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Belgin Demands National Elections If Government Continues Commitment To Resolution 242

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--Menachem Belgin, chairman of the Gahal opposition party and leader of its Herut wing, today demanded national elections in three months unless the government withdraws its commitment to carry out the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967 "in all its parts." Addressing a press luncheon here, Belgin said the government must "unequivocally declare itself incapable of making a prior commitment on withdrawal from the occupied territories." Belgin, who led his party's defection from Premier Golda Meir's national unity coalition last summer when the government accepted the Jarring talks and cease-fire, said that if the government could not issue such a statement, it must suspend its participation in the Jarring talks pending new elections. "The world can wait for three months while the Jewish people takes council with itself," Belgin asserted. "We cannot haphazardly decide our future." The militant Herut leader claimed that only a government brought to power in new elections would have the moral right to decide either to withdraw or to refuse to yield. Belgin proposed meanwhile that the government launch an extensive "information" campaign in the United States with the aim of reversing current U.S. Mideast policy. He said Gahal would be prepared to participate in such a campaign. He also said that Gahal was ready to consider conditions that the government might offer it to rejoin the coalition.

Sir Alec Calls On Israel To Match Egypt's 'Sincerity' To Make Peace

LONDON, March 2 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home had lavish praise tonight for the "sincerity" of Egypt's offer to make peace with Israel and said it should be matched by an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. In remarks prepared for delivery at the Anglo-Arab Association dinner, Sir Alec declared that Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad who visited London recently "left us in no doubt of the sincere desire of his government for an honorable peace in the Middle East." He continued, "The UAR government has felt able to give clear, unequivocal and specific commitments on the nature of peace which the UAR would undertake to keep. Dr. Jarring now seeks from Israel a matching commitment on withdrawal within the terms of Resolution 242." The Foreign Minister observed that "Everyone understands the need for physical security for Israel and it is the task of statesmanship to find answers that will give confidence." He went on to say that "Egypt has risen to the occasion by its public and absolute commitment to live at peace following a negotiated settlement." Sir Alec said that Britain would do all it can to advance peace, notably through the Four Power discussions on guarantees.

Two Soviet Jewish Families Arrive In Israel; Nine Others Have Permission To Leave

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--Two Soviet Jews who arrived here early this morning with their families named nine others who, they said, have received permission to leave Russia and can be expected in Israel shortly. The new arrivals are David Drabkin and Victor Fedosayev, both from Moscow and both considered activists in the forefront of Jewish demands for emigration rights. They told reporters that their exit visas were held up by Soviet authorities until after last week's world conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels in order to prevent them from attending the gathering. Drabkin, his wife and daughter told newsmen in fluent English that the Russians are sensitive to public opinion and pressure on behalf of Soviet Jewry must be kept up but they specifically ruled out acts of violence.

They said the national spirit among Russian Jews was on the increase and claimed that Soviet authorities are issuing exit visas in greater numbers to Jewish activists, possibly in order to be rid of them. Drabkin and Fedosayev said that among the Jews issued visas recently were the Yiddish poet Yossef Kerler, the opera singer Michael Magod, a Jew named Balabanoff, Meir Giffond and the Finger, Katz, Feinbaum, Jacobson and Rominson families. According to the new arrivals, a number of these Jews participated in last Wednesday's unprecedented nine-hour sit-in at the Supreme Soviet building in downtown Moscow to press their demand for emigration. (There was no word from Moscow today regarding a major decision on Jewish emigration rights by high Soviet authorities which the sit-ins had been promised would be issued on Mar. 1).

Project Launched To Provide Increase In Number Of Jewish Educators

PARIS, March 2 (JTA)--The European Council of Jewish Community Services has launched a project for a massive increase in the number of Jewish educators serving the European Jewish communities. Council president Claude Kelman announced here today. Kelman, a leading official of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the central French Jewish communal organization, stressed that the project could succeed only if undertaken throughout Western Europe. "The situation in Israel and the tragedy of Russia's Jews must not make us forget the essential: our own survival as Jews," he told a press conference. Council director Sam Castro announced that the organization had signed an agreement with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem enabling French high school graduates to continue their studies in Israel for three or four years before returning to Europe as Jewish educators and civil servants. Castro added that the Council was establishing a central Jewish film library housing materials to be made available to all European Jewish communities.

