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Diplomatic Tensions Heighten With Reports That Jarring Offers Own Peace Plan

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 11 (JTA)--Diplomatic tensions rose today following published reports in Israel and London that Middle East peace intermediary Gunnar V. Jarring was seeking to break the Arab-Israeli deadlock by submitting a peace plan of his own. The reaction from Israeli observers in Jerusalem was that if the reports were true the Jarring mission was ended, as Israel has always insisted that the Swedish diplomat was not supposed to propose solutions. That, the observers said, was the basis on which Israel had agreed to the Jarring talks. There was no official Israeli comment on the reports, as spokesmen decline to speak on peace-talk developments and newspaper stories about them. Knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem, however, reported that they regarded the reputed Jarring plan as very unlikely, being out of character with his known *modus operandi*.

According to the published reports, Dr. Jarring is suggesting that Israel withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula but retain the Gaza Strip; that the Strait of Tiran revert to Egypt; that a United Nations force be stationed at Sharm el-Sheikh, adjoining the Strait at the tip of the Sinai, and that Egypt recognize Israeli sovereignty. A UN spokesman refused today to confirm or deny the reports, repeatedly fending off newsmen's questions by reiterating that he never commented on Dr. Jarring's specific activities. He declined also to confirm whether, under Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, Dr. Jarring is in fact empowered to make proposals. He noted that under the resolution Dr. Jarring is "a special representative" (of the Secretary General) who is to "establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement." The spokesman refused to elaborate, even when asked if under that definition Dr. Jarring was a "promoter."

The spokesman confirmed, however, that the ambassador had stated last August that he did not consider himself a "mediator," a term that suggests merely a go-between and not an initiator. (In this connection, it will be recalled that in a television interview from Washington last Dec. 20, Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain called on Dr. Jarring to cease being "only a letterbox" and to "put forward options to each side.") (In Washington today, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey refused to comment on the reported Jarring plan.) Meanwhile, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah called on Secretary General Thant today and told newsmen afterwards that they had "reviewed developments" in the Mideast since their last meeting at the beginning of the month. The envoy added that they had discussed the situation of Soviet Jewry and that he had given Thant emigration petitions from "hundreds" of Soviet Jews. Thant was scheduled to meet late this afternoon with Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad H. el-Farra and Lebanese Ambassador Edouard Ghorra.

Role Of Big Four In Mideast Defined As 'Complementary', 'Supportive'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman defined the Big Four role in the Middle East today as "complementary" and "supportive" but stressed that it was not empowered by the United Nations to be a party to negotiations. The question arose at a news briefing when Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey was asked about tomorrow's Four Power meeting at which the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France are expected to begin discussion of Big Power guarantees of an eventual Mideast peace settlement. McCloskey said these talks were "preliminary in nature and not the kind to go out in front of negotiations on principal issues." He stressed that the Four Powers would "have no role until an agreement is reached" between the disputing parties. But McCloskey said the Four Powers were trying to conduct "sensible diplomacy" for the benefit of the parties concerned to help them toward an agreement. He said the U.S. and the other major Powers "can't negotiate" for the parties. He said the U.S. was "willing to play a role behind the scenes" that would be jeopardized "by asserting ourselves publicly." He said the disputing parties also jeopardized their positions by public assertions.

N.Y. State Supplying Kosher Food To Jewish Patients In Institutions

NEW YORK, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The State of New York is now supplying kosher meat and meat products to all patients in state institutions who desire them, it was reported here by Rabbi Ervin Hoffman, Director of the United Bikur Cholim. The action, Rabbi Hoffman reported, was taken by the Rockefeller Administration at the behest of the Bikur Cholim organization, which had been supplying the kosher products on a daily basis to thousands of observant Jews for more than three-and-a-half years. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had been negotiating for the State takeover for over six years but that knotty operational problems had had to be ironed out before the arrangement could be completed. "The difficulties we encountered in formulating plans for the program," he said, "involved both preparation of the food and its delivery." He explained that maintenance of separate kitchens in the institutions where kosher food was to be supplied had been discarded as unfeasible, while ideas of delivering prepared meat in metal cans were also dismissed because the meat would be unheated and untasty.

