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Rabin Accuses U.S. Of Delaying Arms Supply To Israel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin accused the United States today of delaying supplies of arms, especially Phantom jets to Israel for political reasons. He said the delay must be regarded as constituting political pressure and warned that the Americans were making a serious mistake and jeopardizing chances for a final or even partial settlement in the Middle East. The Israeli envoy to Washington addressed reporters at Lydda Airport where he arrived for a short private visit. He said he was taking his home leave now because the American administration was at the moment deeply involved in domestic economic problems. Rabin will meet with Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban and will participate in government discussions of the United Nations Security Council debate on Jerusalem scheduled after Labor Day and the General Assembly's fall session which opens Sept. 21. Rabin said he didn't think the U.S. would support any change in the status quo in Jerusalem but this does not mean that the U.S. regards Jerusalem as an Israeli city. He said the U.S. would make efforts to shorten the debate on Jerusalem. In reply to questions, Rabin said the U.S. continued to supply arms to Jordan within the framework of a campaign to win more friends in the Middle East. Rabin said that chances for a final or partial settlement in the region would become realistic only when the Arabs and the Soviets realize that Israel cannot be overpowered militarily.

U.S., Jordan Cooperating To Limit Security Council Meeting To East Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 31 (JTA)--The United States and Jordan are cooperating in an attempt to limit next week's expected Security Council meeting to the question of Israeli practices in East Jerusalem, according to informed Western sources. "We were against the meeting from the beginning," one diplomat said, "but Hussein (of Jordan) and Faisal (of Saudi Arabia) are determined to have it." Since it is up to Jordan--or any other United Nations member state--to decide whether to ask for a Council meeting, Jordan is expected to submit her formal request tomorrow for a session Sept. 7. Sources explained that with the meeting now seemingly unavoidable, the U.S. feels that the least she can do is limit the agenda to Jerusalem and not let it become a wide-open verbal brawl on the whole range of Middle East issues. Thus, the U.S.-Jordanian cooperation, which one diplomat called "very close, very careful."

The U.S., it was further learned, will again try to have the Council pass a resolution strongly critical of Israel's attempts to change the "ethnic quality" of Jerusalem, believing that Israel is violating international law with her unilateral projects in the Eastern sector prior to an Israeli-Arab agreement on the future of the historic city. The U.S.' long-range position is that Jerusalem should be internationalized, which Israel opposes. But the Americans are trying to dissuade the Jordanians from requesting that a fact-finding commission investigate the Jerusalem issue. The U.S. feels that since Israel is unlikely to permit such a unit to enter her territory, any subsequent UN ruling would be unenforceable.

U.S. Not 'Actively' Opposing Jordan's Move In Security Council

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--State Department sources said today that the United States was not "actively" opposing Jordan's view that the Security Council should take up Israeli activities in Jerusalem. Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said at today's press briefing, however, that the U.S. continues "to prefer that the focus remain more on the obvious forms of quiet diplomacy." The sources stressed the word "actively" in reference to the anticipated request by Jordan for a Security Council debate on Jerusalem. McCloskey said the State Department has been aware for some time that Jordan was considering asking for such a meeting. He added, "Whatever action the United Nations might take, I hope the matter will be handled in a way that will not complicate over-all efforts to establish peace in the area."

Four Jews Sentenced In Kishinev For Refusing To Testify In Trial Of 9

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Four young Jews--three of them women--were tried and sentenced in Kishinev yesterday for refusing to testify against their friends in the Kishinev trial of nine Jews last month, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from informed Jewish sources here. The sources said that Eta Bondar, Alechsander Zhenin and Olga Treigerman were sentenced to six months of "educational forced labor." The fourth defendant, Riva Vacksman, was given a \$66 fine. According to the sources, the sentences were imposed under Art. 190, Para. 7 of the Moldovian Republic Criminal Code. The sources described "educational forced labor" as a penalty which requires the prisoners to work at hard physical labor at a place decided by the court with 20 percent of their wages forfeited to the government. It is not a labor camp sentence. According to the sources the presiding judge, Mamlika, made anti-Semitic remarks during the trial. At one point he reportedly exoriated the defendants for complaining about Soviet emigration policies and said that in 1937 anyone who applied for an exit visa would have faced a firing squad.

