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Eban Speaks On Relations With China And USSR

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban discussed Israel's relationships with the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union today and indicated that Israel sincerely hopes for an improvement "at this time of world soul-searching." Eban made his remarks in a foreign policy statement to the Knesset which ranged from the latest events along the Jordanian border to Israel's position in the world. The statement on China was obviously prompted by the change in American policy, climaxed by President Nixon's announcement last week that he has accepted an invitation to visit Peking.

Eban said, "Israel was one of the first states to recognize the Chinese Peoples Republic and has shown good will toward her achievements. But since the 1955 Bangkok Conference, the Chinese Government has chosen to ignore Israel. Nevertheless, China has never been erased from Israel's political thinking for who can ignore China's world position and influence on international developments?" Eban continued, "We are not responsible for the change that took place in relations between China and Israel. At this time of world soul-searching every state, whether large or small, must re-evaluate the road to be taken. It is clear that Israel's foreign policy must actively consider these developments." On relations with the USSR, the Israeli Foreign Minister said, "We may assume that the USSR Government will review its policy in the light of the situation in our area and changes on the international scene. If her aim is to play a positive role in the area to prevent a major conflagration, to ensure her legitimate interests, she will see that only by balancing her relationship with all states in the area will she be able to attain that goal." Eban said, "We shall carefully examine every true and authoritative expression of Soviet readiness to carry out a balanced policy which is the only one that could make a true contribution toward the establishment of peace in the area and will naturally bring about a fundamental change of relations between Israel and the USSR."

Commenting on a phenomenon of recent days--the mass surrender of Palestinian terrorists fleeing the Jordanian Army to Israeli forces--Eban said, "At this time when a UN commission composed of representatives of Somalia, Ceylon, and Yugoslavia, countries which refuse to have relations with Israel, is collecting from the Arab propaganda machine false testimony on the oppression of the Arab population by the State of Israel, Arab terrorists, sworn enemies of the State, are begging us for asylum to escape from certain death at the hands of their brethren because their 'enemy' has more affinity to humane values than their antagonists at home."

Reviewing Israel's position in world affairs, Eban said, "If we analyze the balance of our achievements we shall see that the Arab-Soviet offensive, despite its strength has not achieved a single one of its objectives. Israel has remained in the cease-fire positions without political pressure having been exerted to force her out. She has found, and is finding ways to strengthen her defenses. She is receiving massive economic aid. Instead of being isolated and cut off from her world-wide contacts, she is expanding them in every field and on every continent and has become a focal point for world interest."

Terrorists Fleeing Hussein Beg For Asylum In Israel

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA)--Seventeen more armed Arab terrorists fleeing Jordan surrendered to Israeli forces today bringing to 72 the number that have laid down their arms and begged asylum in Israel since Saturday. The terrorists have been surrendering in small groups or individually, carrying white flags. Most were carrying fire-arms and grenades although some dumped their weapons to make flight easier. Reports from Amman today said King Hussein's forces were "mopping up" in northern Jordan. Guerrilla hands have been encircled near Kureima and Karameh, the latter once the terrorist stronghold in Jordan. Baghdad radio announced yesterday that in support of the Palestinian commandos, Iraq was severing diplomatic relations with Jordan and closing its border with that country. The Jordanian Government charged yesterday that some of the guerrillas surrendering to Israeli forces were "Israeli agents." In Beirut, a guerrilla spokesman said that "criminal and treacherous acts" by the Jordanian Army had "forced a number of commandos to cross into occupied territory to face the Zionist enemy rather than such treacherous actions."

Israeli sources said today that most of the surrendered terrorists were members of El Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian guerrilla groups and that some belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a more extreme group headed by Dr. George Habash. The sources said all were being interrogated to determine their background. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan asked several of the captives yesterday why they fled to Israel and not to Syria. The reply was that the Syrian border was blocked and, anyway it was "safer in Israel." The commandos reportedly pleaded with Dayan to let them stay, promising to "do everything we are told, even join the Israeli Army." Sources here said that "competent authorities" would decide the fate of the surrendered terrorists whom Israel regards as civilians, not prisoners of war. An Arab terrorist was wounded and captured today in an encounter with an Israeli Army patrol in the Jebelija refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He was shot after ignoring warnings to identify himself and attempting to escape. Saboteurs demolished a high tension pylon in the Arava region of the Negev north of Groffit settlement Sunday night. No casualties were reported. The saboteurs were believed to be infiltrators from Jordan.

