believe me."

Feigin, Placed In A Mental Institution By Soviets For Returning Medals, Released

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA)--Grigorie Feigin of Riga, who was reportedly taken by force from his home last Dec. 18 and placed in a mental institution, apparently because of his public protests against the Soviet Union's anti-Jewish policies, was released Thursday, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from highly reliable sources. Feigin, who held the rank of major in the Soviet armed forces during World War II, returned to Soviet officials last spring the decorations he had been awarded for his wartime service. He returned the awards along with a letter explaining his reasons. The letter was published in the Chicago Tribune last May 7. It was reported last December that an ambulance arrived at Feigin's home from which several male nurses emerged. They forced the former officer into the ambulance which took him to "Psychiatric Hospital 15." He reportedly was told that "normal people do not return Soviet medals." There was no formal announcement about his incarceration and similarly none about his release.

Jordanian Army Reported Prepared To Crush Guerrillas; Heavy Fighting Reported

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA)--The Jordanian army appears to be determined to obliterate the terrorist forces within its borders and is massing for a total crackdown, it was reported here today by reliable sources. Clashes that erupted on Friday between King Hussein's army and the Palestinian guerrillas is continuing and spreading. Heavy fighting has been reported between the army and the terrorists in the Jerash area north of Amman. The guerrillas are calling upon Arab governments to help them. According to reliable sources, Palestinians have abandoned a refugee camp in the Jerash area and many of them are fleeing toward Israeli-held territories to seek safety. There is no immediate indication of what the Israeli government will do to provide sought for safety or how many Palestinians are involved in the fighting. Meanwhile, Dr. Fatah leader Yasser Arafat, is in Cairo imploiring the Egyptian government for help. President Anwar Sadat has requested Arab heads of state to send delegates to a conference in Amman to discuss the critical condition in Jordan. He also instructed Ahmed Hassan el Fikdi, the Egyptian ambassador in London, to set a meeting with King Hussein who is presently at a clinic in London. Sadat was reported to have felt that the current developments in Jordan contradicted assurance given by Hussein when he visited Cairo last month.

The position of the terrorists in Jordan is deteriorating; ranged against them is not only Hussein's army but also the peasants living in the Ghor Canal area along the northern Jordan valley who have been generously supplied with arms by the Jordanian government. In addition, rains have turned the terrain into a muddy area which has cut off the terrorists in Jordan from direct contact with Lebanon. According to sources, the combination of the assault by the Jordanian army and the increasing isolation of the guerrillas from the local population has affected the morale of the terrorists which is said to be at low ebb. Thousands of guerrilla fighters in refugee camps outside Amman have been told to be ready for a full scale army attack. Jordanian troops closed the road north from Amman to Zarka where heavy fighting was reported. An El Fatah spokesman reported that the Jordanian army was continuing shelling guerrilla bases in the Jerash and Salt areas. Amman radio, however, denied the reports. The Central Committee of the Palestinian guerrilla organizations, which includes the 10 major groups, urgently appealed to Arab heads of state to intercede to halt what the Committee termed "the conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian revolution." The appeal, broadcast by the Committee's radio in Amman, was repeated by the Damascus radio but the Syrian government has not yet responded to the appeal. Radio Cairo interrupted its normal broadcasts to report the new outbreak of fighting which the spokesman characterized as a "premeditated plan aimed at inflaming the situation again."

Hussein Said To Have Told Nixon, Heath, Pompidou He Will Remove Terrorists

(In London, reliable sources disclosed today that when Hussein visited Washington, Paris and London last month he told President Nixon, President Georges Pompidou and Prime Minister Edward Heath that he would make a determined effort to remove the Palestinians from the Jordanian scene as a military force. According to the sources, none of these statesmen wanted the cause of the Palestinians to go by default but the idea of a private army, hostile to them in a country they each support, did not appeal to them. This explains, the sources noted, the renewed campaign against the guerrillas in Jordan. They also stated that Hussein is expected to return to Amman within the next few days.) A statement issued by the Jordanian government said the fighting in the Jerash area erupted after a kidnapping on Friday by guerrillas of two noncommissioned army officers and the killing of a Jordanian soldier. A statement by the El Fatah charged the Jordanian Army shelled a Palestinian Red Crescent (the equivalent of the Red Cross) hospital at El Rumman and had bombed a refugee camp at al-Baqaa a few miles from Amman. Large casualties were reported but no exact figure was given.

In Cairo, an Egyptian spokesman said a report from Brig. Ahmed Abdel Hamid Hilmi, chief of the Arab military observer team in Jordan, noted that tanks had smashed through some guerrilla positions. A communique issued by the guerrillas in Beirut stated their forces had been driven out of Rasifa after putting up a "heroic defense." The communique also accused Jordanian troops of looting and rape in the village. Hilmi accused the Jordanian government of barring him and other observers from the scene of the fighting and announced he was suspending work of the observers until further notice. During the civil war in Jordan in September, the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser succeeded in getting Hussein and Arafat to come to Cairo to sign a truce. Sadat's message to heads of Arab states was directed to those who attended the summit meeting last September in Cairo. That meeting served to end earlier fighting between Jordanian and guerrilla forces.

Curfew in Gaza Strip As Terrorists Intensify Grenade Attacks Against Civilians

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA)--A resident of Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, was killed Friday in one of three grenade attacks, presumably by Arab terrorists, last Friday and yesterday. Twelve other persons, including two children, were injured. An all-night curfew is in effect throughout the Strip, with a 24-hour curfew imposed in some sections. Gen. Yeshayahu Gavish, former Chief of the Israeli Army's Southern Command and now director of the country's metal industries, charged in a radio interview that Israeli leniency in the administration of the Strip had led to proliferation of terrorist and underground cells there.