The plan finally decided upon, Rabbi Hoffman said, was the preparation of the products by kosher manufacturers to be shipped to the institutions in heatable plastic containers. Discussing the efforts of his organization, Rabbi Hoffman revealed that Jewish patients in six state institutions had been supplied with kosher food products by his group on a regular basis. Because of a limited annual budget of \$25,000, he said, the Bikur Cholim organization could not reach all observant patients, who were given a substitute dairy diet instead. The State takeover means, Rabbi Hoffman stressed, that all Jewish patients desiring kosher meat and meat products will be able to receive them. He said that out of 80,000 patients confined in state mental institutions, approximately 10,000 are Jewish. The Bikur Cholim director said the State takeover was accomplished largely through the personal efforts of Lt. Gov. Malcolm Wilson and officials of the State Bureau of Nutritional Services.

Weizmann Institute To Spend Some \$20 Million Next Fiscal Year For Research, Improvement

LONDON, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel will spend almost \$20 million for basic and applied research and the acquisition and improvement of equipment during the next fiscal year, it was announced here today at a meeting of the Institute's executive council. Maurice Boukstein, chairman of the council, said the Institute has resolved to maintain the highest standards in research. He said the council also attached the highest importance to training young scientists at the Institute for its own benefit and for other academic institutions in Israel. Boukstein said the Weizmann Institute was especially interested in joint research programs with institutions of higher learning in America and Europe. He reported that a number of leading universities on both sides of the Atlantic have approached the Weizmann Institute with proposals for joint research. The Weizmann Institute derives its income from public funds such as the Jewish Agency and the Israel Government, and from private contributions and research grants from other governments, foundations and individuals.

Knesset, By Majority Vote, Endorses Mrs. Meir's Statement On Canal Reopening

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The Knesset decided by majority vote early yesterday to "take note" of Premier Golda Meir's political statement of Tuesday which was, in effect, Israel's reply to Egypt's proposal for reopening the Suez Canal. There was no official count. Taking note is the parliamentary formula for endorsement. All coalition parties voted for the motion and were supported by the State List, the Agudat Israel and Poalei Agudat Israel. The other opposition parties voted negatively. The Knesset rejected a Gahal motion declaring that Egypt's proposal amounted to an ultimatum and should be rejected.

U.S. Officials Divided Over Desirability Of Reopening Suez Canal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA)--American officials appeared to be divided today over the desirability of reopening the Suez Canal. State Department officials were reportedly ready to trade the strategic advantage reopening would give the Russians for the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace along the waterway and the diminution of chances of a U.S.-Soviet confrontation. But high ranking U.S. naval officers believe the best way to contain the expansion of Soviet seapower into the Indian Ocean is to keep the canal closed for the present. Treasury Department officials on the other hand, view the reopening of the canal as an economic benefit for the U.S. and its Western and Japanese allies which would be assured of an increased flow of Middle East oil. Secretary of State William P. Rogers said yesterday that he was "encouraged" by Israeli Premier Golda Meir's reply to President Anwar Sadat's proposal that Egypt reopen the canal.

Although Mrs. Meir rejected Sadat's condition that Israel pull back its forces from the canal's east bank, Rogers said he thought her reply deserved "serious consideration." Egyptian sources in Washington appeared to back away from Cairo's initial interpretation of Mrs. Meir's reply as an outright rejection of the Sadat offer. They said Egypt was prepared to make peace with Israel in a signed document. But they insisted that Israel agree first to a partial withdrawal from the canal as a preliminary to a commitment for total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory. They said that Israeli use of the Suez Canal was contingent on an end to belligerency which, in Egypt's view, can be achieved only after total Israeli withdrawal. Sources here said Secretary Rogers' encouraging view was not based on the fact that the disputing parties have drawn any closer but that they are at least addressing themselves to the same specific issue.

Itim, Israeli Home News Agency, Marks Its 25th Anniversary

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA)--Itim, the Israeli home news agency, marked its 25th anniversary today. The service was founded and is maintained by Israeli newspapers as a news gathering and distribution agency for domestic news and also receives and distributes foreign news through the facilities of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Reuters, United Press International and Agence France Presse.

According to Chaim Balzan, editor, Itim moves some 250,000 words daily. It is linked through telexes and teleprinters with the offices of all major Israeli newspapers.

