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Growing Optimism That Hostilities Will Not Resume At Cease-Fire Expiration Date

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA)--The prospect that Egypt would resume hostilities in the Suez Canal zone next month seemed to recede today as some details of Cairo's reply to Israeli proposals became known here. According to informed sources, the Egyptian memorandum which was conveyed to Israel through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring, contained no hint of an intention to renew warfare when the current cease-fire expires on Feb. 5. Nor did it contain any hint that Egypt would ask for a meeting of the Security Council before Feb. 5 to revise the Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, the sources said. The latest reports confirmed developments reported yesterday by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from the UN. However, the Egyptians are known to have reiterated their demand for an advance timetable of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and to have expressed displeasure that the Israeli proposals did not yield on that matter and did not contain references to the future rights of the Palestinians.

But sources familiar with the memorandum said it did not constitute an outright rejection of Israel's proposals. Some officials here saw in the Egyptian reply some evidence that Egypt may now be ready for the first serious peace negotiations with Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War. Israeli officials report that the feeling in the United States is that there is small chance of an early solution to the Middle East conflict because the two sides are still as far apart as ever. But Washington is said to agree that there will be no resumption of hostilities on Feb. 5. (In London, British diplomatic sources revealed today that according to their information, all sides--the Russians, Egyptians, Israelis and the Americans--are in agreement that the cease-fire should be extended for one month after Feb. 5.)

Report Guerrilla Central Command Favors Political Settlement Of Mideast Conflict

LONDON, Jan. 20 (JTA)--The central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the umbrella group of the 10 major guerrilla organizations, announced today support of a political settlement of the Middle East conflict, according to reports reaching here from Cairo. The semi-official newspaper Al Ahran reported that the committee, meeting in Amman, adopted a resolution expressing "unanimous support for any political moves by Arab states to liquidate the consequences of the June 1967 aggression." According to Al Ahran, the resolution, which was endorsed by both El Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was introduced during the meeting considering the overall circumstances of the guerrilla movement. Observers here noted that the key to the apparent reversal of the guerrilla organizations' approach to a Mideast settlement was the call for "political moves" rather than military moves. According to Western news sources, Ibrahim Bakr, a top official of the PLO central committee, reportedly said that "Past experience has shown that the intransigent position which the guerrilla movement adopted toward Cairo's acceptance of the Rogers plan was wrong." The commandos, he reportedly added, "now see that Cairo's acceptance of the Rogers plan is not contradictory to the guerrilla movement." Dr. George Habash, leader of the Marxist-oriented Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, considered one of the most extreme of the Palestinian organizations, reportedly conceded that "Cairo has proved to be a friend of the Palestinian cause and the guerrillas should not oppose Egypt's acceptance of UN peace moves."

But a leader of the PLO in Amman, Zundi Terazi, reportedly asserted that "We will not accept peaceful settlement unless all of Palestine is liberated," a development flatly opposed by Israel. And an El Fatah spokesman in Beirut, Lebanon, said of the reported resolution: "This is all quite new to us." Previously, the guerrilla organizations rejected a political solution based on Security Council Resolution 242, called for the establishment of a "secular democratic state" to replace Israel, and denounced all Arab participation in peace efforts as treason to the cause of the Palestinians. According to Al Ahran, Yasir Arafat, head of El Fatah, stated that Egypt's stand on the implementation of Resolution 242 "leaves no room for doubt about its sincerity and determination on the path of struggle." Dr. Habash was also quoted by the Cairo newspaper as endorsing Egypt's position and saying that "Egypt is our greatest friend and partner" as it has "shown in the latest events in Jordan." This reference was an allusion to the criticism expressed by Egyptian leaders, including President Anwar Sadat, over efforts by Jordan's army to crush the guerrillas earlier this month. Today's resolution followed El Fatah's warning Monday that it would join forces with the Jordanian army against the PFLP unless it abandoned its attempt to overthrow King Hussein's regime by force of arms.

