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Israeli Officials Reported Satisfied With Present Status Of Jarring Talks

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Official circles here appeared today to be satisfied with the course taken by the Jarring talks so far, with Secretary General U Thant's statement released at the United Nations yesterday urging both sides to maintain the cease-fire and his findings that "there has been some progress" in the talks under the auspices of his special envoy. But the causes of Israeli satisfaction appear to have had the opposite effect on Egypt. Diplomatic circles here reported today a "distinct impression" that Egypt was trying to wreck the Jarring talks because they were taking on the aspects of genuine negotiations, something the Egyptians had not intended. The consensus of opinion here is that Egypt will not start shooting when the current cease-fire extension expires on Friday although Cairo is not expected to announce its continued observance of the truce. But Israelis are not certain that de facto observance will hold more than a few weeks, especially if the Cairo Government, frustrated by its inability to turn the Jarring talks to its advantage, yields to trigger-happy Army officers who want to renew the war.

As the Israelis see it, Dr. Jarring was expected by Egypt to act like a "glorified registry clerk," simply arranging a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. But despite the restrictions imposed on the Jarring talks, such as holding them at UN headquarters in New York and keeping them so far on the ambassadorial level, they are beginning to look more and more like negotiations and this irks the Egyptians, the Israeli sources said. Cairo protested to Jarring for allowing Israel to submit questionnaires seeking definitions of Arab positions. So far the Egyptian Government has never referred to any of the questions raised by Israel and Dr. Jarring is reported to hold the view that Egypt is deliberately making his work more difficult, the Israeli circles said.

Thant's statement indicated that whatever progress had been made in the Jarring talks was limited to the "definition of their positions" by both sides. However, it received favorable comment here. Israelis said the Secretary General was under heavy pressure from Egypt and the Soviet Union, supported by France, not to make any reference to progress in his report. The Egyptians felt that such a reference would dash their hopes for a Security Council meeting that would involve the Big Four in the cease-fire extension, hopefully forcing Israel to yield on a withdrawal timetable as the price for a continued truce. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was "quite natural that the UN Secretary General should have made his appeal in the interests of peace and in order to give the Jarring talks a full chance." Premier Golda Meir told a Labor Alignment Knesset faction yesterday that Israel would honor the cease-fire as long as the other side did the same. Nevertheless, Israeli soldiers in the Suez zone have been ordered to wear their flack jackets and steel helmets from now on. An unusual movement of forces along the Syrian line on the Golan Heights was reported tonight by the Israeli Army broadcast service. Syrians were said to be seen moving troops and vehicles along the line, presumably in anticipation of the end of the Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian cease-fire at midnight Thursday, Cairo time. Troop concentrations were reported in several sections of the line.

UJA Mission Members See Egyptian Warplane Violation At Canal Truce Line

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A group of American United Jewish Appeal leaders here on a study mission witnessed yesterday a violation of the cease-fire at the Suez Canal line by Egyptian planes. Israel complained about those overflights, as well as a similar violation the day before and a third day of overflights today. The UJA members were standing near the Firdan bridge area when two Egyptian warplanes made a very low flight directly over them. Military officials said the flights today were apparently part of a series of reconnaissance efforts to check out Israeli preparations for any possible resumption of Egyptian shooting when the cease-fire runs out Friday. Last night, the officials said, Egyptians again used loudspeakers at two points along the canal, urging Israeli troops "do not follow your leaders." The overflights today were made by a pair of Sukhoi-7 bombers in the southern canal sector. Israel again filed a complaint with the United Nations Cease-Fire Observers team.

World Awaits Indications Cease-Fire Will Be Extended Friday

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 3 (JTA)--Governments consulted, diplomats fretted and the world waited hopefully today for indications that the Middle East truce--which runs out at 6 a.m. (EST) Friday, midnight Thursday in Cairo--will be extended, even if only on a de facto basis. Although a new Egyptian letter yesterday afternoon to mediator Gunnar V. Jarring and to the Security Council contended that Israel has been blatantly intransigent, a United Nations spokesman said yesterday afternoon and again today that no Security Council meeting has been scheduled for this week. While Egypt has never formally requested such a meeting, there have been reports that it would do so if it felt there were no other way to effect a dramatic development in the peace talks--Cairo having insisted that without progress there would be no cease-fire extension. With no Council meeting scheduled only hours away from the truce cut-off, some diplomats were hopeful that, despite its public rhetoric, Egypt will agree to a truce extension in principle if not in writing. (There were reports today that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will make a speech in Cairo tomorrow.) The UN spokesman added today that he had no indications that Secretary General Thant would issue before Friday a statement agreeing to yesterday's call for a truce extension.