High Sources Say New Israeli Note May Induce UAR To Continue Talks

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--Highly placed political sources maintained today that the Egyptian government would readily agree to continue the Jarring talks and the cease-fire on the basis of Israel's reply to its latest note, provided it can find a face-saving formula. But the sources noted that the Russians were intervening to apply Big Four pressure on Israel to make concessions before the cease-fire expiration on March 7. The Israeli note expressed readiness to negotiate with Egypt on all points in

dispute, including territories, but made it clear that Israel will not return to its pre-June, 1967 boundaries. The Kremlin has been insisting on an immediate Big Four meeting apparently to draft a statement demanding that Israel backtrack from its stand on the 1967 borders. The United States rejected a Soviet attempt to schedule a Four Power meeting yesterday despite tacit support of the Russian move by Britain and France. The U.S. is said to be dissatisfied with the Israeli note to Cairo but does not want to appear to be yielding to Soviet pressure on the matter nor does Washington wish to publicize its differences with Israel at this time. Political circles here said that Moscow was "training its guns" on President Nixon to persuade him to exert more pressure on Israel. According to Israeli analysts, the Kremlin is convinced that Israel could be forced into major concessions if Nixon applied more pressure. Most Israeli circles are sure that Egypt will not terminate the cease-fire next Sunday. They noted that there was much greater military tension during the week before the last cease-fire extension expired on Feb. 5. But they conceded that political tension is currently high.

Report On Jarring's Peace Efforts Due; Mum Is The Word On Possible Talks' Breakdown

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA)--A State Department source said today that a report on the present status of United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring's peace efforts was expected sometime this week, possibly before Thursday when the Four Powers are scheduled to meet again on the Middle East. The source said that "time was required" for Dr. Jarring and UN Secretary General U. Thant to prepare their report. Meanwhile, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen at today's briefing that the U.S. thought it would be "premature" for the Big Four to meet before Thursday's scheduled meeting. The U.S. rejected a Soviet bid for a Four Power meeting yesterday, in advance of the Thant-Jarring report and urged Moscow to stop what it called propaganda exchanges on the Middle East. McCloskey said, "We (the U.S.) have attempted throughout to conduct ourselves in a quiet diplomacy as we can and we prefer that approaches by the Soviets to this government and other governments were not publicized."

McCloskey referred to announcements yesterday that the Soviet ambassadors in London and Paris called on the respective government leaders to urge an immediate Big Four session. Asked if the U.S. was concerned over the fate of the Suez cease-fire, due to expire next Sunday, McCloskey said the matter was important. But he would not comment when asked if the U.S. feared a breakdown in the Jarring peace talks. On another matter, McCloskey denied emphatically that the U.S. had any intentions of "filling the vacuum" that will be left in the Persian Gulf Oil sheikdoms when Britain withdraws its forces from that region at the end of the year. The question was raised by British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home's announcement in the House of Commons yesterday that the British government was not renewing its treaties with the nine Gulf protectorates which expire on Dec. 31. The Jordanian Embassy announced today that King Hussein's brother, Prince Hassan, will visit Washington privately soon. The Embassy said the purpose of his visit was to accept a 707 jet transport from the Boeing Company in Seattle.

Pressure On Israel To Accept Big Four Guarantee Will Bypass Road To Peace, Says Miller

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--Any pressures on Israel to accept four-power guarantees for a Middle East peace will not lead to peace but constitute "an attempt to bypass the only road to true peace" in that part of the world, which lies in an agreement reached between Israel and the Arab states, said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation. Addressing the executive committee of the Federation today on the eve of the next Big Four meeting, Rabbi Miller said that "Our government must continue to press for a freely negotiated peace agreement arrived at between the adversaries in the Middle East conflict. Any pressures, or even the appearance of pressures, or any attempts to substitute a peace-keeping force composed of outside powers as an alternative to a peace agreement arrived at between the parties to the conflict--smacks of an imposed peace, which, at best, is an illusory peace. We expect that our government, which has consistently opposed an imposed peace, will remain firm on this matter." Rabbi Miller was also highly critical of the Rogers proposals of Dec. 1969, which call for insubstantial changes in the pre-June, 1967 armistice lines between Israel and Egypt. "If the Nixon administration wishes to be realistic about a Mideast peace, the sooner the Rogers proposals are dropped the better are the chances for achieving such a peace."

