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WMCA To Continue JAL Commercials Despite ADL's Charge That Airline Boycotts Israel

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--Radio Station WMCA, owned by R. Peter Straus, is eager to continue carrying Japan Air Lines commercials despite charges by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that JAL is participating in an anti-Israel boycott, a spokesman for the airline's advertising agency confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The spokesman, representing the Botsford Ketchum ad agency, said JAL's six-week spring radio campaign on several local stations ended last Saturday but would be renewed at some future date. The spokesman declined to specify to the JTA when the campaign would be renewed. He denied, as have spokesmen for JAL, that the airline is engaging in an anti-Israel boycott.

WMCA's acceptance of JAL advertising was pointed up dramatically on the Jan. 27 edition of the station's late-night live talk-show hosted by Barry Gray, a staunch supporter of Israel. The guests that night were five officials of the ADL -- Benjamin R. Epstein, national director; Arnold Forster, general counsel; Oscar Cohen, program director; Alex Miller, community services director, and Nat Belth, public relations director. During a time-out, the station aired a JAL commercial, after which Forster advised Gray that the airline was boycotting Israel. Gray expressed surprise at the information, and promised to take up the matter of JAL's advertising campaign with the station's management. The station, however, has advised JAL's ad agency that it wants to get its advertising again the next time around. Forster, advised of WMCA's decision by the JTA, said "it speaks for itself."

200 Soviet Jews Petition Russians To Let Them Leave; Rusinek Allowed To Emigrate

LONDON, March 4 (JTA)--A petition by 200 Soviet Jews calling for the right to emigrate to Israel has been submitted to the committee which is organizing the Soviet Communist Party congress scheduled for March 31. According to reports reaching here from Moscow, the petition calls on the congress to use its offices to facilitate freedom of emigration and, meanwhile, to protect the applicants for departure from harassment by local and provincial officials. There was today still no official confirmation that 30 Soviet Jewish activists had been granted permission to leave the Soviet Union. (In New York, Mrs. Alla Rusinek who left the Soviet Union last November for Israel, reported today that she learned that her husband, Josef, has been granted permission to leave the Soviet Union and will join her in Israel. Mrs. Rusinek stated that a week after their marriage she was told by soviet officials that she had to leave Russia within six days without her husband. She is currently visiting in the United States.)

Shazar To Meet With Nixon On Mideast; Will Be Guest Of Lubavitcher Rabbi Purim Eve

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar, who left today for the United States, said before emplaning that he would meet with President Nixon in Washington on next Monday. Standing on a red carpet, Shazar said he would tell Nixon that the Middle East situation was "becoming more complicated from day to day." Of Nixon's recent "State of the World" message, in which he rejected an imposed settlement but re-endorsed virtually total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, Shazar said he had read and studied the text "carefully" and "would like to talk with him" about it. Shazar's official reason for going to the U.S. is to open the 1971 Israel Bonds campaign's inaugural dinner in Miami Beach tonight. He said here that he would also spend Purim eve next Wednesday as the guest of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson of Brooklyn. The Israeli president was given strict security protection at the airport and the other passengers on the El Al plane were searched. During Shazar's absence, Ruben Barkat, Speaker of the Knesset, will serve as Acting President.

Report Rogers' Letter To Riad Assures UAR That U.S. Trying To 'Persuade' Israel

LONDON, March 4 (JTA)--A diplomatic offensive was launched this week by the United States to assure Egypt that the Nixon administration is doing all it can to "persuade" Israel to soften its adamant position that it will not return to its pre-June 1967 borders. According to Cairo sources here, U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers sent a letter this week to Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad apprising him of the American approach. The key word in this reported letter appeared to be "persuade" rather than "pressure." According to Cairo sources, Rogers' letter also suggested that Egypt be patient and use restraint while the United States is trying to achieve this approach with Israel. (In Washington, the State Department today would not confirm whether Rogers had sent such a letter to Riad.)

President Nixon, in his "State of the World" message to Congress last Thursday, had stated that the Arab governments "will not accept a settlement that does not provide for recovery of territories lost in the 1967 war." He added that without such an acceptance, "no settlement can have the essential quality of assured permanence." It was also in this message that Nixon called for "insubstantial" changes in Israel's pre-war borders. Meanwhile, there was a report that officials in Cairo let it be known that Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal had been placed on full alert. Diplomatic observers here, however, tended to view this more as a war of nerves than an indication that shooting would break out when the cease-fire expires March 7. The expectation among diplomatic circles is that there will be a de facto continuation of the cease-fire rather than a formal extension.

Thant Report On Mideast May Not Be Released Until Shortly Before Cease-Fire Expires

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 4 (JTA)--A spokesman for the United Nations said today that a report by Secretary-General U Thant on the Middle East was "still under consideration," and would be issued "when he finds it desirable and necessary to do so." That's progress report, which repor-

tedly was due before the current cease-fire expires March 7, appeared today to be hanging fire until the Big Four conclude their meeting and President Nixon holds his press conference tonight in which he will deal with foreign policy. It is understood, for instance, that U.S. envoy George Bush has been asking Thant to make his Security Council report before the Big Four meet. One non-American Western diplomat observed in this connection that "substance is more important than timing." He added that he was "disappointed" at the "unyielding tone" of Israel's Feb. 21 statement rejecting total withdrawal from the captured Arab lands; it was "unnecessary for Israel to spell out some of the details with such toughness," the diplomat explained. Iran and Rumania issued statements on the Mideast today. The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that in view of Egypt's "positive attitude," Israel should "reciprocate by taking positive steps in the direction of peace and tranquility."

