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State Dep't. Unfairly Equates Dayan's Speech, Arab Federation Policy, Israel Charges

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry charged today that the United States State Department was unjustified in equating Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's talk of a "permanent" Israeli regime in the occupied Arab territories with the statement by Egypt, Libya and Syria barring negotiations and peace with Israel. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said yesterday in Washington that the Arab Federation statement was "equally unfortunate in the same sense about which we commented about Minister Dayan's statement last Friday." Foreign Ministry spokesman Avraham Avidar said today: "We are sorry to say that these statements (by McCloskey) create the wrong impression." He explained: "The speech by the Defense Minister to which the State Department spokesman referred was an evaluation of the situation and expression of a point of view not meant to change the decisions of the Cabinet. In contrast, the Damascus statement is an official announcement by three Arab Presidents which confirms the draft Constitution of the future Federation. The Damascus statement details political principles and goals of the Federation, and therefore it is a grave matter that it emphasizes there will be no peace and no negotiations with Israel."

Avidar stated further that McCloskey in his remarks yesterday, had not taken into account Dayan's clarification of his speech, in a radio address Sunday. Dayan said then that he had not proposed annexation of the administered areas but did feel that certain projects should not be delayed or cancelled pending a Middle East settlement. Dayan stressed that the Israeli government had not changed its view on this matter. "The second State Department statement disregards, for some reason, these clarifications," Avidar protested. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that the text of Avidar's complaint has been submitted to the American charge d'affaires here, Owen Zurhellen. In addition, Israel's grave view of the Damascus statement is being conveyed to Israeli ambassadors around the world. Israel's United Nations envoy, Yosef Tekoa, may also alert Secretary General Thant to the points in the statement that Israel contends violate Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967.

Administration Experts Uncertain About Real Significance Of Federation Statement

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Administration experts here on the Middle East appeared to be uncertain today as to whether the new Arab Federation's unity statement, barring peace talks with Israel, constituted rhetoric designed for local consumption or represented agreement by Egypt, Syria and Libya on a firm policy. The issue arose when State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey was asked whether the department had any information from any source as to whether the statement, circulated in Damascus on Aug. 20 after the Presidents of the three Arab nations signed the charter of federation, was to be taken literally, which would clearly mean an end to the Nixon Administration initiative last year in the Middle East. That initiative, directed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, led to the present cease-fire agreement on Israel's front lines, and to State Department efforts to obtain Egyptian-Israeli agreement on terms for an interim pact to reopen the Suez Canal. The federation statement last week declared "there will be no peace or negotiations with the Zionist enemy, no yielding an inch of Arab territory, no bargaining on the Palestinian cause."

In response to the question today, McCloskey said that he had no information from official Arab sources on the exact significance of the Damascus statement. He also said there had not been any "follow-up" effort by the State Department "to ascertain the official nature of this statement." McCloskey said that there would be one made "in due course," and added that the State Department had been "disturbed by the content" of the Damascus statement--"very much so, since it came from heads of government." State Department sources said today they had no information on a statement attributed to King Hussein of Jordan that he was willing to consider an interim agreement on Jerusalem with Israel. The report appeared in Al Nahar, a Beirut newspaper, which gave no details on the King's interest in such negotiations. State Department sources pointed out that last spring, when Rogers visited Amman, there were indications Hussein felt he was in a stronger position to devote himself to one of his principal concerns, the status of East Jerusalem. In the Al Nahar report, Hussein was also said to have warned that any Arab moves to resume armed attacks on Israel might well result in greater losses for the attacking Arabs and more land "losses" for the Arabs. That comment, it was reported from Beirut, was viewed as a warning to President Sadat of Egypt, who has made public threats to go to war by the end of 1971 if no political settlement is achieved with Israel.

Sylvia Zaimanson Reported Seriously Ill; May Be In Danger Of Losing Life

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Sylvia Zaimanson Kuznetsov, the 27-year-old Soviet Jewish engineer who was sentenced last Dec. 15 to 10 years in prison for complicity in an alleged skyjacking plot, is seriously ill in Potma prison in central Moldavia. Jewish sources in Riga reported last night by telephone. The sources said that unless Mrs. Kuznetsov is released and given appropriate medical treatment, she may be in danger of losing her life. Jews of Riga and other Soviet cities, it was said, are trying to persuade the authorities to free her. On Aug. 5, Moses I. Feuerstein, former president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, reported in Boston that the prisoner had become "almost totally deaf" in one ear, was "deteriorating physically and mentally" and expected to survive under her current conditions "only a few years at the most." Her sentence ends June 15, 1980.