Grenade Explosion Wounds Two Israeli Soldiers, Civilian, Eight Residents

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--A grenade explosion in the market place at Dier el Balah in the Gaza Strip wounded two Israeli soldiers, an Israeli civilian and eight local residents today. Security forces have started an investigation. An Israeli border policeman discovered the bodies of two Arab terrorists near Kibbutz Baram close to the Lebanese border last night. Weapons and sabotage devices were found near the bodies. The terrorists were believed to have been killed by their own explosives while on a sabotage mission.

Hebron Mayor Critical Of Jordan, Israel's West Bank Activities

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--Sheikh Muhiammad Ali Jaabari, the Mayor of Hebron, criticized Israeli activities on the West Bank but had much harsher words for Jordan yesterday in a speech to Arab notables comprising the Hebron Area Council for Public Affairs. Replying to reproaches by Jordanian ministers that West Bankers were trying to keep that region separate from Jordan, the Sheikh said, "We are not afraid of threats and we do not need a certificate of patriotism from Amman. We shall not allow others to make our decisions." He added, "Our fathers married our mothers," an Arabic idiom meaning that legitimate offspring have the right to speak their own minds. Jaabari and his Council urged the Israeli military government to permit the return of West Bankers deported to Jordan and protested against continued Israeli settlement on the West Bank. Israel announced plans yesterday for the third of a series of civilian settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan. The land has already been reclaimed and irrigation pipes have been laid and plots are being prepared for the construction of housing. The new settlement marks another step in implementation of the so-called Allon Plan, proposed by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, for a fringe of protective settlements along the Jordan.

Malik Urges 'Vigorous Action' To Thwart Israel's Impeding Of Political Settlement

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 2 (JTA)--The Soviet Union has called on the United Nations to take "vigorous actions" to thwart Israel "from frustrating the cause of political settlement," but has stopped short of requesting special sessions of the Big Four, the Security Council or the General Assembly. In a Feb. 28 letter to Secretary General Thant, released today, Soviet Ambassador Yakob A. Malik did not recommend any specific "actions"--such as the special Big Four meeting he is understood to have suggested at the envoy's meeting last Friday. The next Big Four meeting is scheduled for Thursday; the Middle East cease-fire ends Sunday. The USSR, Britain and France favor a special session before then, the Kremlin especially wanting to push through a statement demanding total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In his letter to Thant, Malik contended that Egypt's "consistent" efforts in recent weeks to achieve a political solution in the Mideast had played "the decisive role" in creating "a more favorable situation than ever before." The "bold and realistic" stance by Egypt in agreeing to a peace accord and navigation rights in return for a complete Israeli pullout "was met with much satisfaction by all who sincerely strive for peace in the Middle East," Malik wrote.

But Israel's Feb. 21 response, Malik charged, was "negative," as "Israel openly came out as an aggressor and again showed the whole world that it does not want to give up its plunderous habits and is not stopping short of challenging the United Nations Organization and the peoples of the whole world." The U.S., the Soviet envoy added, "supports Israel's aggressive course," and thus "shares with Israel the entire responsibility for the situation that is now shaping in the Middle East." The result, unless "vigorous actions" are taken by the UN, will be "a military clash." A spokesman for Secretary General Thant said today that the UN chieftain still had the question of an additional Mideast report to the Security Council "under consideration." Thant was scheduled to confer this afternoon with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed H. el-Zayyat. Thant met this morning with the new American ambassador, George Bush, and gave him a verbal comment--undisclosed--on President Nixon's "State of the World" message of last Thursday.