French JTA Daily News Bulletin Begins Publication; Will Provide Worldwide Coverage

PARIS, Jan. 10 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency will begin publication tomorrow of a French-language Daily News Bulletin, it was announced here today by the publisher of the Bulletin, Adam Loss. The bulletin, he said, is designed to serve newspapers and individual readers in France, Belgium, French-speaking Switzerland, and other French-speaking countries. "Like the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletins in New York and London, the (Paris-based) Bulletin will provide full coverage of Israeli and worldwide Jewish news," Loss said. The news will deal with the vital issues and developments within the international Jewish community. A JTA Daily News Bulletin appeared in Paris before World War II but was not resumed after the war. "But the need for such a medium," Loss observed, "has become increasingly apparent with the advent to France of Jews from North Africa after the end of French rule in the Maghreb countries. The present JTA Bulletin is the answer to this need. Loss stated that Alfred Zemmour is responsible for administration, Gerard Fellous is Editor-in-Chief, and that Miss Magda Tobaly is the Bulletin's writer and translator.

Jewish Leaders Assail Bombing Of Embassy; AJCommittee Urges Congressional Action

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA)--In the wake of last Friday morning's bombing of the Soviet cultural offices in Washington, D.C., the American Jewish Committee has called on President Nixon and Congress to "swiftly introduce and approve legislation making a federal crime of the illegal actions against the official property and personnel of foreign governments in the United States." In a statement issued over the weekend, AJCommittee president Phillip E. Hoffman urged that the legislation be "part of a redoubled effort by the United States government to root out and prosecute those who have recently been responsible for such actions against the Soviet Union and others." In addition, it is understood that officials at the U.S. State Department are preparing a similar recommendation, in the nation's capital, the bombing incident is being investigated by the Metropolitan Police Department, the Executive Protective Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, while the Nixon administration is seeking to get Jewish leaders to pacify demonstrators. The five Soviet buildings in Washington have been placed under all-day guard for the first time. Friday's explosion, caused by a pipebomb blast in the alleyway adjoining the Soviet offices near DuPont Circle, ejected a child out of its bed and broke windows of the offices and of the American Museum Association building across the street, but there were no injuries.

Half an hour after the blast, an anonymous woman caller told the Associated Press: "This is a sample of things to come. Let our people go, 'Never again!'" There was speculation that the bomb had been set by either the Jewish Defense League, which uses the slogan "Never again!", and has endorsed similar past incidents it has been accused of, or by persons seeking to implicate the JDL. In a television interview here Friday, Dr. William Perl, senior advisor to the Washington Committee for the Relief of Captive Soviet Jewry, suggested that the explosion "might have been done by the Russians themselves" as part of "a planned campaign to discredit opponents of the trials of Soviet Jews." Dr. Perl said the bombing was "a regrettable incident... a foolish and wrong thing to do" explaining that "violence breeds violence." His committee has engaged in anti-Soviet demonstrations here, including the recent takeover of the offices of Tass, the USSR's press agency. In New York, the JDL denied responsibility for the bombing, but declared: "We do not condemn this act. The applause for it comes from imprisoned Soviet Jews. The commuting of the death sentences in Leningrad was but a skirmish in the war of liberation. We ask the people of the world to join in that war." Acting Secretary of State John N. Irwin II apologized to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and later stated: "Violence and other actions which endanger innocent lives and damage private property can only sicken and dismay all law-abiding Americans... Every effort is being made to apprehend those responsible for this criminal act..."

The sabotage was deplored by Jewish leaders. Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, called it "a reprehensible act of terrorism that can only exacerbate the plight of Soviet Jews and provide another pretext for Soviet harassment of American officials in Moscow." Richard Cohen, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said the saboteurs "stand condemned as enemies of the Jewish people (who) play into the hands of Soviet propaganda by diverting attention from the real crime: the repression of Jewish life in the USSR." Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, denounced the blast as "another in the recent series of outrageous and senseless acts of violence that can only harm, not aid, the cause of Soviet Jewry." Brant Coopersmith, an executive officer of the Washington chapter of the AJCommittee and vice chairman of the District of Columbia Human Relations Commission, stated that "An attack in the night against defenseless people is a dastardly, cowardly act," especially "with respect to people in foreign missions." (In Moscow Friday, U.S. Ambassador Jacob D. Beam apologized for the incident to Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, whom he had asked to see to present the State Department's rebuttal to last week's Soviet charge that the U.S. government was "conniving" in anti-Soviet actions. Gromyko gave Beam what U.S. Embassy sources called "a stern protest" against the action.)

More Than 13,000 People Hold Peaceful Demonstration For Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA)--More than 5,000 persons filled Manhattan Center today and police estimated that some 8,000 persons gathered outside the huge meeting hall to hold a prayer rally for Soviet Jewry. The Police Department had to close off the street to vehicular traffic to accommodate the overflow crowd. The peaceful demonstration, sponsored by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada and Moetzi Gedolei Hatorah, included both the Orthodox and non-Orthodox. The only banner in evidence hung above the podium and read: "God will save us. The King will answer the day we call to Him." Rabbi Nathan Bulman of Young Israel of Far Rockaway (N.Y.) declared: "We lift our voices in prayer for the sake of our brethren in Russia... We pray that God raise the Iron Curtain and save our brothers and sisters." A message to Soviet Jewry by the leaders of the rally said in part: "May the God of our fathers strengthen you in your hour of crisis. You are not alone. We are with you." At one point there was a cry of "Never again!" the slogan of the Jewish Defense League, by a man who was quickly silenced by others. Among those groups participating were Agudath Israel of America and Torah Umesorah. (In London, 90 more members of both houses of Parliament have endorsed the appeal for Soviet Jewry issued by the Board of Jewish Deputies, bringing the total to 210.)