High Ranking French Political Figure Going To Israel; A First Since 1967

PARIS, Aug. 24 (JTA)--A central figure of the French government's majority bloc, the Secretary General of the Independent Republican Party, Michel Ponlatovsky, is due to leave tomorrow for Israel at the invitation of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. This will be the first time since June 1967 that a prominent member of the Gaullist bloc will visit Israel. The Independent Republicans are the junior partner in the government coalition where they are represented by Finance Minister Valéry Giscard

d'Estaing, a personal friend and a political ally of Pontatovsky, while in Israel, Pontatovsky, who will be accompanied by his wife, is expected to meet with Premier Golda Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and other political leaders. Pontatovsky launched an attack last week on his party's "blind and unconditional" acceptance of policy as laid down in the coalition by the Gaullist Party. In an interview with the weekly "Les Informations," Pontatovsky also expressed his disagreement with the government's Mediterranean policy. He declared that the government had failed on two counts in this field; in ensuring oil supplies to Western Europe and in permitting a still stronger Soviet infiltration in the Arab world. These views, combined with the political importance of Pontatovsky within his party, add extra weight to his forthcoming trip.

Knesset Approves Legislation To Devalue Pound; Criticism Widespread

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The Knesset approved at 1 a.m. this morning legislation embodying the emergency regulations approved by the Cabinet in connection with Israel's devaluation of the pound and accompanying economic measures. The regulations impose price controls and excise taxes on goods sold at higher prices without authorization, and set up a price control bureau in the Trade and Industry Ministry. The vote on the second reading of the measures came after five hours of sometimes sharp debate, a long meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee and another five-hour Knesset session in which members voted down all amendments proposed by members except one. The exception was a clause incorporated in the new laws requiring that the price control bureau must act within two months on every application for a price increase and that failure to meet that deadline will be held to be approval of the request. The Cabinet was vigorously criticized by leaders of the Leftist Mapam and of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, who are members of the Knesset. They challenged last night an estimate by the Finance Ministry that the increase in prices of basic foodstuffs would cost even a large family no more than 10 pounds more per month and they reiterated demands that those price boosts be rescinded.

Criticism from the center and right of center opposition deputies was made by their main speaker, Yosef Sapir of the rightist Gahal alignment, a former Trade and Industry Minister. He said Gahal opposed the devaluation because it was "doomed to failure." He insisted that a devaluation, to be successful, must be "cruel" and cut consumption in all sectors except for the poor. But such a retrenchment, he asserted, was not feasible under current Israeli conditions of full employment and unreduced government spending. The Labor alignment, the State List and Agudat Israel voted for the implementing legislation. The Free Center deputies abstained. Other opposition factions on both sides of the house voted against the legislation. Officials said today that heavy purchases of staple products, mainly electrical appliances and used cars, was continuing on the third day since devaluation. Some prices were marked up, others were unchanged, and shops selling at pre-devaluation prices heavily advertised that fact. Meanwhile Israel's reserve bank, the Bank of Israel, announced a new record interim rate for deposits by banks which top the liquidity rate laid down in the law. The new rate of 16 percent will be paid to commercial banks as a special reward for depositing more of their assets with the central bank than is legally required.

Schweiker: Full-Scale War in Mideast Unless U.S. Keeps Israel Strong

CLEVELAND, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Sen. Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania, a member of the Armed Services Committee, warned here that "Threat of another full-scale war could be the price to pay if the United States does not keep Israel militarily strong and she falls behind in the Middle East arms race." The Republican legislator, who served on an aircraft carrier in World War II, continued; "I think it is high time we assure Israel of a continuing supply of up-to-date supersonic aircraft. In this way, and only in this way, will we make it perfectly clear to the Soviet Union that we will not let the balance of power in the Middle East tip against Israel."

