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Thant: U.S., USSR Peace Force Would Create Problems, Anglo-France Force Would Not

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 18 (JTA)--Secretary General Thant asserted today that "active participation" of the United States and the Soviet Union in a Middle East peacekeeping force would "create more problems" than it would solve, but that such participation by the other two members of the Big Four--Britain and France--would present no difficulties. Speaking at a press conference here, Thant said he had "personal doubts about the wisdom" of a Big Four peacekeeping presence in the Mideast in the foreseeable future, but that by 1980 or 1990 it "may be desirable and even essential." The Big Four, Thant added, "will have a major role to play (in the Mideast) sooner or later," but they "should not be too active" in working on peacekeeping guidelines for the Security Council. The Council, he said, "is the master of its own procedures and the master of its own decisions" and has a "very important role to play" in the Mideast, including the determination of a peacekeeping force.

In discouraging Big Two troops in the Mideast and Big Four guidelines to the Security Council, Thant in effect put himself in opposition to recent Egyptian proposals, endorsed by Britain and France, stressing a Big Four role. The United States has so far preferred to say only that the emphasis should be on the Mideast parties and the Jarring talks. Observers here agreed that Thant's comments on forces and guidelines would be welcomed by Israel, which has indicated willingness to accept big-power guarantees only after the achievement of a formal peace agreement and which opposes the Egyptian attempt to convene a special session of the Security Council before Feb. 5, when the cease-fire ends. Observers added that Israel would also be pleased by Thant's remark today that both he and his personal Mideast representative, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring of Sweden, were "cautiously optimistic" about the future success of the Jarring talks. The sources considered it significant that Thant would emphasize that he and Dr. Jarring shared that view.

The Secretary General today would not go beyond his view of "cautious optimism," contending it would be "damaging" to the peace talks for him to make any "substantive" comments, as Dr. Jarring is now "in a very delicate stage of discussions with the parties primarily involved." The Jordanian ambassador, Dr. Muhammad H. el-Farra, was scheduled to present Thant today with his government's position on the "implementation" of Security Council Resolution 242. Israel and Egypt have already submitted their views. (In Washington, a State Department spokesman declined to characterize the Egyptian peace proposals but termed Israel's proposals "useful.") In reply to another question, Thant stated that all acts of "violence, intimidation and threat," especially the recent "hooliganism" against Soviet and Egyptian installations and personnel in New York and Washington, D.C., were "deplorable" and "must be condemned." The most recent such incident occurred yesterday, when the door of the Egyptian Mission to the UN was blown off by an explosion. Thant's questioner attributed the incidents to "Jewish groups," an allegation the Secretary General did not refer to in his reply. The Jewish Defense League, whom many have charged with responsibility for the incidents, has denied being involved but has applauded the tactics.

Report Egypt Rejects Israeli Peace Plan; News Blackout Imposed On Progress Of Talks

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The Israel government has imposed a news blackout on the progress of the Jarring talks in order not to prejudice their success by injudicious "leaks" to the news media. It was learned today however that Egypt has turned down Israeli proposals conveyed to Cairo by Jarring. According to reliable sources, President Anwar Sadat took issue with Israel's argument that it cannot return to the pre-June, 1967 borders for reasons of security. The Egyptians reportedly told Jarring that Israel could not ask for more secure borders than her old ones if they are patrolled by a joint United States-Soviet peacekeeping force that cannot be removed without the express consent of the United Nations Security Council. Israel is opposed to a force made up of the two superpowers or to any UN force, recalling that Thant's withdrawal of the UN emergency force from the Gaza Strip and Sinai in the spring of 1967 at the request of President Gamal Abdel Nasser was the direct cause of the Six-Day War. The Israelis have said that they are not opposed to Four Power guarantees of a peace treaty, once one is signed between Israel and her neighbors but would not accept such guarantees as a substitute for a peace treaty.