Sisco Will Visit Israel At End Of July State Dept. Says

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA)--The State Department said today that Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joseph J. Sisco will visit Israel some time after July 26 to present U. S.

thoughts on the procedure for negotiating an interim settlement to reopen the Suez Canal as well as substantive proposals. The officials said that the U.S. has no blueprint or final outline of what a new settlement should look like and added that the U.S. has been studying the positions of the two sides and reached conclusions of its own which it has not formalized in document or plan form. Sisco is expected to explore those conclusions with Israeli officials. State Department spokesman Charles Bray said today that there were no pre-conditions on the extent or the subjects of the talks set by either side. It is believed that Sisco will discuss the delay in Washington's reply to Israel's latest requests for more U.S. military aid.

Sisco's trip will follow his recent briefing by Michael Sterner, director of the State Department's Egyptian Desk. Sterner just returned from a mission to Cairo with the chief U.S. diplomat there, Donald Bergus. Bergus and Sterner presented to the Egyptian Government proposals on how the U.S. envisages proceeding, not substantive suggestions, according to State Department officials, and the Cairo Government raised no objections, they said. The Israelis will be informed of them when Sisco visits Jerusalem the officials added. They said the timing of Sisco's trip had nothing to do with the rumored possible meeting of the UN Security Council on the status of Jerusalem. Bray told newsmen today that he knew of no such meeting and that Sisco's plans would be determined by technical scheduling rather than the political situation as such. It is not known how long he will remain in Israel but he is not expected to visit any other countries on this trip.

Events in Jordan Will Not Affect U.S. Military Aid, State Dept. Says

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Charles Bray refused today to "speculate on the future course of events" when asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if, in light of the Jordanian Government's statement that it now controls the guerrilla movement, the U.S. will hold Jordan responsible for terrorist actions against Israel. Bray repeated the U.S. condemnation of all acts of terror, but would not say if the statement this morning by the Jordanian Prime Minister would change the U.S. position in the future. He did say however, that it would not affect the Administration's position in negotiations with Congress for military aid and economic assistance for the Jordanian Government. Premier Wasfi Tell, of Jordan told a press conference in Amman today that there were no longer any Palestinian commando bases in Jordan. Tell said that out of 2,500 guerrillas originally based in the country, 2,300 were rounded up after recent clashes with the Jordanian Army. He said, "Only about 200 fedayeen remain at large, but we shall find most of them." He declared that hereafter, Jordan will not tolerate the presence of groups with "ideological tendencies." Tell made no mention of the scores of Arab commandos reportedly surrendering to Israel.

Israeli officials here labeled as "utter baloney" reports in the New York Times this morning that some of the Palestinian guerrillas fleeing into Israel were really Israeli infiltrators into the terrorist movements. The report was based in part on the official Jordanian spokesman's explanation of the terrorist flight into Israel. Guerrilla leaders, however, said that most were bona fide terrorists who fled to Israel to avoid starvation and capture by the Jordanian troops. Israeli officials noted the irony of Arabs fleeing from their brothers to their "enemy" to avoid what the Jordanian Army apparently does to people it captures.

U.S. To Provide Israel With Spy Plane Facilities, Time Says

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA)--The United States Government is showing "concern over a marked buildup of Soviet intelligence activities in the Middle East," and has agreed to provide Israel with facilities for U-2 and SR-71 spy planes, Time magazine reported today. "It was partly to investigate those activities that CIA director Richard Helms recently visited Israel," Time said. According to the magazine, "Some points discussed when Helms conferred with officials of Hamosad, the Israeli equivalent of the CIA, (were that) Soviet-flown MIG-23s which can fly at 80,000 feet, an altitude that Phantoms cannot reach, are conducting intelligence missions out of Egyptian bases; two electronics-crammed Russian 'listening ships' have been stationed about 80 miles off the Israeli coast; Soviet radar installed on the ground in Egypt can monitor air routes over Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan; hundreds of Soviet intelligence experts are at work in Middle East evaluation centers in Cairo and Alexandria; Soviet agents are visiting Israel in increased numbers in the guise of tourists, journalists, European businessmen and even immigrating Jews."

