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Thant Urges Extension Of Cease-Fire, 'Optimistic' On Jarring Talks 'Progress'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 2 (JTA)--Secretary General Thant has formally called on Egypt, Jordan and Israel "to withhold fire, to exercise military restraint, and to maintain the quiet which has prevailed in the (Middle East) area since August (8), 1970." In a statement dated yesterday and released today, Thant said that while the peace talks under Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring were "still at an early stage" and "much further clarification is required," he nevertheless said he found "grounds for cautious optimism in the fact that the parties have resumed the talks through Ambassador Jarring in a serious manner and that there has been some progress in the definition of their positions." At a news conference here Jan. 18, Thant said he and Dr. Jarring were "cautiously optimistic," but he did not at that time specifically urge a cease-fire extension beyond Feb. 5.

The Secretary General's new statement had been forecast by observers here who saw it as the only development that would allow Egypt to save face in agreeing to a cease-fire extension, as President Anwar Sadat has said repeatedly he would not lengthen the truce without evidence of progress. Israel's position is that she is observing the indefinite cease-fire declared by the Security Council in June, 1967. In recommending an extension, Thant noted that "the parties, who have already indicated their willingness to carry out Resolution 242 (of Nov. 22, 1967), are now describing in greater detail their view of their obligations under that resolution." He appealed to them to "pursue their role in the discussions in a constructive manner" and to "cooperate with Ambassador Jarring with a view to the carrying out of Resolution 242." The ambassadors of the countries involved--Egypt's Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, Jordan's Muhammad H. el-Farra and Israel's Yosef Tekoah--withheld immediate comment pending a study of the Thant statement. In the first paragraph of his four-paragraph report, Thant recalled that on Jan. 4 "I was able to note that it had been possible to arrange for the resumption of the discussions." In the second paragraph he recalled that the talks resumed Jan. 5, and in the third paragraph he noted that each of the parties had subsequently "presented papers containing their...views" on implementation of Resolution 242.

Israel Reported To Have Notified Jordan Ready To Discuss All Issues

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Israel has formally offered Jordan discussion on "every outstanding issue" between the two countries, including the subject of the Moslem holy places in Jerusalem, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned tonight from trustworthy sources. The offer reportedly was contained in the reply which Israel sent to Jordan yesterday through Dr. Gunnar Jarring, the United Nations Middle East peace emissary. But it was reported that Israel made its offer to discuss those issues with Jordan conditional on a change in the peace terms proposed by Jordan through Dr. Jarring. Israel was understood to insist that, in all provisions of a settlement concerning the rights of the various countries in the Middle East region, Israel must be mentioned specifically, rather than in the general terms used by Jordan in its statement to Dr. Jarring which reportedly does not mention Israel directly at any point.

According to the sources, Israel did not say that the issue of Jerusalem as such would be negotiable but it did not expressly rule out that topic. Last week, it was reliably reported that, if peace could be reached with Jordan, Israel would be willing to yield part of its sovereignty over Jerusalem's Mount Temple, the area in the old city, part of which is now the site of the Dome of the Rock and the El Aksa Mosque, which together are the third holiest place of the Moslem faith. That plan has not been officially submitted through Dr. Jarring, the JTA was informed but it was presumed that the official offer made to Jordan yesterday was based on that plan.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abba Eban met the envoys of the United States and Japan yesterday and informed them of Israel's current position on the Jarring talks, it was learned from reliable sources in Jerusalem, and that he met today with the ambassadors of Belgium and Argentina. He reportedly has scheduled meetings tomorrow with the ambassadors of Britain, Italy and France. Premier Golda Meir said in the Knesset today that it was not true that Israel had given Dr. Jarring details of new borders Israel may want. She also denied reports that the Government had taken any decision on negotiation on new frontiers at the current stage of the Jarring talks or had indicated any conditions for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas.