Deputy Premier Zigal Allon said on his return from a visit to the U.S. today that Egypt would find it difficult to reject the Israeli proposals as a whole because they are based on international law and international precedents. He said the Jarring talks were only in their beginning stage and it was too early to prophesy their outcome. Allon also said he was opposed to the violent tactics of Jewish militants in the U.S. against Soviet diplomatic premises. He warned that the behavior of the Jewish Defense League would harm American Jews more than help Soviet Jews. Meanwhile, Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny pledged in Alexandria yesterday that the Soviet Union will replace Egypt's "material losses" in the event of renewed warfare against Israel. Podgorny, who was in Egypt for the dedication of the Soviet-built Aswan High Dam, spoke to 5000 cheering shipyard workers. President Sadat replied that Egypt "will be a faithful friend because we can never forget your help in times of difficulty and darkness."

Muskie Sees Jarring Talks As 'Form' For Compromise Between Israel, Egypt

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Sen. Edmund Muskie said today that in the course of a three-and-a-half hour conversation with Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, "I couldn't get the ultimate intentions of the Soviet Union" with regard to the Middle East. Muskie said that in response to a question at a press conference as to whether the Russians really want peace in the Middle East. The Maine Democrat returned last night from a visit abroad that took him to Israel, Egypt, West Germany and the Soviet Union. He said

that when it came to the superpowers, United States and the Soviet Union, the ultimate intentions of each side is always subject to speculation and doubt by the other. He said however that of the three major areas of U.S.-Soviet bargaining, the SALT talks, Berlin and the Middle East, the latter posed by far the most difficult problem. "In this area we have the greatest doubt about each others intentions," he said, adding that the best way to resolve the U.S.-Soviet conflict in the Mideast was to bring about an Arab-Israeli peace. He conceded that this will be difficult because "neither side has any confidence whatsoever of the good intentions of the other regarding their rightful national aspirations."

Asked if he supported current U.S. policy in the Mideast, Muskie replied, "As I understand it now, our policy is to build on the Jarring talks, I do support that." He continued, "difficult as it is to achieve a meaningful beginning, that is all we can hope to achieve." He said that "Israel feels passionately about secure borders and Egypt feels passionately about the recovery of territory." There is a need for some sort of compromise and the Jarring talks are a "form" for that, he said. Sen. Muskie, who met with Premier Golda Meir and other Israeli leaders while in Israel, said that Israel had made "substantive proposals" to Jarring and "Egypt has been heard from." He said that Israel's economic position was "tight" but that Israel has not brought up the matter of American lend-lease proposed by Gov. Averill Harriman recently. Regarding proposals for a Big Power peace-keeping force in the Mideast, Muskie said he would prefer to leave that to the Jarring talks. The Senator said that the situation of Soviet Jews came up in his talks with Kosygin but he would not discuss the Soviet Premier's remarks on the subject because their conversation was confidential. He said the Russians would never admit that there is any discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union. He said the pressure of world opinion was a major factor in bringing about the commutation of two death sentences in Leningrad last month, although the Russians will deny it.

Fatah, PFLP In Showdown; Fatah Prepared To Join Jordan Army To Halt PFLP Terror

LONDON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--El Fatah has warned the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that it will join forces with the Jordanian Army against it unless the terrorist group abandons its attempts to overthrow the Hussein regime by force of arms. The warning, which amounted to an ultimatum from the largest Palestinian guerrilla organization to a smaller but more militant terrorist group, was issued in Beirut by El Fatah's chief spokesman, Kamal Adwan, according to reports reaching here today. It came on the heels of a statement by PFLP leader, Dr. George Habash, that the guerrillas had no alternative but to topple Hussein and set up a leftist regime in Jordan. It was the first public statement by Habash, a self-proclaimed Marxist, since the civil war in Jordan last September. The Fatah spokesman accused Habash of reneging on a new agreement for peace and cooperation with the Jordanian government which Habash purportedly signed on Jan. 13, only to send word secretly to his guerrillas to ignore it. The PFLP refused to disarm its militia in Amman in accordance with the agreement. The Jan. 13 agreement was the latest in a series of cease-fires between Jordanian forces and the guerrillas since the civil war. It was supposed to end the latest outbreak of fighting which started when PFLP units ambushed a Jordanian Army patrol recently.