Israeli Communists Report 'Feelings' From Soviets On Improved Relations

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA)--Dr. Moshe Sneh, leader of Maki, the Independent Communist faction, confirmed today that several of its members have been the objects of "feelings" from Soviet diplomats as to Israel's attitude on improving relations with the Soviet Union. Sneh's faction is not oriented toward Moscow or any other Communist capital. He said today that one of his colleagues, Esther Vilenska, was approached while attending a Budapest Communist Party Congress by a former Russian diplomat in Tel Aviv named Kotov, who is now a member of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. According to Sneh, similar approaches were made to Yosef Lipsky, editor of "Fret Israel," the U.S. Communist Party's Yiddish organ in New York. Lipsky, he said, was approached by a Russian UN delegate, Tchurillin, who was also once stationed in Israel. He said both diplomats asked identical questions, how relations between Israel and the USSR could be improved. According to Sneh, they both listened to the replies but made no comment. "It seems they wish to make an impression that they want the renewal of relations without making any tangible move in this direction," Sneh said.

W.H.O. Opens Advanced Training Center At Weizmann Institute

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA)--The World Health Organization's first advanced training center in immunology outside of its headquarters in Switzerland, was opened at the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth today. It will operate within the framework of the Institute's department of chemical immunology headed by Prof. Michael Sela. The agreement with the Weizmann Institute stipulates that the WHO's immunology research and training centers in other countries will be able to nominate students for advanced training at Rehovoth.

Israeli Officials Declare Opposition To Boycotts As Protests Against Policies Of Other Nations

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA)--Israel Embassy officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Israel "opposes all boycotts and all terror" and "could not possibly endorse the use of such methods to express displeasure with the policies of another country," especially as Israel is the target of extensive boycotts by the Arab states. The officials were commenting on the controversy between the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry and the May Co., a Los Angeles department store which has been selling tours to the Soviet Union. The Council has urged a boycott of the May Co. and of all travel agencies marketing Russian tours as a means of protesting against the mistreatment of Soviet Jews.

(George Foos, president of the May Co., has sent letters to customers who have complained about the marketing of such tours stating that both the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles and Israel Government representatives in Los Angeles and Washington "have explained to us that they are in complete disagreement with both the actions and the attitudes of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry." According to St. Frumkin, chairman of the SCCSJ, "this claim was categorically denied by Israeli consular and embassy officials who were 'horrified' at the suggestion that they had at any time meddled in what they consider 'the internal affairs of the United States.'" Frumkin said a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles denied ever having been consulted by the May Co. on this subject and stressed that he would not have been in a position to advise the May Co.) Officials at the Israeli Embassy here told the JTA that while they oppose the use of boycott tactics they do not recall being in contact with Foos.

(Richard Maass, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York, told the JTA that the Conference generally does not favor boycotts as a matter of policy because they could be counter-productive. He said the Conference believed in maximizing contacts with the Soviet Union because "if we isolate the Russians, we also isolate the Russian Jews." Charles Posner, executive director of the Community Relations Council of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation told the JTA in a telephone interview today that the Federation was "unalterably opposed to boycotts." He also explained why the Federation Council did not participate in certain demonstrations organized by the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry. In a press release issued last week, Frumkin accused Posner of "playing lip-service to Soviet Jewry" while refusing to join in demonstrations during local performances of the Molsheyev Ballet Co. and in a campaign to send greeting cards to Soviet Jews. Posner told the JTA that the Federation had its own program of activities on behalf of Soviet Jews but could not participate in any which seemed likely to create disturbances. He said the Federation followed the advice of two recent Jewish visitors from the USSR, Dr. Esther Eisenstadt, a former professor in Moscow and Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, mother of Ruth Aleksandrovich, a Jewish political prisoner in the USSR. He said both called for constructive, positive protests, not confrontations that could lead to disturbances. He said Mrs. Aleksandrovich stressed that doors must be kept open to the Soviet Union. He said his organization objected to the greeting card campaign because the list obtained by the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry contained the names of persons who had in no way ever indicated that they wanted to receive cards and that these persons could have been harmed by receiving them. He termed the Council a "dissident" organization. Posner said that the Federation had a major program of its own to call attention to the plight of Soviet Jews. He said this included a daily vigil to start in August and continue through Simchat Torah on behalf of Jews imprisoned in the USSR. The Los Angeles Jewish Federation is a constituent of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry through its affiliation with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.)

