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Thant: No 'Fundamental Conflict' Between His, U.S. Views On Peacekeeping Force

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 17 (JTA)--Secretary General Thant caused some eyebrows to be raised here today when he said through a spokesman that there was no "fundamental conflict" between his views on Middle East peacekeeping and those of the United States and the Soviet Union. At a press conference on Jan. 18, Thant said that "active participation" by the Big Two in a Mideast force would "create more problems than it would solve," and that he had "personal doubts about the wisdom" of a Big Four force for at least a decade. In Washington yesterday, Secretary of State William P. Rogers reaffirmed U.S. support for a Mideast force and a "responsible" American role in it. The United Nations spokesman declined repeatedly to elaborate on Thant's new comment, leading one newsmen to observe, to general laughter: "This creates more problems than it solves." The spokesman did admit that Thant was "fully aware" of Rogers' remarks yesterday but would give no specific comment on them. The spokesman caused another flurry when he said Thant's statement today was based on consultations "in detail" with the U.S. and the USSR since Jan. 18 and that the American participant was Ambassador Charles W. Yost. That diplomat was replaced on March 1 by George Bush, meaning that the consultations with the U.S. on Mideast peacekeeping that resulted in today's statement by Thant took place at least 17 days ago.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent if Thant felt it was unnecessary for him to confer with the new U.S. representative before issuing such a statement, the UN spokesman replied: "I am confident that he feels this, yes." An American official queried by the JTA brushed aside the matter, noting that "the President makes policy" and UN ambassadors differ only in "style." On the seemingly opposing views toward peacekeeping by Thant and the U.S., the diplomat declined specific comment but indicated that there was not as much divergence on views as might be gleaned from public pronouncements. There were further charges and counter-charges today on the issue of Israel's construction plans in East Jerusalem. Ambassador Jaime de Pinles of Spain expressed to Thant his government's "concern and chagrin" over the plans, as they were "designed to change the true nature and alter the status of that city." Such measures, he continued, "are aimed at laying the foundations which could serve to support and justify an annexation which, if it should occur, would confront the international community with a fait accompli." In a separate letter to Thant, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah again denied that the proposed construction would in any way impinge on Moslem liberties. Thant will confer here tomorrow morning with Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Mrs. Meir, Beigin, Sapir Confer; Report Meeting Aids In Re-Establishing Relations

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir met for an hour today with Gahal opposition leaders Menachem Beigin and Joseph Sapir. Political sources said the meeting went a long way toward re-establishing a normal working relationship between the government and the opposition following yesterday's stormy debate in the Knesset and the Gahal walk-out. The sources insisted that the meeting had been scheduled earlier in the week and did not stem from yesterday's events. But bitterness persisted between Gahal and the Meir government. Beigin, who heads Gahal's militant Herut faction, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that yesterday's 62-0 vote of confidence in the Meir government was meaningless. The issue was the territorial policy stated by Premier Meir in an interview published in the London Times last Saturday. Gahal and two other opposition groups walked out when the government refused to permit a secret ballot on two no-confidence motions. A secret ballot would have allowed MKs to vote their conscience irrespective of party discipline. Beigin introduced a private bill in the Knesset today calling for dissolution of the Knesset in preparation for new elections. He suggested June 15 as the election date. The Herut chief has been urging new elections on grounds that the present government has no mandate to decide whether or not to yield on the issue of withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Names Of Seven Visitors To Communist Party Official Identified

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--An informed Jewish source disclosed today the names of seven of the 18 Soviet Jews who tried without success yesterday to speak to an official of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on behalf of Jews who have been held in detention for the past nine months without a trial. According to the source, the group included the wives of Grigory Ilya Butman, Lassa Kaminsky, Lev Naumovich Yagman, Mikhail Korenblit, Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever, and the mother of Hillel Shur, all from Leningrad, and the wife of Semeon Abramovich Levit from Kishinev. The group visited the headquarters of the Communist Party Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