Public Protest Closes Down Pseudo-Biblical Anti-Semitic Play

ROME, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A pseudo-Biblical play which the Chief Rabbi of Rome branded as anti-Semitic and filled with Fascist propaganda will close tonight after its third performance. The second performance was disrupted last night by Jewish demonstrators. One man leaped to the stage shouting "falsification of the Bible." He was arrested but released shortly afterwards. Actors walked off the stage and refused to return for fear of violence. But Riccardo Billi, director of the little known troupe said a final performance would be given tonight. The play, titled "Judah the Pig" by Giancarlo Fusco, had its first performance two weeks ago and was suspended because of protests. Chief Rabbi Eliah Toaff said at the time that it was a "total falsification" of the Biblical character of Judah, son of Jacob. Critics described the play as a highly pornographic and racist version of the story of Jacob and Tamar. The playwright began his career as an anti-Nazi partisan but was said to have become mentally unbalanced in recent years. He has been arrested several times for drunkenness.

Kemp Urges U.S. To Sign Long-Term Arms Agreement With Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Rep. Jack F. Kemp has criticized the administration for "shutting off since July" military aid to Israel and proposed that Israel be aligned in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The New York Republican, now in Israel, said that if the alignment is not realistic the U.S. "should sign a long-term arms agreement with Israel to provide her with a steady flow of Phantom and Skyhawk jet aircraft and other arms, and to inform the Arabs and the Communist world that the United States is ready to match the Soviet build-up step-by-step as well as to guarantee the survival of a free Israel." Kemp expressed these views several days ago in Tel Aviv after viewing Israeli defense positions along the Suez Canal and in the Sinai, according to a statement issued today by his office in Washington.

The Congressman stated that Israeli defense leaders told him that Israel has an immediate need for American electronic detection devices and surveillance equipment to monitor the Soviet build-up. "Israel's survival depends upon a capability to determine when an attack is coming," Kemp said. "Those who say that a long-term military aid agreement would lead to an arms race must realize that Russia already has begun such a race." He noted that the Soviets have deployed 40-50 sophisticated surface-to-air missiles close to the canal, that Israeli forces are confronted with some 1,500 artillery pieces and between 550-650 MIG fighters. Israel should not withdraw one foot from its current boundaries without a firm declaration of peace from Egypt," Kemp stated. "The Egyptians don't want to know where Israel stands but where America stands."

Compromise On Prices Reached Between Sapir, Histadrut Leaders

TEL AVIV, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Histadrut leaders reached a compromise agreement last night on the prices of essential commodities. Following a meeting with Yehoram Meshel, deputy of Histadrut Secretary General Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Sapir said that the price of bread would be rolled back to where it was before devaluation of the Israeli pound and that the prices of eggs, milk and oil would be reduced. The Finance Minister estimated that the compromise would cost the Treasury \$8.4 million but said "if it will bring peace within our home, it is worth while." He said the lower prices would go into effect within a few days. Sapir has been involved in a bitter dispute over basic food prices with Histadrut. Ben Aharon, addressing a workers' meeting last night in Tiberias, said his rift with Sapir was not a private one but "in the name of the workers of Israel."

Greek Orthodox Church Ordered To Halt Building Project On Mt. Zion

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A Jerusalem court ordered the Greek Orthodox Church to halt a building project that blocked the entrance to King David's tomb on Mt. Zion. The project was begun yesterday after church officials rejected a plea by the Mt. Zion Committee to suspend construction. The church tried three years ago to block the entrance to the tomb but was forced by a court order to desist. Officials of the Mt. Zion Committee believe the new attempt was prompted in anticipation of a debate on Jerusalem in the United Nations Security Council. It is believed that the church wants to draw world attention to sites in Jerusalem that are sacred to both Christians and Jews.

Narkis Says Some 5,000 Latin American Jews Expected In Israel In 1971

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Gen. Uzi Narkis, director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, expects immigration to Israel from South America to increase by 10 percent this year over 1970. Narkis, who is attending an aliya conference here, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that more than 5,000 Jews will come to Israel from Latin America in 1971. He said that about 800 families belong to the aliya movement in Argentina, 300 in Brazil and more than 100 in Uruguay.