Gorbach Let Off With Fine; Emigration Chances Seen Improved

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA)--Aleksander Gorbach, a 35-year-old Jewish engineer who was tried in Vinnytsa, Ukraine over the week-end, has been fined \$444 and will be freed on payment, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from Jewish sources here today. Gorbach, who was arrested for possession of materials with Jewish themes, faced a sentence of up to two years' imprisonment. The prosecution however demanded only a fine in the amount of \$555. The sources speculated that the lenient sentence may have stemmed from a desire by the Soviet authorities not to look "foolish" in the eyes of the world and that it might improve Gorbach's chances of obtaining an exit visa to go to Israel. Gorbach suffers from a serious eye ailment. Unlike other Soviet political prisoners, he was allowed to live at home while awaiting trial.

Richard Maass, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, had cabled Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev, Premier Alexei Kosygin and other officials in Moscow over the week-end declaring that the Gorbach trial was "part of a deliberate campaign to discourage requests for exit permits by Jews who wish to live as Jews in dignity and freedom." On learning of the mild penalty imposed on Gorbach, Maass told the JTA today that it could be interpreted "perhaps" as a Soviet response to mounting world opinion against the political trials of Jews. If so, he added, this is only further indication that Moscow is sensitive to world opinion and that the pressure must be maintained. Jewish sources here reported today that nine Jews convicted in the second Leningrad trial will file an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Russian Republic on July 27. It had been reported earlier that they would appeal tomorrow. (An appeal by Valeriy Kukul, sentenced last month to three years' imprisonment for "activities harmful to the state," will be heard in Sverdlovsk at the end of this month according to Jewish sources in London.)

Venezuelan Chief Of Staff Visiting Israel

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA)--Gen. Roberto Morean Soto, the Venezuelan Chief of Staff, arrived here last night for a two-week visit as the guest of the Israeli Defense Forces. He met today with Israeli Chief of Staff Haim Bar-Lev; Gen. David Elazar, chief of the Headquarters Branch of the IDF, and Col. S. Levanon, commander of the Nahal, the agricultural-military formations. Soto said he wanted to learn as much as possible from the Israeli Army, especially the para-military agricultural Nahal, as vast areas of Venezuela are uninhabited and require cultivation.

ADL Replies To 'Witch-Hunt' Charge By Chicago Rabbi

CHICAGO, July 19 (JTA)--A spokesman for the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the defense agency "is doing what the Jewish community always expected it to do, and that is to gather information on organizations that adversely affect the security of American Jews." The spokesman was commenting on the continuing criticism of the ADL from some sections of the Jewish community for confirming to the Federal Bureau of Investigation last year the identities of local leaders of the Jewish Defense League in the Philadelphia area. The ADL was accused of gratuitously "informing" on fellow Jews.

The controversy was raised here last May 28 in a Friday evening sermon by Rabbi Arnold J. Wolf of Congregation Solel of Highland Park, who was sharply critical of the ADL's cooperation with the FBI in the JDL case. Four members of the congregation who are on the executive committee or staff of the ADL in Chicago sent a reply in the form of a letter to fellow members of Congregation Solel. Rabbi Wolf responded with a letter of his own charging the ADL with "supporting a discredited witch-hunt in Washington." According to the ADL spokesman, both letters are being circulated by the ADL to its constituents in the Chicago area. Rabbi Wolf claimed that "in principle and as far as we know also in fact, the collaboration of ADL with the FBI is not limited to giving information only on JDL members. The whole Jewish community is surely entitled to know just what other groups or individuals have been and are being reported on to the FBI by the Anti-Defamation League, groups which the ADL National Chairman describes as 'extremists of the right or the left,' assuming without evidence that they are also 'groups engaged in unlawful activity,' and producing no proof." He claimed that the ADL "is in fact giving information secretly collected by Jewish groups supported by Jewish funds to the FBI to use that information against other Jews... This kind of collaboration is not required by the laws of the United States and is, in my opinion, forbidden by Jewish legal and moral tradition," Rabbi Wolf wrote.