Addressing the 57th annual national convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Schweiker asserted that the recently signed 15-year treaty between the Soviet Union and Egypt was the most serious development since the Six-Day War four years ago, and promised to help Israel obtain the additional \$200 million in American aid she has requested. "Finally," he said, "Israel needs our full diplomatic support in the current round of peace maneuvers. Israel's position is sound, and it doesn't aid the cause of Middle East peace for our State Department to pressure Israel into any instant overnight solutions. Some people, and they are often well-meaning, say that if only Israel would be 'reasonable' we could have this Middle East situation tied up in a nice, neat bundle. But that's not the way life is, and that's not fair to Israel either."

Six African Chiefs Of State Examining Mideast Situation

PARIS, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Six African chiefs of state opened yesterday a "thorough examination" of the Middle East situation to try and elaborate a common African policy for the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, which gets under way Sept. 21. The six leaders, who are meeting at the Conference of the Organization for African Unity being held in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and the Presidents of Mauritania, Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon and Congo (Kinshasa). They have been joined by special representatives from Liberia, Kenya and Tanzania. Both Israel and Egypt have sent special messages to the participants, explaining their respective positions. The Israeli message, signed by Premier Golda Meir, was sent to only five of the six African leaders--those of Ethiopia, Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon and Congo (Kinshasa)--as Israel has no diplomatic relations with Mauritania, the Islamic republic whose President Moktar Ould Daddah, is chairman of the Conference. Mrs. Meir urged the conferees to reconsider the stand taken by the OAU plenary in June, which stressed Israeli pullbacks. President Daddah told French correspondents that the Organization would not announce its position until the General Assembly opened. The African countries claimed at their June meeting that the closure of the Suez Canal has seriously hurt their economies.

Black Panthers To Go Underground; 21 Arrested In Zion Square Riot

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The Black Panthers announced today they would go underground because the Israel government "had decided to liquidate us." The stencilled leaflets announcing this

move were distributed shortly after a police spokesman reported that the number of Panthers arrested after a demonstration in Jerusalem's Zion Square last night had risen to 21. The spokesman also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that several Panthers would be charged with disturbing the peace and attacking policemen. The leaflet also charged that an arrested Panther had been severely beaten during interrogation by police and had not been given medical treatment. A visit by the JTA correspondent to homes of two Panther leaders--Reuben Agrabill and Charlie Bitton--for clarification found locked doors at both residences. Later, it was learned that Agrabill had been arrested by police earlier in the day. Police said they were looking for Bitton. Both men took part in the demonstration last night.

Experts on domestic social problems expressed skepticism about the announced Panther plan to go underground because members' names and descriptions are widely known, partly as a result of deliberate Panther bids for public attention for their grievances. They noted that the Panthers registered a few months ago at the Jerusalem district commission office as an association formed in accordance with the law. The police spokesman reported that Panthers had thrown stones at policemen converging on Zion Square to clear it after it had been held by the Panther demonstrations for 90 minutes. He said several policemen and one demonstrator had been injured. Three girls under 16 were among those arrested, the police reported. Commandant David Offer, the southern district police commander, said the Panthers would be charged with violating the terms under which they had been given a license for their demonstration. He said also that no demonstrations will be permitted hereafter either on Jaffa Road, Jerusalem's main thoroughfare, or in its vicinity. The Knesset committee for Internal Affairs condemned this morning the rioting in the center of Jerusalem and approved the police decision to ban further demonstrations in the center of the city.

Israel's First Arab Minister Says War Cannot Solve Arab-Israeli Differences

CLEVELAND, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The first Arab to join Israel's Cabinet said today that the vast majority of Arab leaders do not believe that the Arab-Israeli differences can be solved by war. "I am not saying they have become doves of peace," added Deputy Health Minister Abdul-Aziz Zuabi. "Israel's might, and her ability to defend herself have no doubt helped them to be more realistic." But he stressed to the Hadassah Medical Organization plenary, part of the 57th annual national convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, that "I can say with confidence, from personal contacts and as a result of reading the Arab press, that public opinion in the Arab states now differs from what it was before the Six-Day War." The result, he said, "has been that we now hear various Arab voices advocating a peaceful settlement."