USSR-UAR Proposal For Arab-Israeli Boundaries Unacceptable To Israeli Government

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA)--The Meir government feels that the Soviet-Egyptian proposal for securing the eventual borders between Israel and the Arab states by the use of Soviet and American troops is quite unacceptable, according to sources. "It is inconceivable that we should tolerate Soviet troops on our soil" is a view that is being heard here with increasing frequency. As for the possibility of placing American troops on the Israeli side of the borders and Soviet troops on the Arab side, the Israelis feel such an arrangement would tend to turn minor border incidents into superpower confrontations, making the borders permanent powderkegs with potentially nuclear charges, sources said. Israelis feel, in this connection, that United Nations Secretary General Thant has, for the first time in a long time, rendered them a service by opposing superpower policing of Middle East borders. Thant said Monday at UN headquarters in New York that such a force would "create more problems" than it would solve.

But the Israelis, sources noted, are not enchanted by the possibility of Britain and France taking over such duties, although Thant said an Anglo-French force would create no difficulties; they believe

its presence would not be conducive to tranquility. The main reason for Israel's rejection of great-power border protection lies in her fear that the arrangement would perpetuate the no-war, no-peace situation, these sources observed, adding: "The Arabs want us to go back to the pre-war borders. Then they want the powers to move in. That would be the end of the Jarring mission and the peace talks. The Arabs will have gotten all their lost territories back without giving anything in return." Nevertheless, Israel does not reject a great-power border guarantee out-of-hand, but is willing to accept it only in addition to--and not in lieu of--a peace treaty providing "secure borders."

Captured Terrorist Says El Fatah 'Bought Me For A Paltry 100 Lebanese Pounds'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA)--A captured Arab terrorist gave a tearful account on Israeli television last night of his recruitment by El Fatah in Lebanon and his abortive mission to kidnap an Israeli. Ali Abed el Biari, 32, who said he was a house painter by profession, was one of five guerrillas rounded up by Israeli forces on Jan. 2 after they landed on Israel's northern shore from a motorboat. The capture of the gang and disclosure of their mission led to an Israeli commando raid on a guerrilla base 30 miles up the Lebanese coast last week. El Biari said he was recruited last year by Abu Yusef, the El Fatah commander of the Sarafand camp in the Sidon district. "They bought me for a paltry 100 Lebanese pounds," he complained. He said he thought the money was a gift because his wife was about to give birth at the time. But he was then ordered to enlist in El Fatah, given a uniform and trained to use a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. El Biari burst into tears when he was asked if he wanted to send greetings to his wife and his two young sons, Hassan and Samir. He said, "Tell them I am well and that I have asked the Israeli authorities to have mercy on me and send me back to them soon." The prisoner spoke bitterly of Abu Yusef who, he said, drove around in a chauffeured limousine but "to the best of my knowledge, never participated in any action." He said the El Fatah base attacked by Israeli commandos operated with the full knowledge of Lebanese authorities.

Beisan Township Hit By Two Rocket Attacks; No Casualties, Damage Reported

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA)--Terrorists launched two Katyusha rocket attacks last night on Beisan township in the Beisan Valley. No casualties or damage was reported but the population was forced to take to bomb shelters. The first salvo was fired at 10:30 p.m. local time and the second shortly after midnight. The attacks were the first in three weeks in the area. They are believed to have come from El Hamma in Jordan. Israeli officials said the terrorists may have penetrated to that point without being noticed by Jordanian troops who have successfully prevented attacks on Israeli settlements in recent weeks.

Strong Suspicion Israeli Envoy To Brazil Was Marked For Kidnaping By Terrorists

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA)--The Israeli ambassador to Brazil, Yitzhak Harkavi, was given unusual security coverage at the Rio de Janeiro airport last week because it was suspected he was one of the kidnaping targets of the Brazilian underground, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. He flew here with his family last week to avoid the possibility of abduction. Similar action was taken by the Dutch ambassador to Rio, who left incognito. The Brazilian terrorists have been encouraged by their success in obtaining the release of some 70 of their fellows in return for the life of Swiss Ambassador Giovanni Enrico Bucher. It was expected they would attempt additional kidnapings, and Harkavi was believed to be high on their list. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned from Brazilian sources that Brazilian Army circles are adamant against further yielding to terrorist demands and are threatening a military coup should the government free any more of them. Foreign diplomats thus appear to be in real danger in Brazil at this time.