Israeli Patrol, Terrorists Clash In Golan Heights; Shell Fired On Metullah

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA)--An Israeli patrol exchanged fire in the northern Golan Heights this morning with terrorists who infiltrated from Lebanon. The patrol was attacked by bazooka fire. One soldier received a minor injury but was able to continue on duty after first aid was administered. A bazooka shell was fired at Metullah near the Lebanese border last night. No casualties or damage was reported. Israeli units returned the fire. A military spokesman disclosed today that two Arab terrorists were captured in the Negev several days ago in an encounter with an Israeli patrol. He said they had penetrated the region from Jordan. One of the terrorists was wounded in a brief exchange of fire and the other was captured unhurt, the spokesman said. There were no Israeli casualties. Weapons were found on the captured men.

U.S. Group Establishes Scholarship For Danes To Study At Hebrew University

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA)--Two young Danes are studying at the Hebrew University this year under a scholarship established by an American group to honor the Danish people for their rescue of Denmark's Jewish population from the Nazis in 1943. The students are Ulla Graham, 25, and Mogens Reimer Jensen, 21, both from Copenhagen.

Their scholarships were awarded by "Tribute to the Danes," an organization founded in New York by Dr. Elias L. Gechman, a Russian-born Jew who survived Nazi concentration camps and is presently practicing medicine in New York. Gechman helped set up a scholarship selection committee at a meeting in Copenhagen two years ago. It consists of 12 Danish personalities representing the wartime resistance movement, the Danish Government, academic circles and Danish-Israel friendship groups. A group of 40 prominent Americans and Israelis, former Premier David Ben Gurion among the latter, are sponsors of the project. Miss Granam is a student of Judaica and French at the Hebrew University. Jensen is attending the University's preparatory year course.

Servan-Schreiber Convinced U.S. Would Go To War To Defend Israel's Existence

PARIS, Feb. 11 (JTA)--A leader of the French Radical Party told a Zionist audience here last night that he was convinced the United States would go to war in order to preserve Israel's existence. According to Jean Jacques Servan-Schreiber, there are two international issues over which the U.S. would risk a nuclear conflict — Berlin and Jerusalem. The French politician addressed a dinner of the Ahavat Zion, a Zionist Association here. He recently returned from a visit to Washington where he met with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and various Congressional leaders. When asked for his own views on the subject, Servan-Schreiber said, "All available means should be used if Israel's independence and existence were to be endangered. He also came out strongly in favor of direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and claimed that a united Jerusalem should remain Israel's capital.

Canadian Jewish Congress Asks Quebec Government For Anti-Discrimination Legislation

MONTREAL, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress asked the Quebec Government today for new anti-discrimination legislation and urged the adoption of a provincial bill of rights and the establishment of a human rights commission. A brief submitted by CJC president Monroe Abbey to Quebec's Premier Robert Bourassa, said the organization considered existing anti-discrimination legislation to be "fragmentary, incomplete and lacking in clarity." In its submission, the CJC referred to the existing deprivation of franchise for Jewish citizens in the election of local Protestant school boards created by an order-in-council in several Montreal suburbs as "a most glaring example of discrimination." The brief also called on the Quebec Premier to see to it that "all Quebecers be deemed as equal in status and that no distinction be made between residents both in Quebec and those who settled in Quebec or arrived before or after a certain date."

Hadassah Announces Nurses Residence At Medical Center, Largest Mideast Cancer Institute

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA)--Ground-breaking ceremonies for the Muriel and Philip Berman nurses residence at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center was the highlight of today's session of the Hadassah mid-winter conference here devoted to activities of the medical organization. The four-story structure will contain 30 flats for unmarried nurses and communal facilities. It will be built through the philanthropy of Mr. and Mrs. Berman of Allentown, Pa. Health Minister Victor Shemtov expressed appreciation for the health services rendered by Hadassah. New developments in Hadassah's medical work were discussed by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the Hadassah Medical Organization, Prof. Kalman J. Mann, director general and Dr. Jack Karpas, assistant director general. One new project will be the development of the Moshe Sharett Cancer Institute, the largest of its kind in the Middle East. Mrs. Jacobson announced a special fund of \$1 million to endow medical research. She also reported on the uses to be made of the \$4.8 million grant made to Hadassah by the U.S. Government.