French Political Leader Warns Israelis To Improve Image In Europe

TEL AVIV, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A visiting French political leader cautioned Israelis last night during a television interview that they must improve their image in Europe because "intensive Arab propaganda has had the upper hand for quite some time now and Israel's achievements are almost unknown." According to Michel Poniatovsky, the first major member of the Gaullist bloc to visit Israel since the Six-Day War, Israelis must make greater efforts to counter Arab propaganda and let the world know the true facts of what is going on in this country. Poniatovsky is here as a guest of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Black Jews Say Israel Is Racist Country, Demand Equal Rights

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A leader of the self-styled Black Hebrews who began coming to Israel from the United States two years ago and are demanding citizenship, laid claim to the land of Israel at an impromptu press conference yesterday near the Jaffa Gate. Ben Ami (formerly Ben Carter) claimed that "Moses and Abraham were definitely blacks and thus the so-called Jewish immigrants from Russia and America are no more than usurpers." But, he went on, "We want them to remain if they recognize us as the children of the God of Israel." Carter also accused the government of being a "racist, Jim Crow country." He contended that the state and rabbinate refused to give them equal rights, housing, education or jobs because they were not considered Jewish. The first of the group arrived in 1969 after an unsuccessful attempt to settle in Liberia and were given resident status and flats in Dimona. Others, including Carter, came later and were given tourist visas. He has demanded that they be accepted at once as immigrants which would entitle them to medical care, housing and job assistance. Carter declined to say how many of the group were employed and how many jobless.

Israeli authorities have estimated their number at about 300. Carter claims there are nearly 1,000 in Israel and 2.5 million in the U.S. who believe in the precepts of the Old Testament, observe the Sabbath and holidays and do not eat "unclean food." Israeli rabbinical authorities have questioned their authenticity as Jews but the blacks refuse to undergo conversion according to Orthodox rites because they say it is unnecessary. The Interior Ministry has refused to grant them citizenship which, under the Law of Return, is automatic for Jewish immigrants. Carter claims the term Jew is a misnomer coined in the 17th century. He said the Black Hebrews were the legitimate descendants of the 12 Tribes of Israel who fled to Africa after the destruction of the Temple and centuries later were sold by slave traders to America.

Israeli Official Raps Syrian Charge Of Illegal Israeli Practices On Golan Heights

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 31 (JTA)--The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination voted 9 to 4, with one abstention, late yesterday afternoon to draw the General Assembly's attention to Israeli practices in the occupied Golan Heights. The Committee voted after studying a 1970 supplementary report from Syria, which lost the Heights in the Six-Day War of 1967. Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative, Jacob Doron, promptly retorted that Syria was "hardly a country to be making complaints about racial discrimination." Doron said the complaints of illegal Israeli practices on the Heights "are completely devoid of any foundation whatsoever and have been refuted time and time again." He cautioned the committee that "mere repetition should not be allowed to take the place of veracity." Doron noted that the inhabitants of the Heights have not been expelled, and attributed the tension there to "Syrian intransigence and refusal to cooperate in the taking of any constructive steps whatsoever for the establishment of peace," such as acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, and of the subsequent peace mission of United Nations representative Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. "Furthermore," Doron declared, "although Syria is a party to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it does in fact severely discriminate against the remnants of its Jewish population, oppresses them in all aspects of everyday life, and yet refuses them permission to leave, contrary to its obligation under...the Convention."

Israel, said Doron, "reject(s) most emphatically all this cheap defamation and perversion of truth." He stressed that while she wants peace with her Arab neighbors she "has to take all necessary measures for (her) protection and for the preservation of the lives of (her) people." The nine nations voting for submitting the Syrian report to the Assembly were Egypt, India, Poland, the Ukraine, Cyprus, Kuwait, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador and the Soviet Union. Opposed were Nigeria, Costa Rica, Swaziland and Britain. West Germany abstained. Four members were absent. On a similar front, the Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories will hold its final discussions on its proposed report Sept. 7-14 at UN headquarters. The members of the committee are Ceylon, Somalia and Yugoslavia, none of which has diplomatic relations with Israel, which opposes what it calls their partisan investigation. The committee's report is scheduled for presentation to Secretary General Thant Sept. 20, the day before the opening of the General Assembly. "I have no doubt he will publish it for discussion by the Assembly," a UN spokesman said.

Police Searching For Vandals Who Destroyed Part of Synagogue

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Political police are hunting for unknown vandals who destroyed the main door and windows of the Uniao de Israel synagogue which serves the Syrian Jewish community here. The attack occurred two weeks after vandals destroyed 18 tombstones in the Jewish cemetery in Sao Paulo on Aug. 9. No arrests have been made in either incident.