Wilner, Avneri Charge Security Forces In Gaza Strip With 'Atrocities'; Charge Refuted

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA)--Noisy squabbling broke out in the Knesset today when Meir Wilner, leader of the pro-Moscow Rakach Communists, and Uri Avneri, maverick chairman of the Haolam Hazeh, the New Force Movement, charged the Israeli security forces in the Gaza Strip with "atrocities" against residents there. Wilner demanded that a parliamentary commission of inquiry be sent to the Strip to investigate. Avneri claimed that the border police had been sent to the Strip to take over security duties precisely because they were prepared to use methods the Army shrinks from. He was interrupted by hooting from all corners of the Knesset that temporarily stalled the proceedings. When quiet was restored, Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party took the floor to declare of the Wilner-Avneri charges: "These things have never happened. They are not true and should not have been said here." He added that "it is unethical to try and drive a wedge between different arms of the defense services." The allegations of border police thuggery came only a few days after they instituted a get-tough policy to subdue Arab terrorism.

Former Nazi Victims Seek Compensation; \$50,000 Reward Offered For Mengele's Arrest

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA)--A delegation representing the Israeli organization of former Nazi victims will go to West Germany next week to seek compensation for forced labor they performed in German factories during World War II. A spokesman for the group said that only about 200,000 of the two million Jewish slave laborers have received any compensation so far. He said this was because agreements were reached with only five major German companies, among them Krupp, Siemens and Telefunken, which together paid out only 50 million marks. Up to now, no other German company that employed slave labor during the war has paid anything. The delegation will contact the West German Manufacturers Association and the other major firms in an effort to obtain payment. Tuvia Friedman, head of the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Haifa, today posted a \$50,000 reward for anyone who arrests Joseph Mengele, the notorious Auschwitz death camp doctor. Mengele avoided capture after World War II and was last reported to be hiding out in Paraguay. Friedman said the reward was for arresting Mengele, not for his head. "We want him to face trial in Israel or in West Germany," he said. Friedman said his center had collected "thousands and thousands of documents" against Mengele and was preparing a dossier for his trial.

News Blackout On Trial Of Riga Four; Rigerman Gets Letter Necessary For Visa

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA)--Once again, a news blackout has descended over a trial of Soviet Jews. As reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday, four Jews of Riga, Latvia, were to be tried today, but no sources could confirm by late afternoon whether the proceedings had actually gotten underway. Jewish sources reported conflicting dates for the start of the trial. The local office of Tass, the Soviet press agency, told the JTA today it had received no word on the matter from Moscow. The JTA report of the start of the new trial today was based on information obtained from a Muscovite Jewish family by the Israel Broadcasting Service. Earlier reports had indicated only that the Riga trial would probably be held toward the end of this month. The Riga defendants are Ruth Aleksandrovich, 23, a nurse; Arkady Shpilberg, 23, an engineer; and Mikhail Shepshelovich, 27, and Boris Maftster, 23, occupations unknown. They were reported to be charged with anti-Soviet activities.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Leonid Rigerman, the Russian-born computer programmer recently granted American citizenship in the face of Soviet attempts to block the move, has received the required vyzov (letter of invitation) from his uncle, Louis Michael of the Bronx. This was confirmed to the JTA by Daniel Greer, a city commissioner who is handling the legal details for Rigerman and his Brooklyn-born mother, Mrs. Esther Rigerman. Greer said the next step was for Rigerman to submit the letter to the OVIR, the Soviet visa bureau. In the letter, Michael formally asked that the Rigermans come to live in the United States. On another front, Jewish sources said today that the unexpected delay in the exit visas previously issued by Soviet authorities to two Muscovite Jews was due to bureaucratic red tape rather than a reversal. The two are Boris Tsukerman, who applied for a visa two months ago and was to leave Jan. 25, and Vitaly Svichinsky, who was to leave Jan. 23.