Soviet Jewry Group Honors Union Whose Official Was Arrested For Flying Israeli Flag

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry announced today that it was making a gift of two dogwood trees to the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers whose secretary-treasurer was arrested recently in a demonstration on behalf of Soviet Jews. The committee said the trees would be planted this spring on a site in front of the union headquarters where Jews and non-Jews have been maintaining a daily 15-minute silent vigil for the Jews of the Soviet Union. The site is directly across the street from the Soviet Embassy. The union official, David Fitzmaurice, a Roman Catholic, was arrested in December when he raised a Star of David flag on a flagpole facing the Soviet building. Fitzmaurice was charged with violating a District of Columbia ordinance forbidding demonstrations within 500 feet of an embassy. The Washington Committee said the trees were being donated in observance of the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat, known in Israel as the New Year of Trees.

Shazar To Nixon: Congratulations On Successful Apollo-14 Mission

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar cabled congratulations to President Richard M. Nixon last night on the successful completion of the Apollo-14 moon mission.

\$2.1 Million Grant To Bar-Ilan Is From Rothschild Foundation

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The Baron Edmond de Rothschild Foundation has approved a \$2.1 million grant to Bar-Ilan University for the establishment of an Institute of Physics to do research on the static condition of matter.

ADL Warns Middle East Committee Is Communist Front Group

NEW YORK, Feb. 11 (JTA)--The B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League warned today that a group calling itself the "Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East" was a Communist front spreading anti-Israeli propaganda in this country. According to the ADL's general counsel, Arnold Forster, it is trying to raise funds for an anti-Israel advertising campaign without disclosing its true nature. He said the purpose of the ADL was to warn Americans who might be tempted to contribute "without knowing that they were lending their names to a Communist cause." Forster said the Committee lists its headquarters at the Jefferson Book Store, described by the FBI as one of a number of "Communist bookstores which function throughout the United States under the management of loyal, longtime party members." D. Rubel, treasurer of the Committee soliciting funds for the ad campaign is Dan Rubel, owner of the Jefferson Book Store, Forster said. He said the anti-Israel ad has already appeared in The Daily World, the official organ of the Communist Party in the U.S., and in The Guardian, a self-proclaimed independent radical newspaper. Forster said the ad in both papers was accompanied by an appeal for funds to pay for its appearance in the New York Times.

Town Planner Resigns In Protest Over Proposed Project For Jerusalem Suburb

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA)--A town planner who had been employed on a Housing Ministry project in a Jerusalem suburb disclosed today that he resigned two months ago because of professional objections to the plan the Ministry insisted on following. According to Pierre Bugod, the Ministry demanded high rise apartment dwellings suitable for the flat Tel Aviv area but not for the hilly sites around Jerusalem. Bugod's criticism was the latest in a controversy that has developed around the Housing Ministry's plan to build a new suburb at Nebi Samwill in northwest Jerusalem.

SPECIAL NEWS ANALYSIS

"LET'S DO BUSINESS WITH THE KREMLIN"

By JGSEPH POLAKOFF, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

Somehow the notion is gaining hold that if Israel would only agree to withdraw to her pre-1967 borders, the threat of Soviet-American confrontation in the Middle East would recede, the U.S. would be spared from worry over a further naval thrust into the Mediterranean, and Israel would benefit from a benign Kremlin. Whether in tones of friendly persuasion or of dire warning, the sweep of expression is the same — alienation of American public opinion from continued unwavering support of Israel's logically incontestable insistence on a negotiated settlement with the Arabs before withdrawal. Thus, the word is spread by one pair of syndicated columnists that "pro-Western Arab leaders" are saying privately that if Israel does not soon agree to withdraw from the Sinai, the Egyptian government "may come under the eventual political control of Moscow as the price for continued Soviet aid." They report, they report, would include a Soviet naval base on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. The ugly inference is that if this happens, Israel will be responsible for Soviet extension of power in the Levant.