If Israel should "persist in its refusal to implement" Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, and "maintain its negative attitude towards" the U.S. initiative and the "proposals" of negotiator Gunnar V. Jarring, Iran "will see no alternative but to condemn the inconciliatory attitude of Israel." The Rumanian News Agency, in an authorized statement, said its government "welcomes with satisfaction the efforts and initiatives of the United Arab Republic" and "cannot understand the Israeli government's stiff position of stipulating conditions of a nature to prevent a negotiated settlement, of failing to show the necessary receptivity along the line of finding such a settlement." In the continuing controversy over Israeli practices in Jerusalem, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah advised Thant yesterday that "There has been no confiscation nor any expropriation of lands...; neither is there any intention on the part of the government of Israel to take such steps in the future."

Beigin Donies Putting Out 'Feelers' For Gahal Return To Government

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin denied last night that he was putting out "feelers" for the return of the Gahal faction to the government. Gahal quit the national unity coalition of Premier Golda Meir last summer in protest against the government's acceptance of the Jarring talks and the cease-fire. Beigin was quoted earlier this week as saying that Gahal was ready to consider conditions the government might offer it to rejoin the coalition. Beigin, chairman of Gahal and leader of its Herut wing, said his intention was to form a coalition of government and opposition personalities for a propaganda campaign in the United States against the Rogers Plan. He said that did not mean Gahal was seeking to rejoin the government. He added, however, that if Gahal was approached with proposals in that direction, "we shall study it."

Israel's 'Black Panthers' Minuscule But Reflect Genuine Social Ills, Report Says

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--The news service "Black Panthers" who have emerged in Jerusalem recently reflect genuine social ills but are being exploited by "alien" political groups while the news media grossly exaggerates their numbers and importance, the National Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency stated in a report published here today. The committee, sponsored by the Welfare Ministry, claimed that the political groups "superimposed on the Black Panthers an ideology which is not only alien to them but also may have an inciting effect." Yesterday's demonstration by "Black Panthers" and other disaffected groups outside City Hall was, by all appearances, a protest by youth against poverty which took the form of a revolt against the Establishment, observers said. The demonstrators carried banners reading "No More Living Five In One Room While Immigrants Get Free Apartments" and "The Fight Of Blacks In America Is Our Fight." But there is no evidence of links between Israel's "Black Panthers" and the black militant extremist organization of that name in the United States. Nor was the Jewish Telegraphic Agency able to find any American blacks involved in the local movement.

As JTA reported yesterday, the "Panthers" have been supported by Matzpen, a minuscule but highly vocal extreme Left group whose bitter anti-Israeli ideology has totally discredited it here. There is no indication however that the "Panthers," youngsters from the slum quarters, largely of Sephardic (Oriental) background, subscribe to Matzpen. They are supported by other Leftist groups. According to the committee's report, the "Panthers" number no more than 20 "youth on the fringes" of society who have so far defied attempts by local and governmental agencies to rehabilitate them. The committee said their numbers included delinquents and some habitual criminals. It called for comprehensive planning of preventive and rehabilitative measures by the Jerusalem municipality and the Welfare Ministry and increased financial appropriations for that purpose. Most people share the committee's view that news media coverage of their activities has blown the "Panthers" up out of all proportion to their numbers and significance. But there is considerable disagreement over the policies adopted by the authorities and police toward them. Criticism has been directed against the preventive arrest of 12 suspected "Panther" leaders here before yesterday's demonstration.

Terrorists Fire On Galilee Police Station; Rocket Fired On Israeli Patrol

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Small-arms fire was opened from Lebanese territory last night on the Zariit police station in the Upper Galilee. On the Golan Heights, a bazooka rocket was fired on an Israeli patrol in the Boutamiyyeh region. There were no casualties. Two El Fatah terrorists--Nihad al-Akbar, 25, and Selim Fittikh, 24--were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Nablus military court today for participating in the activities of a "murder corporation." That group was described as assassins who murdered Nablus residents suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

Memorial Service Held For Soldiers Whose Place Of Burial Is Unknown

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--A memorial service was held here today for all soldiers whose place of burial is unknown. The day--the seventh of Adar--is the anniversary of the death of Moses, whose own gravesite is unknown. At the ceremony at the Central Military Cemetery, a monument was unveiled in memory of the 69 crew members of the Israeli submarine Dakar, which vanished without a trace in the eastern Mediterranean in 1968. Attending the ceremony, in addition to the bereaved families, were Knesset Speaker Reuven Barkat, acting president in the absence of Zalman Shazar; Premier Golda Meir, and hundreds of other mourners.