Klarman Describes Condition Of Latin American Jewry As A 'Diaspora Of Misery'

LONDON, Jan. 20 (JTA)--A claim that Latin American Jewry constitutes a "diaspora of misery" was made here yesterday by Yosef Klarman, head of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliya department. Klarman stopped off here briefly after a tour of Jewish communities in South America. He said that because of the situation there, "aliya from such countries assumes a different aspect and youth aliya too, in relation to such countries, assumes a pressing urgency and is sometimes akin to a rescue operation." Klarman admitted that there was "no particular anti-Jewish movement" in Latin America. But he claimed that "Jews are caught up in the social strife and general turmoil that is shaking the Latin American continent from end to end." He cited the example of Chile where a new regime headed by Marxist President Salvador Allende recently took office. "We are not complaining of anti-Semitism here but they are going to have a new law abolishing private schools. The Hebrew school in Santiago will, of course, be affected because it is a private institution, even if the law was not intended against it." Klarman claimed that he could cite many other examples. He said "the point of active steps to alleviate such situations has no doubt been reached." He reported that in 1970, Youth Aliya absorbed 1,000 orphaned children and 5,750 children of new immigrants who were unable to give them a proper education. He said Youth Aliya now cares for 10,000 children from 37 countries.

JDL: Old Goals, New Tactics; Non-Violent Actions Against Cultural Exchange Programs

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League is adopting new tactics to achieve old goals. Rabbi Meir Kahane, JDL national chairman, announced today at a press conference that JDL will conduct "non-violent actions" against organizations engaged in cultural exchange programs with the Soviet Union. He also announced there had been "unofficial contacts" between his group and "some Jewish establishment organizations" and said JDL welcomed such contacts. In announcing his organization's new tactics, one day after he called for an "indefinite moratorium" on harassment of Soviet officials and their families, Rabbi Kahane revealed that 20 JDL members had conducted a half-hour sit-in at the offices of Columbia Artists, Inc. in Manhattan, leaving only after they were assured a meeting would be set up with the company's president in the near future. "We will pressure every organization in the city, and in the country, doing business with the Soviet Union, beginning with those specializing in cultural exchange programs until they agree to cancel their contracts with the Soviet Union," he declared. "If they tell us they have contracts which must be honored this year, but promise there will be no future contracts, that will be okay." Rabbi Kahane continued, "Though we have agreed to a short term moratorium on harassing the Soviets, we must not stop putting pressure on the Russians. The issue is still the same. The plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union has not changed."

Israel, French Transport Ministers Discuss Widening Aeronautical Agreements

PARIS, Jan. 20 (JTA)--Shimon Peres the Israeli Minister of Transport, Communications and Posts, met this morning with French Transport Minister Jean Chamant to reportedly discuss current plans for widening the Franco-Israeli aeronautical agreement that is up for renewal this year. The pact provides for a pooling of Paris-to-Tel-Aviv flights by Air France and El Al and related arrangements on transit and landing rights. Peres is also due to lunch tomorrow with Telecommunications Minister Robert Galley at the home of Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan. Peres' visit here marks the first Franco-Israeli contact at the ministerial level since Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's visit in August, 1968. Although Peres' meetings are of a strictly technical nature, their very existence indicates a definite improvement in the relations of the two nations. Such meetings could not have been even considered in the climate that existed up to a few months ago.

Meanwhile, Ben-Nathan stressed today that while his government supports any attempt by the Big Four to aid the Jarring mission, it would oppose any attempt by the quartet to impose its collective will on a Middle East solution. Ben-Nathan, addressing a luncheon of the Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Economique et Sociale, said Israel believes the presence of foreign troops in the area would be "superfluous." Those who demand such troops, he said, alluding to Egypt, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, do not really want a real and secure peace. If they did, he explained, they would realize that in a genuine peace those troops would not be needed. President Georges Pompidou is expected to discuss the Mideast at a press conference tomorrow in the Elysee Palace.