Court Asked To Outlaw Government Building Funds For Church-Controlled Colleges

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA)--The United States Supreme Court was asked today to rule that Federal construction grants to sectarian colleges were unconstitutional under the First Amendment. That position was argued by Leo Pfeffer, special counsel of the American Jewish Congress, as the high court began concurrent hearings on three school aid cases. The first of them, Tilton v. Richardson, challenges application of the Federal Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 to church-controlled institutions. A Federal District Court ruling a year ago upholding construction grants by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to four Catholic colleges in Connecticut is being appealed by 15 Connecticut taxpayers with the aid of the AJ Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union. Pfeffer argued that the lower court erred in its interpretation of the statute and that if not, the original Act violated both the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment.

Pfeffer asserted that it was not the nature of the specific facility at a church related college that should be the determining factor in awarding a construction grant, as the lower court held, but rather the degree of church relationship and control of the college and the role religion played in its purpose and operations. Tomorrow Pfeffer will argue on behalf of six Rhode Island taxpayers challenging a state law permitting part payment of the salaries of teachers of secular subjects in parochial elementary schools. The Federal District court in Providence held that statute unconstitutional. That decision is being appealed by the state and nine parochial school teachers and parents. Also scheduled for hearing tomorrow is the appeal by six educational, religious and civil rights organizations against a similar Pennsylvania law upheld by a Federal court in 1969.

Schumann Says French Government Continues To Support Jarring

BRUSSELS, March 2 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann of France said here today that his government "supports, supported and will support Dr. (Gunnar V.) Jarring, whose task it is to implement integrally all of (Security Council) Resolution 242." Schumann, speaking at a luncheon honoring European Foreign Ministers, added in answer to a question that developments in the Middle East had confirmed the wisdom of France's policy there.

In Jordan It Is The Sound Of Battle Against Terrorist Concentrations

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--Sounds of battle have been heard in the Jordan Valley during the past two days by Israeli settlers in the Beisan region. They said that Jordanian Army units appear to be using mortars and small arms in a systematic effort to destroy guerrilla concentrations in the region and drive them out of the area. Jordanian farmers who recently returned to their villages and fields in the border region have reportedly been issued arms by the Jordanian Army. Amman seems anxious to prevent terrorist activities on its soil against Israel, at least as long as the current cease-fire and peace talks are in effect. The Jordanian government is also very much concerned that the farmers cultivate their crops in the fertile valley. Until last September's civil war in Jordan, the villages and fields along the border were deserted because the terrorists were entrenched in the area.

New Truce Violations By Egypt Cited By Israel; Two Overflights Within 24 Hours

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA)--Israel complained of new Egyptian truce violations today to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Suez Canal zone. The complaint referred to overflights by two Egyptian Sukhoi-7 bombers of Israeli positions during the past 24 hours. The second overflight occurred at noon today, local time. The complaint did not mention the lofting by Egyptian forces of an observation balloon to photograph Israeli positions. The balloon was sent up twice today. But Israel does not consider it a cease-fire violation because the balloon remained on the Egyptian side of the cease-fire line. Israeli sources said the intensive Egyptian reconnaissance activity this week indicated nervousness as the cease-fire deadline approaches.

Union Says It Will Continue Strike Against NCJW 'Until They Settle'

NEW YORK, March 2, (JTA)--A spokesman for Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the union members were prepared to continue their strike against the National Council of Jewish Women, now in its second week, "until they settle." The strikers, 60 clerical and professional workers, have rejected seven times the Council's offer of \$100-a-week minimum wage effective in July. Their contract expired Dec. 31. The strike is the first ever staged against the NCJW. The union spokesman, Erik Strong, criticized the Council for paying a \$55 weekly minimum for clerical help and a \$6,500 annual minimum for professional staffers, with the maximum for a professional at \$10,500. In addition, he criticized the pension plan as "terrible," the health plan as "bad" and the overtime compensation as insufficient. The Council, he charged, has an "enormous" personnel turnover because it pays "notoriously low wages."