Centrist Parties Take Pro-Israel Stand; Say Anti-Zionism Code For Anti-Semitism

PARIS, March 4 (JTA)--A number of centrist French political parties--including the Democratic Center, the Radicals, the Independents and the Socialists--have taken advantage of the upcoming municipal elections to make known their staunch pro-Israeli positions. The elections are scheduled for March 15. Leading centrist candidates on several of the states spoke out last night at a meeting sponsored by a local Zionist organization. They stressed that "anti-Zionism" was a modernized code-phrase for anti-Semitism and that it must be fought on all fronts. The speakers included Paul Pernin, president of the Democratic Center; Roger Friedmann, president of the Paris Federation of the Radical Party, and diplomat Pierre-Eugene Gilbert, ambassador to Israel from 1953 to 1959.

Moro's Visit To Israel Welcomed; Israelis Have Immense Good Will Toward Italy

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--High level government circles welcomed the official visit today of Italian Foreign Minister Aldo Moro as proof that a nation can maintain friendly relations with both sides in the Middle East dispute. The circles noted that Italy has been more successful than most countries in maintaining an equilibrium between its interests in the Arab world and its friendship for Israel. They said that while Italian diplomats are very active in the Arab states, Rome has managed to avoid a policy of blind identification with Arab interests. Moro is returning the visit to Italy made by Foreign Minister Abba Eban last year. Israeli circles said that there was immense good will toward Italy which stems partly from Italian policy in the Middle East and is in part a remembrance of the Italian peoples' conduct toward the Jews during World War II.

16 Latin American Countries Represented At Brussels Conference On Soviet Jewry

BUENOS AIRES, March 4 (JTA)--Dr. Isaac Goldenberg and Mark Turkov president and secretary respectively of the Latin American Jewish Congress reported today on the Brussels conference stating that 16 Latin American countries were represented there. "By its echo, this was the most important Jewish assembly in many years," they said. Both complained that news agencies were more concerned to exploit the sensational elements of the conference rather than report on substantial achievements. They underscored the fact that the conference had an impact in the Soviet Union and that the press there was forced to vigorously attack the conference.

Socialist Leader Says Italy Must Work Actively To Help Cause Of Mideast Peace

ROME, March 4 (JTA)--Giacomo Mancini, secretary of the Socialist Party, said today that the government must actively work for the achievement of peace in the Middle East. During a foreign affairs debate in the Lower House, Mancini declared that "good will from the sidelines is not enough." He stated that "Israel's longing for peace and security meets a wall of bitter feeling of revenge. Hence, the European Community should help to overcome the obstacles to peace."

Sabin Denies He Told Newsmen Nasser Was Murdered By Army Officers

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Prof. Albert Sabin flatly denied today that he ever told an American television newsmen that he had information that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt did not die a natural death but was murdered by disaffected Army officers. Prof. Sabin, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science, admitted that he talked to American television journalists but claimed that what he told them differed from what was broadcast in his name. Dr. Sabin said he told the journalists that he knew of a group of Egyptian Army officers who were dissatisfied with the Soviet role in their country and thought the Russians should be more active in the war against Israel. He said he became aware of the group when he visited Egypt in 1968, before settling in Israel, and that its existence was confirmed by an Egyptian officer who deserted to Europe before Nasser died last year. Sabin admitted that this led him to the "assumption" that Nasser may have been murdered but he never stated it as a fact.

Guarded Satisfaction Expressed Over U.S. Textile Import Controls

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--Textile industrialists are expressing guarded satisfaction over the agreement on American textile import controls signed Tuesday night with the visiting United States mission. The official government statement last night said only that "it was agreed that Israel will not exceed fixed levels in two categories of knit and woven cotton apparel exports to the U.S." Limitations were previously applied to 50 categories of cotton products. Reducing them to two liberates two-thirds of Israel's current cotton exports, but that part of her trade is insubstantial. The most important question is what is going to happen to controls on wool and synthetics, which account for the bulk of Israel's shipments.

U.S. Asked To Authorize Thirty Thousand Visas For Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--Rep. Edward I. Koch, New York Democrat, introduced a bill today authorizing the State Department to issue 30,000 visas for admission of Soviet Jews into the United States. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee which is headed by New York Democrat Emanuel Celler. Koch pointed out that the U.S. special refugee quota of 10,200 visas for the eastern hemisphere has been over-subscribed for the past two years. The bill, Koch said, was a form of challenge to the Soviet Union "to open wide her doors and permit the Jews who are vilified there to leave. Enactment of the bill will be both a real invitation and an expression of conscience."

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

Big Four Meet But Issue No Communique; Scheduled To Continue Meeting Friday

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--The Big Four ambassadors to the United Nations met for three hours today but failed to issue any communique at the end of the session. They are scheduled to meet again tomorrow afternoon and are expected to issue a statement then on the Middle East. Meanwhile, a diplomatic source said it was his "understanding" that United Nations Secretary General U Thant would release his report on the Mideast just prior to the Big Four communique. The feeling today among some observers of the Mideast scene was that the Big Four were waiting to assess President Nixon's press conference tonight at which he will discuss Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