The State Department scoffs at these views. This being budget season in Washington, a high Department source observed, a Soviet naval scare would help the Navy convince Congress of its requirements for hardware and funds. Besides, he added, if the Israelis did leave the Sinai who would push the Russians out of Egypt? One New York Kremlinologist says this is the "critical period of decision-making" in the Kremlin in preparation for the first Communist Party Congress since 1966 on March 30. Therefore, "a reluctant White House is being urged by the State Department, CIA and outside Soviet analysts — including some in the Soviet Embassy to send a new signal to the Moscow summit to influence a decision there on Russia's national priorities in the 1970s. "If the Soviet Union misreads American policy toward the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), Soviet-German detente, stability in the Mideast and peace in Southeast Asia, hard-line elements in the Politburo could be strengthened," the Kremlinologist warned. For evidence, he noted that the Soviet "official press reflects a trend towards tightening up in ideology and discipline, a trend evidently favored by the party machine and military leaders."

Better The Devil We Know Than The One We Don't Know

Even in this topsy-turvy world, it appears strange that Party Secretary Brezhnev and Premier Kosygin would look for help from old Communist-hunter Nixon and the CIA to save them from the clutches of the Red Army. What this does seem to mean is "Let's do business with the Kremlin's present leaders, tough as they are; if we don't, they will fall, and those who will take over from them will be awfully worse." Again, a State Department source looked askance at this view. "This sort of propaganda," he remarked, "has been coming out of the Kremlin since the rise of Stalin. In those days it wasn't Stalin who was so bad; it was those people around him. The Kremlin people always say 'work with us; it will be much tougher with the next lot.'" All this is not to say that firm understandings should not be sought with the Soviets and peace restored and maintained. But must Israel be the victim of the accommodations between the superpowers? Must the friends of Israel pipe down on their support of that little country because the Kremlin leaders face internal competition?

If the Kremlin is indeed serious for "real peace" it could demonstrate its earnestness by toning down its rhetoric in the United Nations about Israel and in its propaganda around the world about "Zionist hooligans," and it could allow Jews who wish to leave Russia to emigrate. Closer perhaps to a correct assessment of the Kremlin's intention is Washington State Sen. Henry M. Jackson's most recent view. He said that "between the desire to avert war and the desire for peace there is an enormous range of Soviet policy objectives." The Soviets are "determined to gain control over the oil supplies on which our Western European and Japanese allies are totally dependent," so "the unhappy truth is that the Soviets, far from urging the radical Arab states to make peace with Israel, are determined to keep tension high and to nurture the distant hope that Israel will one day be destroyed." The Washington Senator may be right. Anyway, 86 Senators and an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives thought he was last December when Congress approved his support-for-Israel policy, which the President subsequently signed into law.

Rabbi Urges Disengagement From Southeast Asia; Focus, Instead, On Problems Here

NEW YORK, Feb. 11 (JTA)—The Union of American Hebrew Congregations called today upon Congress to "disenthrall itself and exercise its constitutional and moral responsibilities" to bring an early end to the "festering and futile conflict" in Indochina. A statement issued by UAHC president Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath stressed that "in the light of the proxy invasion of Laos" it is "utter blindness to ignore the reality that the seemingly endless war is tearing the fabric of American life to shreds," frustrating every program to deal with urgent social problems in the urban centers and the nation, "building dangerous tensions and fostering a sense of hopelessness and despair." Rabbi Eisendrath stated further that it has now become a matter of "urgent national survival" for Congress to bring this "devastating and increasingly dangerous conflict to an orderly, planned but definite and early termination."

State Department To Contact USSR On 'Very High Level' To Discuss Rigerman Case

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA)—The State Department said today that it would make further representations very soon to the Soviet Union on a "very high level" on behalf of Leonid Rigerman, a Soviet Jew, and his mother, who are trying to secure exit visas to come to the United States. Rigerman, who was born in Russia, was recently granted his claim to U.S. citizenship on grounds that his mother was born in this country. But the Soviet Union considers the Rigermans Soviet citizens and does not recognize dual citizenship. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen when questioned on the matter today, he said the U.S. had made "many representations" on behalf of the Rigermans and "will do so again very soon." However, he added, "there is a limit to what we can do." McCloskey said the State Department was aware of charges by the Rigermans' American attorney, New York City official Daniel Greer, that the U.S. was dragging its feet in the Rigerman case.