Soviet Jews Arrive In Israel; Report Thaw In Soviet Attitude Toward Emigration

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--A large group of Soviet Jews who arrived in Israel today said there was a noticeable thaw in the Russian attitude toward visa applicants and in the treatment of emigrating Jews by Soviet authorities. The number of new arrivals was not immediately disclosed. They included a group of Jews from Riga, Latvia, who reported that the head of the Ovir (visa office) there was removed from his post because he had mistreated a Jewish woman who came to inquire about her visa application. (In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles S. Bray confirmed today that there has been "some increase" in emigration of Soviet Jewry, though not as much as reported in the general press. He called the increase "a positive sign.") Other newcomers reported that Soviet officials behaved more politely to visa applicants than hitherto. A group from Vilna, Lithuania, said that for the first time they were treated correctly by officials. The Jews reported that applicants whose visa requests had been turned down were being advised by authorities to apply again. In some cases, applica-

tions more than a year old were being reconsidered, they said. The incident in Riga involved Mrs. Feiga Simakova who was part of a group of 30 Jews who went to the local Ovir recently to inquire about the fate of their visa applications. According to a report received by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week, Mrs. Simakova was insulted by an official named Kaija and was jailed for ten days. The arrivals from Riga today did not mention a jailing.

American Histadrut Cultural Exchange Institute Conducts Conference On Israel

HARRIMAN, N.Y., March 17 (JTA)--Israel, with her limited resources, has done more to help the underdeveloped nations of the world than have the major industrial powers, Akiva Eger, director of Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute in Tel Aviv, told the 11th annual Arden House Conference of the American Histadrut Culture Exchange Institute. The conference theme was "Israel Among the Nations." During the past decade, Eger said, Israel "trained some 17,000 Asians and Africans in many fields--agriculture, medicine and cooperatives--and about 60 percent of these trainees were taught by Histadrut and its subdivisions." Addressing 80 scholars, teachers, trade unionists, businessmen and community leaders who attended the conference last weekend, Eger reported that 2,500 graduates of the Asian-African Institute currently hold important posts in their respective countries and are a living bridge between their countries and Israel. On the other hand, he added, the United Nations Development Decade -- the 1960's -- was a "complete failure" although some \$10 billion annually was provided by industrialized countries for the development of those seeking aid. The results, Eger said, were minimal because of lack of understanding of the basic structure of the underdeveloped societies.

Victor Reuther, international affairs director of the United Automobile Workers, scored the "immorality of the big powers" who had the arrogance "to (try to) determine the basis of settlement in the Middle East." Reuther said there is no possibility of a lasting peace unless both sides agree, the situation being similar to that of labor-management disputes, where a settlement from the outside is doomed to failure. Prof. Marver H. Bernstein of the Woodrow Wilson School of Political Science in Princeton University, discussing peace efforts in the Middle East, said that wars and tensions were due to the "irreconcilable claims" of the Jews and Arabs. He pointed out three possibilities for peace: one that would be imposed by the Big Powers, which would not be lasting; one based on Israel's becoming "part of the Arab world," but this was impossible as Israel was a Mediterranean country that was rapidly becoming industrialized and had religious and other ties with the West; or the situation could be "defused" of its most explosive issues.

For the time being the last course was the most feasible, Bernstein said, and Israel is trying to do this by such means as fostering West Bank economic development. Menachem S. Aron, former editor of the now defunct magazine, "Minority of One," stated that the "Zionist movement was the first and most successful movement of national liberation; he noted that the new society of Israel "was not the offspring of a hereditary elite" but of people who lifted themselves by their own bootstraps. Uri Bloch, American representative of the Histadrut Executive, said the international activities of Histadrut in the free world played an important part in Israel's foreign relations. Its constructive achievements in the past half-century have made it "the focus of attention" of the free trade unions, which have rallied to Israel's side.

Galili Assures Israelis They Will Have Final Say On Any Border 'Map'

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--Israel Galili, Minister-Without-Portfolio and an influential Labor member of Premier Golda Meir's coalition Cabinet, assured Israelis tonight that they would have the final say on a "map" of the country's recommended borders. He stressed that the time for such map-making had not yet arrived and that the government will not put the issue to the populace at the convenience of the political opposition. Galili, addressing the political committee of the Labor Alignment, said he was convinced that Israel's strength, coupled with political acumen, would enable the nation to retain those captured Arab areas it deems essential for security. Labor Party secretary Aryeh Eliav told the meeting that the policy being followed by the government does not require new elections, as recommended by Gahal, the leading opposition party. Whatever the government has done, he said, was in accordance with its mandate from the last elections.