In yesterday's letter to Dr. Jarring and to Security Council president Charles W. Yost of the United States, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed H. el-Zayyat charged that "Israel continues in its refusal to implement the Security Council Resolution (242 of Nov. 22, 1967), since Israel does not commit itself to

withdrawal from all Arab territories it occupied in June, 1967." The resolution, Israel has stressed, refers to "territories occupied," not "all territories occupied." Dr. Zayyat also charged that Israel has expressed a "rejection of a just and lasting peace" by not endorsing Egypt's proposals for a Big Four peacekeeping force and demilitarized zones prior to a peace settlement. In addition, Dr. Zayyat asserted, Israel persists in "a policy of repression, expulsion and collective punishment" against the residents of the occupied Arab areas. A United States spokesman here declined to comment on the Egyptian letter, noting only that "we are still hopeful that quiet diplomacy will continue at a low roar." State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey confirmed in Washington today that Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad had exchanged three letters in recent weeks. The third reply from Riad arrived today, he said, describing it only as a "preliminary" statement. McCloskey rejected suggestions that Arab-American oil arrangements were collapsing as a result of recent developments in the Mideast.

Mobil Admits Yielding To Arab Boycott In Mideast Operations

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA)--A spokesman for Mobil Oil Co., one of the nation's largest oil firms with major Middle East interests, conceded today the accuracy of reports that the company has yielded to the Arab boycott of Israeli-made products in its Mideast operations. The spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the company had been forced to take that action because all tankers entering Libyan ports are searched and discovery of any products made or grown in Israel brings stiff fines to the owner of the ship or its seizure by Libyan authorities. Recently, according to reports from London, the Libyan government added to the banned list Jaffa orange juice canned in Norway or Canada as well as four products with no Israeli connections--Brazilian beer and ginger ale, Trinidad orange juice and Swedish matches. The reason, it was reported, is that all have six-pointed symbols on their labels vaguely resembling the Star of David. The Mobil spokesman said the company had complied with the additional ban orders. The spokesman said that the Mobil policy of going along with the Arab boycott applied only to Mobil operations in the Middle East and he added that it was a case of complying with Libyan demands or going out of business in that phase of its operations.

Pliht Of Jews In Arab Nations Slightly Eased, Says Eban; Credits World Appeals

JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban today credited the efforts of international humanitarian groups with alleviating somewhat the plight of Jews remaining in Syria, Iraq and other Arab countries. But he warned that "the remnants of these communities are still held as hostages, subject to persecution, oppression and discrimination" and denied the universal human right to emigrate. Eban addressed the Knesset on the second anniversary (according to the Hebrew calendar) of the mass hangings of Jews in Baghdad and Basra for allegedly spying for Israel. "The martyrs were put to death for a crime which they had not committed... Others were murdered or died of inhuman torture in the prisons. Their sole crime lay in their being Jews," Eban said.

He noted that in Jan., 1970, about 100 public figures and religious leaders from 24 countries convened in Paris and set up the International Committee for the Jews in Arab countries, headed by Alain Poher, President of the French Senate. National committees in various countries were also established and the testimony they submitted on the situation of Jews in Arab lands aroused international public opinion to demand in the strongest terms that the Arab rulers desist from the oppression of the Jews and set them free, Eban said. He said the Arab governments responded with a wave of propaganda intended to create a satisfactory image of the condition of their Jewish citizens. But it also led to admissions of the true situation, Eban said. "The very fact that in reaction, the Iraqi authorities announced the abolition of discriminatory laws was evidence that discrimination existed," he said. It is true the acts of murder have ceased for the present but the plight of Jews in Iraq has not been improved, he added.

Eban said the awakening of enlightened public opinion, the activities of the International Committee and the intervention of governments on behalf of the Jews in Arab countries, have led to the release of Jews from prison in Egypt and their departure in freedom. But hundreds of Jews still remain there, he said. According to Eban, the situation of Jews in Syria is the most grave. "They live in ghettos subject to a regime of curfews, restriction on movement outside their place of residence and arbitrary arrests accompanied by torture," Eban said. "When a Jew dies, his legal heirs are robbed of his property which is confiscated by the authorities. In the few Jewish schools, Arab headmasters have been appointed on behalf of the authorities and religious instruction has been restricted. The Jewish cemetery in Damascus has been destroyed and a road laid over its ruins," Eban charged.

Curfew Lifted In Some Parts Of Gaza Strip But Arms Searches Continue

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--The Israeli-imposed curfew was lifted yesterday in some sections of the Gaza Strip, but security forces are continuing their searches there for terrorists and arms caches. The aim of the police is to keep the terrorists on the run so that they cannot concentrate on large-scale acts of sabotage, although it is realized that such acts probably cannot be entirely eliminated. Meanwhile, the officer appointed by Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev to investigate charges of Israeli mistreatment of Gaza civilians is continuing his work. A local commander said that any Israeli soldier who violated regulations and instructions regarding treatment of civilians would be punished. A senior commander of the Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip has been captured along with 12 of his subordinates, Israeli military authorities reported today. They said a bunker in which the guerrillas were hiding had been discovered during a search of the northern sector of the Strip. An arms cache was found in an adjacent bunker. The commander was identified as Mouhammed Aliess Asitya Abu Nimmer, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Two part-time typists, both Arabs, at Geffen House, the Jewish-Arab communal center in Haifa, were charged in court today with using its facilities for typing and mimeographing Arab nationalist propaganda. Both they and a third Arab, a relative who allegedly brought them the material to be typed, were remanded pending an investigation. Arab nationalist propaganda is deemed inciting material under Israeli law.