Israel Tension Mounts As Cease-Fire Nears End; Egyptian Overflights Charged

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Tension continued to build in Israel today as the end of the first extension of the cease-fire on the Suez Canal front neared without a specific commitment by Egypt to extend it. The general headquarters of the Armed Forces instructed all of its units to be on the alert in the event the Egyptians begin shooting on Friday when the cease-fire runs out. In a related development, Israel charged today that, for the second day in a row, Egyptian warplanes violated the stand-still phase of the cease-fire by overflights. Officials said that two Sukhoi-7 bombers flew over Israeli positions in the afternoon, and that two MIG-21s flew over Israeli positions later. Israel did not shoot at the intruding planes, the officials added. In a complaint filed with the United Nations Truce Supervisory team, Israel complained that MIG-21 interceptors flew over the canal twice yesterday. Israeli military officials reported that the massive buildup of Egyptian fortifications along the canal had apparently been completed and no such activity was reported today. The officials said that they were confident that the Israeli forces would have "the right answer" to any contingency that may develop Friday.

The officials also reported that the Egyptians had concentrated seven armor and infantry divisions, totally some 80,000 troops, along the front line of the canal, which they called "a very dense deployment." They also reported that some 1,300 Russian-made tanks were in position along the canal, as

well as more than 1,000 artillery pieces ranging from the huge 203-mm guns to heavy mortars. Anti-aircraft now in firing position consists of SAM-2s operated by Egyptian personnel and SAM-3s operated by Soviet personnel, the officials said. The missiles cover almost the entire canal area and in some places as deep as eight miles into the Israeli side of the waterway.

They reported also substantial assemblies of canal crossing equipment at several points where special sites had been prepared, cut into a high rampart that runs along the canal's west bank. There are special approach roads to those landing sites. Troops on the Israeli side reported seeing jeeps with senior Egyptian officers coming and going on the front line and for the first time Egyptian soldiers were observed wearing helmets and carrying arms. (Premier Kosygin said in Moscow last night that the Middle East situation had reached a crucial stage and he called on Israel to take "concrete peaceful actions" to avoid "worsening" the situation. He spoke at a dinner at the Kremlin for a high-ranking Syrian delegation, led by Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Hafez al-Assad, renewing Soviet pledges of support for the Arab states. In a reference to the expiring Suez Canal cease-fire, he said attempts by Israel "to bargain from positions of rude force, will not lead to a solution of these issues but only make the situation more acute.")

West Bank Food Hoarding Reported In Apparent Concern Over Cease-Fire End

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Israeli officials reported today that there has been some hoarding by some residents of the West Bank, apparently in anticipation of possible shortages in the event the current cease-fire is not extended after its expiration on Friday. One report from East Jerusalem indicated heavy purchases in wheat, flour, rice and sugar during the past two days. A brisk business also has been reported in trade in Jordanian dinars with the black market price soaring. However, most observers were reported to believe that most West Bank Arabs are not greatly worried about the future and that life appears to be going on normally in the main population centers in Judea and Samaria. They said Arab "intellectuals" in the West Bank consider Friday a kind of "turning point" in Israel-Arab relations, that it will either be a move toward peace or the beginning of a new chapter of conflict. Other sources suggested that the increase in purchase of foodstuffs by West Bank Arabs may have been done in connection with the Moslem holiday of Yif El Adha.

On the Israeli street, there appeared to be a general belief that there would not be a resumption of warfare. A public opinion poll published yesterday indicated that 45 percent of Israelis believe there will not be a renewal of shooting, 20 percent said they felt there would be more fighting and the rest expressed the hope there would not be a resumption of warfare. An East Jerusalem newspaper columnist, Mohammed Abu Shelbaya, writing in today's issue of "Al Quds," criticized the Jordanian Information Service for allowing the broadcast of songs calling for the extermination of Jews. He said this was a repetition of the pre-1967 activities of extremist Arab leaders, led by Ahmed Shukairy, the former head of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Agency Budget Seen Indicator That More Than 50,000 Will Come To Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's \$573 million budget for the 1971-72 fiscal year is based on an expected immigration of 50,000 persons, according to an Agency statement. But according to some informed forecasts, immigration may turn out to be higher. That estimate is reflected in the allocations for immigrant absorption--\$36 million--and for immigrant housing--\$193 million. The latter is the largest single appropriation in the budget.