First Jewish Chief Justice Appointed In Manitoba Province

WINNIPEG, Canada, March 17 (JTA)--Justice Samuel Freedman has been appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba. He will be the first Jewish Provincial Chief Justice in Canada's history. The new Chief Justice will succeed C. Rhodes Smith, who is retiring at the age of 75. Justice Freedman, born in Zhitomir, Russia, 62 years ago, came to Canada with his parents at the age of three. He was named to the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in 1952 and to the Manitoba Court of Appeals in 1960, and served as the Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. The newly appointed Chief Justice has long been active in the fields of Jewish education, involved with the local committees dealing with The Hebrew University, and in Jewish and pro-Israel activities. He is also a member of the Board of Governors of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Feigin Awarded Palmach Badge; Jewish Youths Publishing 'Underground' Paper In USSR

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--Maj. Grische Feigin, the former Red Army hero who returned his medals and agitated successfully for permission to migrate to Israel, was awarded today the Badge of the Palmach, named after the Jewish fighting force of World War II and the War of Independence. The presentation was made by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, himself a former Palmach commander. Allon said the badge was meant as a replacement for the medals Feigin had returned to the Kremlin in protest against the treatment of Soviet Jews. Allon added that he had been informed that Jewish youngsters in Leningrad were publishing an "underground" newspaper, using as its motto the promise made by Allon on his visit there: "If I forget thee, Soviet Jewry, let my right hand forget its cunning." The Deputy Premier also said he had received a Hebrew poem, titled "The Song of the Redemption Fighters," from a resident of Moscow.

Bills Introduced To Grant Citizenship To Jews Abroad Who Want To Settle In Israel

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--Two bills were introduced in the Knesset today to grant Israeli citizenship to Jews abroad who want to settle in Israel but are prevented by circumstances beyond their control. One bill was submitted by the government, the other by Gahal MK Benjamin Halevy. Yesterday, the government proposed an amendment to the citizenship law that would automatically issue a "Teudat Oish"--immigration certificate--to any Jew in Russia who expresses a desire to emigrate to Israel. The measure was drafted on the basis of representations made by Soviet immigrants here. The citizenship bills are also aimed primarily at Russian Jews. The government measure, presented to the Knesset by Interior Minister Joseph Burg, would give the Minister discretion to grant citizenship by proxy in certain cases. Such a measure, it is believed, might be helpful to Soviet Jews who are having trouble obtaining exit visas. Halevy's bill was similar. The MK protested because the government's bill was introduced first though he claimed to have originated the idea of proxy citizenship. Burg conceded that Halevy had been one of the first persons to deal with the subject. His bill was referred to committee.

Three Jewish Historical Societies Active In Western Canada

VANCOUVER, March 17 (JTA)--The Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, recently incorporated here, was initiated through the joint efforts of the National Council of Jewish Women, Vancouver Section, and the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region. It was reported today by A.J. Arnold, Western Executive Director of the CJC. A 5-week orientation seminar on the background of Jewish history in British Columbia and on methods of collecting and collating material of historic interest is now being conducted by the Society in cooperation with the Vancouver Jewish Community Center. This is the third Jewish Historical group to be established in Western Canada. The Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada has been functioning successfully since 1968 under the auspices of the Archives and Research Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, Western Region. In Calgary a Jewish Historical Society has been established under the auspices of the Jewish Community Council, and is working on a project to record the history of the Rumsey-Trochu Jewish farm settlement in Alberta. Considerable progress has been made in gathering material and an exhibit and program are being planned for the near future.