This, Zuabi continued, "may be because of a lack of ability to wage war, the high price of war or political realism," but in any case it is "an encouraging fact which opens new vistas for political action on the part of Israel in an attempt to find ways of talking with Arabs for the sake of a suitable settlement." The 52-year-old Zuabi, a member of Mapam and a former mayor of Nazareth, said he was convinced there was no conflict "between my Israeli citizenship and my Arab patriotism, which meet at one single point: a just peace between my people and my state." He stressed that "I am not speaking for myself alone but for more than 400,000 Arabs living in the State (of Israel) and in the name of many of the inhabitants of the administered areas." In that context, he said, he believed the 1967 war was "imposed" on Israel by Arab governments that in exhorting their populations to war "are committing a crime against their own peoples rather than causing any harm to Israel." The thousands of Arabs who visit Israel each year, he remarked, "realize what lies they have been fed."

Soviet Warships' Logbooks Have 'Let My People Go' Slogans, Stars Of David

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The logbooks of two Soviet warships now bear the slogan "Let My People Go" in Russian, English and Hebrew; Stars of David; and the names of many Jews and Israelis--if the commanders decide not to tamper with those documents. The two warships came to Copenhagen for a courtesy visit and the public was invited to tour the vessels. Among the Danes who accepted the Soviet invitations were Jews and Israelis who listed not only their names in the logbooks but also their protest over Soviet mistreatment of its Jewish citizens.

Black Jews Ordered To Halt Building Houses On Government Land

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA)--A government official has issued an order to a group of Black Jews to halt their construction of dwellings on land owned by the government land authority and leased to Kibbutz Beth Kama in the Negev. The Black Jews, originally from Chicago who arrived last year in Israel from Liberia, began this weekend to build housing on this land. The order for them to stop their activity stated that the construction programs and taking possession of the land was illegal. The group of Black Jews, under their leader Ben Ami who was formerly known as Ben Carter, arrived in Israel demanding to be treated as Jews under the Law of Return. Pending clarification of their status they were given housing and jobs in Dimona near Beersheba. The group, however, claimed that they could not earn a living in Dimona and recently approached the Jewish Agency Settlement Department and its chairman, Dr. Raanan Weitz, asking that they be given land upon which to construct a settlement. Before receiving any reply, the group arrived over the weekend at a site opposite Kibbutz Beth Kama and began to build houses. The Jewish Agency said it was still studying their request.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, called on the President of the Security Council, Piero Vinet of Italy, late this afternoon to discuss the situation created by the recent "no peace or negotiations" declaration of the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Libya. Tekoah, in a letter to Vinet, stated that the "declaration is a flagrant breach of the charter of the United Nations and a defiant negation of the obligations to attain a joint and lasting peace in the Middle East through agreements between Israel and the Arab states as called for by Security Council Resolution 242." The letter added that Egypt "has assumed a grave responsibility by joining with Syria and Libya in announcing opposition to efforts toward a peaceful settlement."

Torah Umesorah Leaders Urge Jewish Groups To Aid Day Schools

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA)--With the advent of the new school year in September, a number of Hebrew Day Schools throughout the United States are increasingly concerned about the availability of new income sources to make up for the financial losses incurred by the recent Supreme Court decision striking down state aid to nonpublic schools, according to Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools. "Because of this desperate financial situation, we welcome, indeed, President Nixon's recent promise to halt the trend of the closing down of nonpublic schools and to reverse the worsening financial situation of the nonpublic schools through constitutional means," Dr. Kaminetsky declared, adding: "At the same time we call upon the Jewish organizations to make good on their promises to help the Hebrew Day Schools overcome their current financial plight and grant scholarships to those in need."

Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, director, School Organization and Professional Services of Torah Umesorah, who surveyed the schools in Pennsylvania and Ohio said that thus far the 16 Hebrew Day Schools in Pennsylvania will be out nearly \$250,000 in next year's budget while the 10 Ohio schools will be short about \$130,000. "As yet, unfortunately, no Jewish agency which fought against state aid has generated any real campaign to help the Day Schools financially within the Jewish community nor has any Jewish Federation stepped forward to make good the loss to Day School income incurred by the Supreme Court decision," Rabbi Goldenberg said. Rabbi Goldenberg, who submitted to President Nixon's Commission on School Finances a number of proposals for state aid within the boundaries of the Supreme Court decision, said that the Jewish organizations who rushed to contest all legislation on state aid with all of their resources and personnel are strangely quiet when it comes to really helping schools meet their suddenly curtailed budgets as a result of the Supreme Court decision. "Resolutions and paper proclamations don't pay for teacher wages or for supplies nor do they grant scholarships. Fund-raising campaigns and allocations do. Unfortunately, those organizations which fought against state aid have thus far done little more than issue paper promises." As a case in point, Rabbi Goldenberg also pointed to New York State where \$4 million in school aid to about 187 Hebrew Day Schools is in jeopardy.