Guerrilla forces suffered heavy casualties in the civil war and their ranks were further decimated by desertions afterwards. The PFLP bore the brunt of the fighting in and around Amman. But with Hussein in control, it lost its foothold in the capital except for a small militia which was permitted to remain provided that it cooperated with the authorities and did not bear arms. The militia, part time terrorists living in refugee camps, constitutes the main strength of the PFLP. The organization gained notoriety by its triple airliner hijacking last September and an abortive attempt to hijack an Israeli airliner. The Jordanian civil war broke out while the PFLP was holding about 300 airline passengers and crew members hostage in Amman and on a desert airstrip. The latest split between the two groups indicated to observers that the entire Palestinian guerrilla movement is fragmenting. Sources close to Habash are talking about a new radical leftist alliance composed of extremist break-away groups like the PFLP, the Syrian-backed Al Saika and lesser known Marxist splinter groups. The Middle East News Agency reported in Cairo today that seven Arab countries have agreed to attend a summit conference in Kuwait later this month to discuss the Middle East crisis.

Egypt Not Expected To Start Shooting Feb. 5, But Not Ruled Out For Later Date

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israeli authorities were reported today to be convinced that Egypt will not resume the shooting war when the current cease-fire expires on Feb. 5 even if Cairo does not formally agree to another extension of the truce. The Israeli belief was said to be based on intelligence gathered from various sources. It did not preclude the possibility of Egypt opening fire at a later date. Israel charged Egypt today with new overflights of Israeli positions on the east bank of the Suez Canal in violation of the truce. According to the complaint lodged with the United Nations Truce Observation Organization, two Egyptian Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers flew over Israeli emplacements in the northern sector of the canal zone and two others overflew positions in the central sector. The announcement did not state whether either side opened fire. According to Israeli sources, the overflights may be intelligence-gathering operations and may be undertaken to demonstrate a warlike attitude on the part of the post-Nasser leadership. Israeli intelligence believes that the government of President Anwar Sadat will not be able to withstand for long the pressure from Army officers who want to renew the war of attrition against Israel, begun by the late President Nasser.

Military experts here said today that Israel will not fire the first shot in the canal zone but, should the Egyptians renew the fighting, Israel will not confine itself to a static defense. The experts said that Israel would embark on a war of rapid movement if she were forced to fight again but would probably not use her airforce in suicidal attempts to destroy Soviet missiles in the canal zone. To do that, the experts said, would be to play into Egyptian and Soviet hands by risking the Israel Air Force which must be preserved for more vital objectives that cannot be revealed at this stage. A Foreign Ministry spokesman today described as "regrettable" a fire-bomb attack on the Egyptian UN Mission in New York. The spokesman said Israeli adheres to the principle of immunity for all member states of the UN and added that "whoever committed the bombing should be condemned."

SPECIAL LATE NEWS BULLETIN

By Telephone From Jerusalem

Four Jews Go On Trial Wednesday; Exit Visas For Two Jews Held Up; Moscow Jew Arrested

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Four Jews will go on trial in Riga on Wednesday, it was learned here tonight. It was also learned that Soviet authorities have unexpectedly held up the exit visas previously issued to two Moscow Jews, Vitaiy Svichinsky and Boris Tsukerman, without explanation. The information was obtained from a Jewish family in Moscow which was contacted by telephone today by the Israel Broadcasting Service. The four Jews facing trial were identified as Mikhail Shepshelovich, 27, a bachelor; Ruth Aleksandrovich, 23, a nurse; Boris Maftier, 23, and Arkady Shpilberg, 23, an engineer. According to the informants, they are charged with anti-Soviet activities but details of the charges are not known. The family also reported the arrest today of Lev Shenkar, a Moscow Jew, who demonstrated outside of the Russian Federation Supreme Court during the appeal hearings of the defendants in last month's trial of the Leningrad II. They said he was remanded in custody for 15 days.

Shenkar apparently was arrested shortly after he made a live broadcast to Israel by telephone. The broadcast was aired here at noon today. Shenkar has been running a Hebrew school in Moscow which was turned over to him by Anatol Dekatov, a Jew who was permitted to emigrate and who arrived in Israel two weeks ago. The Moscow family reported that an anti-Israel film was shown on Moscow television tonight in which the need "to destroy Fascist phenomena such as the State of Israel" was emphasized. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported yesterday that according to reliable sources, Svichinsky was to leave the Soviet Union on Jan. 23 and Tsukerman on Jan. 25, accompanied by their families.