220 Israeli Educators To Serve At Summer Youth Camps

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--Israeli educators will arrive here during the latter part of June and will serve as counselors and program specialists in a variety of summer youth camps under the auspices of the American Zionist Youth Foundation. It was announced here today by William Levine, Executive Director of the American Zionist Youth Foundation. The arrangements in Israel for the program, now in its seventh year, have been made by the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. The Israeli men and women who will contribute to a strengthened presence of Israel in the Jewish summer camps throughout the U.S. and Canada, will serve on the staffs of the camps as general counselors and as program specialists in such areas as pioneering, music, dance and crafts. They come from kibbutzim, towns and cities all over Israel where they are employed as teachers, instructors and other positions. Approximately 60 of the 220 Israeli educators will serve on staff of the seven Ramah camps of the Conservative movement, 20 Massad camps, 80 communal camps sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers through the National Jewish Welfare Board, 15 in youth camps of the Reform movement, 20 in camps of Zionist youth movements and the rest in other institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

Six Terrorists Killed In Clashes With Israeli Patrols; Two On 'Wanted List'

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--Four terrorists were killed in widely separated clashes with Israeli patrols last night and this morning. No Israeli casualties were reported. A military spokesman said two terrorists on the "wanted list" were gunned down this morning near the Shatti refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Two more terrorists were shot to death on a ridge of Mt. Hermon last night where a gang from Lebanon was attempting to infiltrate Israeli territory. Israeli units, firing after the retreating gang, said they may have inflicted more casualties. A military spokesman reported that a terrorist was killed earlier in the week in the El Bouraj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The bodies of two terrorists were discovered in the Strip near Beth Lahiyah along with a quantity of firearms. They were believed to have been killed in a clash between rival gangs.

55 Private Schools, Including Four Jewish Day Schools, To Receive Provincial Aid

WINNIPEG, Canada, March 17 (JTA)--The Province of Manitoba will extend financial aid to the province's 55 private and parochial schools within a year, Premier Edward Schreyer announced. Four Jewish day schools, all located here, will receive assistance under the plan. The question of government aid has been a controversial issue in Manitoba since 1890, when the provincial government stopped its support of the French and Roman Catholic schools of the French Canadian minority who were the earliest settlers. There were unconfirmed reports that the three Jewish ministers of Schreyer's New Democratic Party (moderate Socialist) Cabinet had opposed such support, though one of them, Saul Cherniack, Q.C., is himself a graduate and a former president of the I.L. Peretz Day School and another, Saul Miller, sends his children to a Jewish day school. Miller, the Minister of Education, earlier had stated that the government did not plan legislation on this issue in the current year--a statement now contradicted by the Premier's announcement. The Premier's statement may increase the pressure for aid to private and parochial schools in the Province of Ontario, which will go to the polls in provincial elections within the year.

24-Year-Old Arab Sentenced To 25 Years In Prison; Captured A Year Ago

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--A 24-year-old Arab was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment yesterday by a military tribunal sitting at Kuneitra. The court found Abdoul Latif Yousouf Kadri guilty of armed infiltration into Israel. The youth was captured a year ago in a clash with an Israeli patrol on the Golan Heights when he was wounded. A large quantity of military equipment was found on his person.

Former Riga Jew Continues Hunger Strike In Front Of White House

WASHINGTON, March 17 (JTA)--Yosef Schneider, the former Riga Jew staging a hunger strike outside the White House, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I feel good because I'm doing something for the Jews of the Soviet Union." The 24-year-old Israeli, who began his scheduled week-long fast-vigil Monday, is stationed within a simulated "prisoner's cage" and is wearing a large black-and-yellow Star of David on his sweater. A sign within the cage reads: "I am a Jew from Russia. March 14th I began my fast. I will continue till Mr. Nixon speaks to me." Schneider, who has lived in Tel Aviv with his wife and son since late 1969, added to the JTA correspondent that the President, as "protector of the free world," could raise the issue with the Kremlin leaders. He said he had waited eight years for his emigration application to be approved.

Schneider is accompanied by Izzy Danziger, a political science freshman at Brooklyn (N.Y.) College and a member of the Jewish Defense League. Danziger, wearing striped simulated prison garb, holds a large prison "key" with the words "Mr. Nixon you can save Soviet Jewry." Across Pennsylvania Avenue in Lafayette Park, a rented van with Maryland license plates bears a sign reading "Let My People Go" and photographs of arrested Soviet Jews Ruth Aleksandrovich, Arkady Shpilberg, Boris Mafstler and Mikhail Shepshelovich. Also on the van is a reproduction of the JDL's 10-point anti-Soviet program, including a call for "nonviolent civil disobedience." The van was rented by the members of the so-called 14-21 Committee planning a rally for Soviet Jewry next Sunday in the park. The participating groups are the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry, the Washington Committee for the Release of Captive Soviet Jewry, Student Activists for Soviet Jewry, the American Movement for Jewish Rights, the American Jewish Archives, the New York Union of Jewish Students and the JDL.