Hannah Stein, executive director of the Council, told the JTA "We've made what we consider to be a very fair offer. It's not temendous, but it's reasonable." She said that in actual practice, the lowest-paid clerical help--file clerks--were receiving at least \$80 a week, and the lowest-paid mailroom boy \$90, which she called "a reasonable amount for a totally untrained boy who comes into the mailroom." Mrs. Stein said that although the annual minimum for professionals was \$10,500, there were professionals at the Council receiving as much as \$12,500. She praised the Council's pension plan, which she said was 97.3 percent paid by the organization, and the health plan, which she said was fully paid by the organization and included up to 60 days' sick leave. Mrs. Stein charged the union with failing to notify the Council that it was going to walk out. Strong, the union spokesman, said the Council had been notified through an announcement in the union's publication. Mrs. Stein, noting that Council work was "piling up" in the "emergency situation," observed that the 100,000-member Council has a convention scheduled for March 28 in Detroit. The union, she claimed, "pulled this (strike) just to make it more uncomfortable for us."

Hebrew Union College, USC Presidents And 55 U.S. Educators To Hold Conclave In Israel

LOS ANGELES, March 2 (JTA)--Dr. John R. Hubbard, a new president of the University of Southern California will leave Friday on his first visit to Israel in the company of Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, new acting president of the Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion. They are going to a conference of educators from among the 55 American institutions of higher learning which are in the consortium supporting and engaging in archaeological activities of the college's Biblical and Archaeological School in Jerusalem. The conference, which opens March 8, is being held at the Jerusalem school, which receives support from the Smithsonian Institution of Washington. Dr. Gottschalk, former dean of the college's California School, became the college's new head following the death Feb. 12 of Dr. Nelson Glueck, USC member of the consortium and HUC's long-time president. Dr. Gottschalk, who last August became its chancellor, Dr. Hubbard, the USC vice-president and provost for a year before succeeding Dr. Topping, said that its academic ties with HUC will become even stronger this year with the opening of the college's new California School adjacent to the USC campus. The USC president will also join the other American educators at the consortium conference in spending much of their time touring the Jewish State from one end to the other.

Nationwide Plan Set To Send 250,000 Passover Cards To Soviet Jewish Activists

LOS ANGELES, March 2 (JTA)--The Southern California Council for Soviet Jews and the California Students for Soviet Jews plan to send 250,000 Passover cards to Soviet Jewish activists during the next two months. Spokesmen for the groups said the action was part of a nationwide card-sending campaign by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. They recalled that two weeks ago Soviet emigre Luba Bershadskaya declared at Sinai Temple here: "You cannot imagine how much courage and spirit the (1970) cards gave us when we felt alone in the Soviet Union." She said she had received 60 cards in Moscow and 1,000 more later in Israel. "The Russians kept 900 cards and only let me have 60 of them," she said, "but they knew that Luba Bershadskaya had 1,000 friends in America. They couldn't touch me after that." Another recent Soviet emigre, Dr. Esther Aisenstadt, said at Temple Israel here: "The most important thing you can do is send holiday greetings to your Jewish brothers in the Soviet Union. When I received them, it was then that I realized that the Russians would never defeat us. The cards gave us courage and hope." The new drive--the fourth of its kind--features cards reading: "From the Jews of the U.S. to the Jews of the USSR: We have not forgotten you." The campaign is being launched in Europe, South America, Africa and Israel in addition to the U.S.

Rabbinical Alliance Opposed To Year Round Daylight Savings Time

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America today urged Governor Nelson Rockefeller to use his influence to defeat a proposed bill submitted by State Senator Roy M. Goodman, a Republican of Manhattan, which would establish year-round Daylight Savings Time in New York State, on the grounds that it would cause exceeding hardship to Orthodox Jews. At the same time the Alliance urged Sen. Goodman to withdraw his bill. According to Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Alliance, Jews cannot commence their morning prayers and don their phylacteries, tefillin, prior to about one hour before sunrise. Should Daylight Savings Time be in effect during the winter months, it would place the vast majority of workers in a position of not being able to perform these sacred commandments and fulfill their cherished religious obligations, warned Rabbi Gross. The Alliance called on its member rabbis in the New York State area to use all their influences and those of their member congregants to defeat this bill.

Chief Rabbinate To Decide On 'Vienna Conversions' On Merits Of Each Case

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA)--The Chief Rabbinate took an equivocal stand today on the "Vienna conversions" performed by members of a religious court there on the non-Jewish spouses of immigrants bound for Israel. The rabbinate, which has questioned the qualifications of some of the rabbis performing the conversions, said today that it would not recognize them but at the same time would not declare them invalid, and would decide the issue on the merits of each case.