Hadassah Announces Group Blood-Banks Program, Play Therapy Program For Tots

CLEVELAND, Aug. 24 (JTA)--Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, announced today a program to encourage group blood banks. Under the plan, Hadassah members and their families, relatives and friends would donate a pint of blood annually; in return each donor and his spouse, children, parents and grandparents will be entitled to an unlimited quantity of blood for a full year after the date of the donation. The plan has already been set by the Suffolk County, N.Y., Region of Hadassah, in cooperation with the Greater New York Blood Program, Community Blood Council--American Red Cross, and is effective Sept. 1. Mrs. Milton Shustek, coordinator of the Suffolk program, explained that under it, "we will assure ourselves and our families of blood coverage for a year, the processing fees to be paid by Blue Cross for their community-rated subscribers, thereby eliminating blood and transfusion charges."

On another front, Hadassah's VIPs program (Volunteers in Public Schools), which helped Houston schools screen kindergartners and first-graders for potential learning disabilities, has launched an adjunct program called "Play Therapy." Mrs. Irvin Suhl of Hadassah, who prepared VIPs, explained that volunteers and health nurses will help tots overcome their weaknesses before starting school. Similar projects to aid new schoolchildren, plus assistance in food-stamp registration, suicide-prevention, job placement, drug-abuse prevention, and support for the Interracial Symphony of the New World in New York, are also in progress under Hadassah's leadership.

Special State Election On Succoth Deprives Orthodox Of Right To Vote

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The Vaad Hoelr, the Orthodox Jewish Community Council here, has launched a letter-writing campaign to members of the State Legislature to protest the scheduling of a special statewide election for Oct. 5, the second day of Succoth. The Council charged that observant Jews will in effect be deprived of their right to vote. Gov. Warren E. Hearns, in response to a letter from Rabbi Maurice D. Solomon of the Kehillath Israel Synagogue who had expressed his concern over the Governor's recent calling for the election, expressed his regrets about the date. "Needless to say, had I known of the problem concerning Oct. 5, I would certainly not have chosen that date. No one thought about it, but it has been done, and there is no way to change it," Hearns added that he has no authority over polling hours. "I can only say I am sorry," he concluded, "but I know that this will not be of any great benefit to you or others of your faith who find themselves in a like position." Missouri law provides for the use of absentee ballots only in the case of illness or absence from the community.

Soviet Jewry Top Priority Issue In Many Jewish Communities, Says Richter

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The battle for Soviet Jews is now the "hottest issue" in many Jewish communities around the United States, concluded Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry national coordinator Glenn Richter, just back from a 5,000-mile, cross-country Soviet Jewry tour. Richter said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the level of activity and creativity on the local level. To illustrate, he listed 40-foot "Save Soviet Jewry" signs on the outside of synagogues in Pittsburgh, a greeting card to Russian Jews program in Chicago, a Soviet Jewry "telegram bank" and a 20-minute videotape on the issue in Minneapolis, a two-week "mini-course" on Soviet Jewry taught by a student in a public high school in Omaha, a Babi Yar Park and a Soviet Jewry exhibit in the main public library in Denver, a delegation to the governor in Salt Lake City, and numerous projects in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Summing up his trip, Richter concluded that Jewish communities want more "concrete action" for Soviet Jews. Two of the most important of these in the coming year, he said, will be pressure for the bills now in Congress for Soviet Jews (for 30,000 emergency U.S. visas and Voice of America radio broadcasts) and mailing of Jewish material, as greeting cards, directly to activist Russian Jews.

Rav Kook Prize To Dr. Goldschmidt For Contributions To Religious Scholarship

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA)--The Rav Kook Prize has been awarded to Dr. Daniel Goldschmidt of Jerusalem, formerly librarian at the Prussian State Library in Berlin and from 1936-1962 at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, for his important contributions to Jewish religious scholarship.