By far the largest slice of the housing budget--\$176 million--is earmarked for the construction of approximately 15,000 apartments for immigrants. The apartments will be bigger and better than in previous years because experience over the past two decades has shown that substandard housing tends to turn quickly into slums and that their occupants tend to migrate to the larger cities. Those tendencies would defeat the very purpose of the immigrant-housing policy, which is to disperse the population across the entire nation. Therefore, apartments that used to have only 105 square feet of floor space in the mass-immigration days of the early 1950s and were later enlarged to 197 square feet will now measure 328 square feet--and in the cases of large families, 394 square feet.

These houses are not given to immigrants free of charge. They have to buy them, though on very easy payment and mortgage terms. A \$14 million fund has been set aside for rental subsidies to immigrants who have to live in areas where immigrant housing is unavailable. Such immigrants must have some means of their own, but can obtain subsidies of up to \$286 a year per family.

Druze Knesset Member Urges Arab States To End Threats Against Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Sheikh Jaber Muadi, a Knesset member representing the Arab Parties, urged the Arab governments today to desist from saber-rattling and threats against Israel. War, he said, had brought destruction and ruin to Arabs and might lead to their losing their sovereignty to the Soviet Union. "We have been living in the State of Israel for almost 25 years," the 51-year-old Druze said at a reception hosted by President Zalman Shazar, "and we know that her leaders desire peace." Officials of Israel's Druze community attended the reception held to mark the Druze's annual Feast of the Sacrifice. President Shazar re-emphasized the loyalty of the Druze to Israel by noting that 84 have died defending the country, seven of them in the last few months. The spiritual leader of the Druze community, Sheikh Amin Tarik, appealed to Lebanon and Syria to allow their Druze to make the pilgrimage to the tomb of the prophet Jethro, situated in the Galilee region, and to permit Israeli Druze to visit their kinsmen and holy places there. He also voiced the hope that next year's Feast of the Sacrifice will be celebrated in peacetime.

Police Hunt Counterfeiters Of Israeli Coins In Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Counterfeit Israeli one pound coins were discovered recently in the Gaza Strip, Israeli officials reported today. The counterfeiting job has been described by officials as very poor and the discrepancies in the coins are easily detectable. An investigation has been undertaken by the police force to determine the origin of the coins.

Soviet Emigre Says 300,000 Russian Jews Seeking To Leave For Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Dr. Esther Aisenstadt, who gave up her professional career in Moscow to immigrate to Israel last November, said here yesterday that at least 300,000 Soviet Jews were seeking to leave for Israel despite threats of arrest or loss of employment. The Kremlin, she said at a press conference arranged by B'nai B'rith, "never expected so many would want to leave." The 52-year-old linguist was joined at the press conference by her husband, Leizer Napomnyasty, 59, a Russian-English interpreter from Moscow; and Mrs. Alla Rusinek, a 21-year-old newlywed who left the Soviet Union last November a week after her marriage, although her husband remained behind pending approval of his emigration applications. The press conference was filmed by a West German television crew.

Dr. Aisenstadt and her husband--who had signed the public "Letter of the 39" repudiating a Soviet press conference at which 52 Jews denied Soviet anti-Semitism--said here yesterday that "every decent person--Jew and non-Jew--is ashamed of that press conference." She described it as an event at which "you put Jews under the press and stage a conference," and that those who believed it have it "on their conscience." Most of her fellow faculty members in Moscow sympathized with the plight of Soviet Jews, she observed, "but of course they can't speak out about it." Dr. Aisenstadt said she had been the last Jew in her department.