Two Israeli Border Policemen Wounded; Tough Policy in Gaza Strip Cuts Terrorist Acts

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Two Israeli border policemen were wounded today when a grenade exploded on an Israeli vehicle in the Gaza Strip. A curfew was imposed on the area and a search was started for the terrorists. A terrorist was wounded and captured yesterday after throwing a grenade at an Israeli patrol. The latter suffered no casualties. Despite today's incident, Israeli authorities said their new get-tough policy in the Gaza Strip has reduced incidents of violence by half. Only seven incidents were reported last week compared to 15 a week earlier, before crack border police units entered the Strip to maintain order. Arab elders in Gaza have protested against what they called the "strong-arm" methods of the border police. But Israeli officials confronted them with figures showing the sharp decline in violence. A curfew was imposed on part of Nabus today after two hand grenades were thrown in the center of the West Bank town. The grenades were aimed at a passing Army vehicle but landed in a group of local citizens. They did not explode.

Government Plan To Build 'Satellite City' Under Fire Politically, Aesthetically

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The government's plan to build a so-called "satellite city" in the former Jordanian sector east of Jerusalem has come under heavy fire from both Israeli and Arab quarters. The master plan was denounced for aesthetic reasons today by a spokesman for the Jerusalem landscape improvement council who charged the government with high-handed methods. "Earlier, the East Jerusalem Moslem Council issued a statement accusing Israeli authorities of trying "to obliterate the Arab character of Jerusalem." The Council, which is composed of about 40 politicians, most of them once part of the Jordanian administration, was sharply rebuked by the Jerusalem police commandant for using "intemperate and inflammatory language." The government's plan calls for the construction of an arc of Jewish suburbs around the eastern half of Jerusalem, eventually to house a population of about 200,000. The plans include the construction of high-rise apartment houses. Yehuda Ezrachi, an author and playwright who spoke for the landscape improvement council charged the Housing Ministry with concealing its building plans from the public and "deceiving the public." He said its methods might be justified on political grounds and the need to populate underdeveloped areas but that construction which would "disfigure Jerusalem's unique beauty" could not be justified.

Ezrachi demanded on behalf of his group that the government end its secrecy, cancel plans for high rise buildings where they would interfere with the view of the Old City and maintain ancient buildings. He urged that future planning sessions be held in public and the plans be exhibited in public halls. The master plan for East Jerusalem was sharply criticized recently by a distinguished panel of international architects which was set up as a consulting body. Many City Council members agreed with their opinion that the plans would alter the timeless character of ancient Jerusalem. The Moslem Council characterized the plans as one of "the crimes of the occupying authorities." The Arab criticism was clearly political. But many Israelis within and outside of the City Council as well as friendly observers abroad, have expressed concern over the political implications of the entire project. Israeli leaders have made no secret of their intention to create "facts" that would permanently consolidate Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, an area of which the old walled city represents only a tiny segment. Opponents of the plan believe that such fait accompli should not be undertaken at a time when Israel is engaged in peace talks under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem, has withdrawn part of the plan for review by a committee of architects. Kolek however is less than enthusiastic over the project which would create a suburb of Jerusalem largely dependant on the city but not under the control of the Jerusalem Municipality. The forceful rebuke to the Moslem Council by the police chief reflected concern that the Council may finally have come upon an issue that will arouse the sentiments of other East Jerusalem Arabs. The Moslem Council is a self-appointed secular body set up after the Six-Day War to represent Arabs in the occupied zone. It was never recognized by Israeli authorities but is tolerated by them although the Council has never concealed its extremist anti-Israel views. West Bank Arabs by and large do not recognize the Council as their representative and maintain liaison with Israeli authorities through their respective mayors and the military governors. In East Jerusalem too, the extent of the Council's authority is questionable but so far it has not been challenged.

Leib Khanokh, a Soviet Riga Jew, who was reported in yesterday's JTA News Bulletin as awaiting trial, was actually one of the Leningrad II who was sentenced last month to 13 years in prison.