Shemtov Promises To Protect Pathologists From Zealots Opposed To Autopsies

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Health Minister Victor Shemtov promised yesterday that he would take steps to protect pathologists from harassment by religious zealots opposed to autopsies. Anti-autopsy slogans have been smeared on the walls of pathologists' homes in recent weeks. Dr. Gil Goldberg, head of the Pathology Institute at the Central Negev Hospital in Beersheba, reported receiving a threatening letter yesterday. The typewritten letter sent from Jerusalem ordered him to stop autopsies or "We will burn you." In a statement issued by the Government Press Office, Shemtov urged the public to condemn what he called the hysterical acts of religious extremists who seek to spread hatred of pathologists who perform their jobs in accordance with the law.

Four Terrorists Killed; Arms Caches Found; West Bankers Aid Israelis

TEL AVIV, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Two terrorists were killed in the Gaza Strip last night and this morning as Israeli security forces continued to crack down on terrorists and saboteurs. Four terrorist arms caches were discovered, one of them in a Gaza mosque. Security authorities reported the capture of two more terrorists in Rafah who were on the wanted list. They had military weapons and hand grenades when they were caught. Last night a terrorist was killed after he threw a hand grenade at an Israeli patrol that approached an arms cache he was guarding in the Jebaili refugee camp. A second terrorist was shot to death near Beth Hanoun this morning. Arms and ammunition were found on the body. There were no Israeli casualties. Two terrorists were sentenced to life imprisonment by Israeli military tribunals today. Subhi Abdul Rahman Ahusha, was sentenced in Hebron to terms adding up to 160 years for a series of terrorist acts in the Hebron area and sabotage near an Israeli settlement in Lachish. He was accused of firing Katyusha rockets at Beth Jubrin and preparing the rocket launchers that fired into Jerusalem.

Ahmed Sirhan, 36, a former lieutenant in the Jordanian Army who fought in the Six-Day War, received a life sentence from a military tribunal in Lydda for hand grenade attacks in Jerusalem in which an Israeli soldier and a policeman were wounded. Sirhan was an employee of the East Jerusalem Electric Corp. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities are reportedly pleased with the cooperation they have been getting from West Bank residents in rounding up wanted terrorists. Two terrorists were handed over to Israeli police in the Nablus area last week by villagers from whom the pair had sought shelter. But there are some West Bankers who continue to help terrorists evade capture. The arrest of Mahmoud Moustafa Jarad el Kawasmeh, on the wanted list for two years for at least seven acts of sabotage, led to the arrests of 19 other persons in the Hebron area who allegedly provided food and shelter to Kawasmeh and other terrorists. The captured man was a survivor of the gang led by Abu Mansour who was killed in a clash with Israeli forces 18 months ago. Other survivors scattered or took refuge in caves and were aided by the local populace. Under interrogation, Kawasmeh disclosed the location of several arms caches. A military tribunal in Lydda sentenced Ibrahim Haldi, 38, to six years imprisonment yesterday for transporting detonators from Jericho to Jerusalem in 1968.

Jaabari Cancels Meeting Of West Bank Mayors

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jaabari, the Mayor of Hebron, said today that he has called off a meeting of West Bank mayors scheduled in his home next Sunday because it was falsely interpreted as political. The meeting was criticized by the Jordanian government and local Palestinian groups. Jaabari said he had no intention of discussing political matters.

AJCongress, Agudath Israel Clash On Private School Tax Credits

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress and Agudath Israel of America took opposing stands on the question of public aid to private schools in connection with a Presidential commission's recommendation of tax credits to reimburse parents of private-school children. Leo Pfeffer, AJCongress special counsel, called the plan "another ill-conceived attempt to find a loophole in the Bill of Rights and evade the impact of the Supreme Court's decision prohibiting state aid to parochial schools." He elaborated: "In its (June 28) decision outlawing state aid to parochial schools, the Supreme Court warned against excessive government involvement in religion, and specifically refused to negate the historic constitutional tests set down in earlier rulings. The tax credit idea is clearly designed to circumvent the prohibition against government money going directly to religious schools."

Pfeffer was challenged by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel, for "blasting" the plan "even before (it) has come off the drawing board." The Orthodox leader said that "The excessive speed with which the American Jewish Congress attempted to shoot down the Presidential commission's proposal even before it was offered indicates an unwillingness on the part of this diehard group to permit any serious search to find constitutional means to help the crisis-ridden non-public schools." Rabbi Sherer also charged that the AJCongress was "in reality against all and every type of government aid to non-public schools, even such forms already ruled by the Supreme Court as constitutional, such as the supply of secular textbooks." A spokesman for the AJCongress replied that "the Supreme Court has spoken" on the issue and that the AJCongress will abide by its decision.