The letter to Solel congregants from the ADL executive committee and staff members observed that "The criticism is premised upon a precept created in ancient and medieval times during the long dark period when the Jews were universally the victims of anti-Semitism as a matter of state policy. The theory behind the precept was that the state was the enemy of the Jews." The letter noted that the ADL "has exposed organizations hiding under the Jewish label because they try to harm Israel or bring discredit to the Jewish community." As examples, the writers cited "The Birch Society front called the 'Jewish Society of Americanists,' Rabbi Elmer Berger's various anti-Israel fronts and the anti-Israel Communist front group called 'Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East.'" The letter pointed out further that "Jews in the State of Israel must necessarily provide information and evidence on criminal activities on the part of other Jews... Through Interpol, the international police organization, the authorities in Israel regularly furnish to the American FBI and to other such government agencies information about American Jews who, for a variety of reasons seek haven in Israel... Would anyone suggest that these actions constitute violations of Jewish principle simply because Jews are providing information about other Jews to the Israeli or American governments?"

Jewish Emigration From USSR Not 'Impractical' Hias Official Says

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA)--Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice president of the United Hias Service, said today that relatives of Jews seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union should not be discouraged by the difficult process of obtaining an exit visa. Jacobson was commenting on the description of that process contained in a report by Abraham S. Karlikow, director of the American Jewish Committee's European office, released here last week, excerpts from which were published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency July 14. Jacobson told the JTA that contrary to the impression which may have been created by the Karlikow report, Jewish emigration from the USSR is "hardly impractical and indeed is on the increase to the United States as well as to Israel." He said that "Far from discouraging prospective emigres and their families from seeking reunion in freedom, current reports from families recently emigrated and from other sources indicate cause for optimism. While there are difficulties encountered in the somewhat intricate migration procedures, individuals should not be at all discouraged--they should in fact be hopeful," Jacobson said.

Another spokesman for Hias told the JTA that successful emigres have indicated that visas can be won through the doggedness and persistence of the applicants, although admittedly in many instances this has not been the case. Hias reported that 92 Soviet Jews have immigrated to the U.S. between Jan. 1-June 30, 1971, compared to a total of 125 for all of 1970. Sixteen of the newcomers have arrived this month and, according to Hias, 28 Jews in Moscow who plan to come to the U.S. are awaiting the processing of visas that have been granted them. Hias said it now has an active caseload of 3,000 applications from American citizens to have their families in Russia join them and anticipates that the caseload will increase. Hias said that through its facilities relatives of Soviet Jews can initiate a search for their kin whose whereabouts in the USSR are unknown. The organization urged the relatives of Soviet Jews to contact the Hias office in New York for further information on all aspects of immigration.

'Fiddler' Breaks Performance Record

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA)--"Fiddler on the Roof," the American musical based on the tales of Sholom Aleichem, will have its 2,845th performance Wednesday night making it the longest-lived musical in Broadway history. The runner-up "Hello Dolly," logged 2,844 performances. "Fiddler," which was capitalized at \$375,000, has returned a 927 percent profit to its investors and to producer Harold Prince. To date, the show has netted \$6,952,500 and has been seen by an estimated 35.5 million persons all over the world.

Shmuel Fisher, Actor, Dies At 54

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA)--Shmuel Fisher, a prominent Israeli actor, died here at 54 at the Sholom Aleichem House moments before he was due to go on stage in a Yiddish play co-starring with his wife Sarah Lipton. Fisher spent several years on the Yiddish stage in the United States.