Three Rabbis Tour N.Y. County In 'Fast For Freedom' For Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Three Rockland County rabbis--Orthodox, Conservative and Reform--have begun the second day of their three-day starvation diet, called the "Fast for Freedom," on behalf of Soviet Jewry, Glen Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) said here today. According to Mr. Richter, the three-day ordeal is an attempt to graphically portray to Rockland County residents the intolerable conditions under which Soviet prisoners live. The three rabbis, who were identified by Mr. Richter as Avraham Weises, Hillel Friedman and Kalil Rosenberg, are dressed in prison garb and traveling to various points in Rockland County in upstate New York in a mobile trailer made up to look like a prison. Mr. Richter also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in an attempt to completely simulate prison conditions, the rabbis are subsisting on an 800-caloric diet of moldy bread and thin soup, which is believed the usual fare, he explained. Soviet prisoners receive. The mobile trailer, he added, which the rabbis are sleeping in, is unheated.

"Aside from portraying the conditions under which Soviet prisoners live," he continued "the 'Fast for Freedom' is also a ploy to alert public opinion to the forthcoming trials of Soviet Jews in Riga, Leningrad and Kishinev." He reported that due to the subfreezing temperatures and unhealthy diet, one of the rabbis had become ill. He said they are scheduled to park their trailer near the Soviet Mission to the United Nations this evening, where they will be joined by other rabbis in prayer and study.

Soviet Jew Arrives in NYC With Second Family For U.S. Settlement

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA)--After 18 years of trying, a 62-year-old Russian Jew obtained exit visas and arrived here last night with his second wife and their six children to start a new life in the United States. Joseph Eisner was greeted by two brothers, Samuel and Mayer, both living in Brooklyn, who had met him since he was separated from them by the Nazis 30 years ago. A third brother, Aaron Herman Eisner, Ellenville, N.Y. came to the airport and served as interpreter. He last saw his brother three years ago during a visit to the Soviet Union. He said his brother and his family came to the United States from Mukachevko in the Ukraine, where he was supervisor of a Government store. His wife, Rose, 50, and their four sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 14 to 21, are Joseph Eisner's second family. His first wife and the four children by his first marriage were murdered at the Auschwitz death camp, Rabbi Eisner said. The family was assisted by the United Hias Service in the arrangements for their trip and settlement.

Svichinsky Credits World Pressure For Being Allowed To Go To Israel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--"Those who gave me the permit to go to Israel may not know it but they gave me the nicest present one can get--they gave me a new life. Coming to Israel is the greatest event in my 40 years of life." So said Vitaly Svichinsky, the Soviet Jewish architect who was recently granted an emigration visa after continued protests against repression of Soviet Jewry. He arrived here last night with his wife, Liza, and their two children--Dor, 10, and Goulan, 2 months. Replaying to questions at the airport, Svichinsky said he thought he and his family had been allowed to leave the Soviet Union because of "a combination of world public opinion, for which I am most thankful, and the outcry of Russian Jewry themselves." He stated that "Without this outcry no Jew would have been permitted to go out."

Svichinsky said the Leningrad trial of Jews and similar trials reported to be upcoming had only caused Soviet Jews to step up their demands to leave the country. The Muscovite estimated that 400,000 Soviet Jews wanted to go to Israel right now. Asked why he had become an activist for Zionism, Svichinsky replied: "It is a simple evolution, when you want to get back your national pride. There is no other reason. This is the truth." Nearby his wife, with her son standing next to her and her baby in her arms, quietly wept for joy.

NEWSBRIEFS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Tuvia Friedman, who has tracked down and brought to trial more than 1,000 Nazi criminals, said last night in Haifa that a South African man has offered to turn in Nazi doctor Josef Mengele in return for Friedman's \$50,000 reward. The man, Friedman said, also volunteered to testify against Mengele in court. The Nazi is believed to be hiding out in Paraguay. Friedman is a 49-year-old journalist who heads the Haifa Documentation Institute and the World Union of Jewish Nazi Victims.

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JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Health Minister Victor Shemtov announced in the Knesset yesterday that a compulsory national health-insurance plan was being worked out and that it would soon be submitted to the parliament for approval. The Mapam official said the plan would operate under the existing sick-funds and would have a far-reaching effect on the populace. He announced also that a mental health center would be opened soon in Jaffa and that it would accept patients on a daytime basis--that is, they would return home each evening. The new center, he said, would ease the strain on the country's over-burdened mental institutions and make a major contribution toward the rehabilitation of the mentally ill.

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JERUSALEM, Feb. 3 (JTA)--The West Bank military government has been thanked by leaders of Christian communities for the maintenance of order in Bethlehem during the Yule celebrations when thousands of pilgrims came to the city, a spokesman for Brig. Gen. Rafael Vardi, West Bank commanding officer, said today. The thanks were expressed in letters to Gen. Vardi.

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TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA)--Nearly \$2,000 was confiscated by customs officials last night from two former members of the Jordanian Cabinet who now live in Nablus in the West Bank and were headed for Beirut, Lebanon, via Cyprus. Regulations permit no more than \$250 to be taken out of the country by a traveler.