Union Of Orthodox Rabbis Says Legalized Abortions Are Still Violation Of Principles

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--Marking the fourth anniversary of the condemnation of abortion by more than 700 rabbis in Jerusalem on the 18th of Adar in the Hebrew year 5727, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis here declared today that "abortion, even when legislated by the state, does not cease to be a flagrant violation of the basic and fundamental religious and ethical principles." The Union's executive director, Rabbi Meyer Cohen, added in his statement that "sanction by the state of abortions has an additional aspect of evil, for it undermines the very bases of society's regard for the sanctity of human life." Rabbi Cohen said that "human life, including the life of an unborn child, is one of the most sacred things," and "mere human legislation cannot change that status." He contended that "the fact that the unborn child is innocent and defenseless makes abortion doubly sinful and repugnant," and a "transgression against religion and against humanity." Rabbi Cohen noted that "in extreme cases, such as a pregnant woman's serious illness, competent Orthodox rabbis should be consulted, and they in turn, after ascertaining her condition from competent physicians, will decide upon the merits of the case, and their decision is to be followed." But, the UOR official emphasized, "abortion in general is prohibited in Jewish law."

Nine-Day Jewish Arts Festival At Brandeis To Encourage Boston Area Young Artists

WALTHAM, Mass., March 17 (JTA)--A nine-day, multi-media Jewish Arts Festival--featuring painters, sculptors, writers, actors, dancers, singers and musicians--will open Saturday at Brandeis University. All events will be open to the public free of charge. Many of Boston's talented young Jewish artists will participate in the festival, which is being co-sponsored by Brandeis Hillel in association with "Response" magazine. There will be folk singing, a festival of films, a concert by the Zamir Chorale of Boston, an exhibit of graphics by Israeli artists and a lecture by a Brandeis architecture historian. Craft exhibits, theater, folk dancing demonstrations and workshops given by young Jewish writers will also highlight the festival. Marlene Salon, chairman of the festival and senior anthropology student at Brandeis, said, "We are calling this the 'First Annual Jewish Arts Festival at Brandeis Hillel' because we would like to establish the festival as a tradition here." Miss Salon said the festival was initiated "to provide an opportunity for people in the Boston area--especially students--to contribute their talents to a festival in the spirit of Judaism. "We wish to encourage these young artists, and to provide a means for them to share their talents," she said.

ZOA National Executive Adopts Resolution Opposing Sale Of JNF Land

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--The National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America has declared its unanimous opposition to the Israeli government's plan to sell Jewish National Fund urban land to private individuals. The NEC endorsed the recent decision of the Board of Directors of the JNF in Jerusalem which refused to sanction the sale. In adopting the resolution presented by David Bern of Chicago, at its meeting last weekend, the NEC called upon the ZOA administration "to take all necessary steps with the World Union of General Zionists and other world and national Zionist bodies in defense of the 70-year old JNF principle 'that the land must remain in perpetuity the inalienable property of the Jewish people.'" It also called upon the ZOA "to reaffirm that the JNF must continue to remain autonomous and independent, so that it may serve Israel with unflinching effectiveness and meet its many challenging tasks in the years ahead." The controversy arose when the government announced plans to sell JNF and state-owned lands to the 240,000 families now living on it in order to bring additional revenue to the national treasury. The Knesset would have to rescind a 1960 law which prohibits the sale of the lands.

Stern College Sets Up Study Program In Cooperation With Gold College In Jerusalem

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women has initiated a one-year program of study in Israel, in cooperation with Gold College for Women in Jerusalem, it was announced by Prof. David Mirsky, dean. Prof. Mirsky said the program includes courses in Jewish studies, the Middle East and Israel and independent study in the student's major. "The program we are establishing will better enable students to undertake a course of study which will serve their academic needs, and for which they will receive a full year's credit at Stern College," he said.