Ginsberg Warns UJA-Supported Programs in Jeopardy

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Many United Jewish Appeal-supported programs in Israel and overseas are in danger of curtailment due to a serious lag in cash collections this year, according to UJA general chairman, Edward Ginsberg. He noted this week that although almost two-thirds of the year had passed, less than half of the cash needed to maintain these programs has been collected. "Even though an impressive amount of pledges has been received," Ginsberg stated, "the real success of the campaign lies in the conversion of these pledges into life-supporting cash." Calling the threat to UJA-sponsored programs real and immediate, Ginsberg said, "It is a sobering fact to realize that if we do not succeed, many of these programs may have to be cut back." In previous years, UJA's cash drive yielded greatest returns during the closing months of the year. In 1971, in light of the enormity and urgency of the needs of the people of Israel, the cash drive is being conducted on a continuous year-round basis. All contributors are being urged to redeem their pledges in full, and as soon as possible.

JDL Calls On Residents To Buy Rifles For Self-Protection

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League exhorted Brooklynites last night to send in \$32 each for .22-caliber rifles to protect themselves against criminals that the police have allegedly been unable to subdue. Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the JDL, issued his call to 1,500 persons at Samuel J. Tilden High School in East Flatbush. He said the organization's new self-defense unit would be launched tonight at Congregation Rishon L'Tzion and Talmud Torah of East Flatbush. Several dozen persons then bore a symbolic coffin, with six yahrzeit candles atop it, to the local police precinct in protest against the arrest of two Tilden youths who had allegedly been armed with dangerous weapons, described by the police as heavy sticks. Before last night's rally, Rabbi Kahane pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of unlawful assembly in connection with an incident at the Soviet Mission last December for which he had been charged with incitement to riot. Sentencing was set for Oct. 13. The JDL leader had already planned to migrate to Israel Sept. 12, and it was not immediately known if he would postpone his departure.

Rabbis Cite Changes in Relationship Between Universities, Religious Organizations

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Describing the United States of 1971 as possessed of a "new cultural climate...no longer hospitable to organized religious institutions," a leading American rabbi challenged his colleagues to find new ways of establishing Judaism as a "culturizing, civilizing, socializing and structurizing force in the community." Rabbi Abraham J. Karp, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El, Rochester, N.Y., analyzed the contemporary religious scene and the problems it poses for American rabbis in an address to the closing session tonight of a three-day conference of the Rabbinical Assembly. Sharing the podium with Rabbi Karp was Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the International rabbinical association. They addressed 200 of their colleagues gathered at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, for a discussion of "The Future of the American Synagogue." "In former days," said Rabbi Karp, "the church was the value providing and value validating institution in the community...Today, the church's place and function has been taken by the university, and the priest-minister-rabbi replaced by the professor." The university, however, represents a quite different world view, and is currently itself suffering a crisis of esteem. According to Rabbi Karp, disillusionment with the university has come because it seemed to promise to provide wisdom and has failed. "Wisdom, he asserted is the meter of religion, and religious leaders have been 'too timid and too inept to speak it effectively.'"

Rabbi Kelman, discussing another aspect of the relationship of religious organizations to the university, stated that there are currently 200 full-time Jewish scholars teaching Judaica studies in secular colleges and universities, and an additional 1,000 rabbis offering part-time instruction in this field in colleges near their communities. This development is spectacular in view of the fact that no position in this field was open to a Jew until the beginning of this century. Rabbi Kelman cited as factors in the mushrooming interest in Judaica studies, "the general development of ethnic self-consciousness and studies on campus" and the "growing interest in Protestant and Catholic circles in ecumenism and the rediscovery of the Jewish sources of Christianity." Both speakers agreed that this development would have an important impact on the future of American Judaism. Rabbi Karp urged his colleagues to accept it as a challenge, restoring to the title of rabbi its original significance of "scholarly attainment and spiritual sensitivity rather than description of function. A rabbi," he said, "should be able to serve now in a pulpit, now in a center, now as organizational executive, now as a teacher in a university or seminary. This would give new vibrancy to the institutions and new vitality to the rabbi."

There will be no JTA Bulletin Labor Day, Monday, September 6th.