Mrs. Rusinek, noting that many Soviet Jewish parents were unaware of their Jewishness, declared that "the reversal of our feelings is a miracle." She elaborated: "We now speak of thousands who go to the synagogue to express our feelings in songs. We study Hebrew. It's very dangerous, subversive... Textbooks are confiscated when they are found by police." She said "the Six-Day War helped us understand our Jewishness, that there is some place for Jews," and added: "We didn't know what it is to be Jewish, but we knew what it is to be a Jew in Russia."

Youth Group Pickets Presidents Conference For More Aid To Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Fifty college and high school students calling themselves the Ad Hoc Committee to Revitalize the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry picketed for 90 minutes today outside the midtown building containing the offices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. They charged Dr. William A. Wexler and Yehuda Hellman, chairman and executive director of the Conference of Presidents, with debilitating the American Jewish Conference by denying it autonomy and the legal status required for fundraising. They added that after seven years of existence, the American Jewish Conference had only one full-time paid professional on its staff and was unable to demonstrate until Sept. 20 for the Leningrad Jews arrested June 15.

The student group charged Dr. Wexler and Hellman with being "more interested in the prestige of the Conference of Presidents than in a strong Soviet Jewry body," which it described as an "obstructionist and near-sighted policy." A student spokesman said "The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry has tremendous potential, but the Conference of Presidents is strangling it at its very sources." He added, without elaboration, that "if no policy changes are forthcoming from the Conference of Presidents, other actions will be planned." The spokesman stated that no Jewish Defense League members took part in the demonstration.

Svichinsky Leaves Moscow For Vienna And Israeli Settlement

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Vitaly Svichinsky, the Soviet Jewish architect and activist whose scheduled Jan. 23 departure for Israel was delayed without official explanation, flew from Moscow to Vienna yesterday on his way to Israel, according to reports reaching here. Some sources had said last week that his departure had been delayed by formalities following his wife's having a baby. Meanwhile, Grische Feigin, the Riga Jew released from forced incarceration in a mental home Jan. 7, has telephoned Israeli friends from Riga to say he expected to arrive in their country by Feb. 15. He asked that no fuss be made over him when he arrives. "I am a simple Jew," he said in Yiddish.

Wiesenthal Says He Knows Even Passport Number Of Mengele

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter told newsmen today that he knows the exact whereabouts of notorious Auschwitz "selection doctor" Joseph Mengele and has the number of the Panamanian passport Mengele is holding. Wiesenthal, who came here to participate in a special television broadcast on "Nazi hunting," disclosed that Mengele is in Paraguay, residing in a closed military district known as "Tuerto Vincente" over which the police have no jurisdiction. Wiesenthal also revealed that his Nazi war crimes documentation center in Vienna knew all 11 pseudonyms Mengele is using. He said his center was now concentrating on Warsaw Ghetto Nazi Commander Ludwig Hahn, the man responsible for the murder of many Polish Jews. Hahn, Wiesenthal reported is living in Hamburg and maintains two villas. Wiesenthal's center has forwarded the pertinent information to West German authorities, but as of yet, he said, no steps towards Kahn's arrest have been taken by officials.

500 Jews Wreck Headquarters Of Australian Neo-Nazi Party

MELBOURNE, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Some 500 persons--many of them bearing concentration-camp numbers on their forearms and some wearing striped garments similar to those worn by camp inmates--wrecked the headquarters here of Australia's neo-Nazi organization on Sunday. Two thousand demonstrators had massed to protest to the police over a parade and meeting scheduled by the neo-Nazis in a nearby park. But although the police persuaded the neo-Nazis to postpone their program, 500 of the demonstrators refused to disperse. Instead, they stormed the neo-Nazi headquarters, smashed windows, tore down Nazi emblems and flags and left the place a wreck. Six shots were fired from the building by neo-Nazis. The police moved into the building and confiscated the guns, but made no arrests. Two women among the 16 neo-Nazis in the building were rescued from the demonstrators by policemen who took them out by a back door. Four demonstrators were arrested and charged with unruly behavior. Some reports said the Australian branch of the Jewish Defense League was involved.

