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ISRAEL DOWNS EGYPTIAN PLANE IN DOGFIGHT OVER SUEZ GULF

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--An Egyptian MIG-21 was downed in an aerial dogfight between Israeli and Egyptian planes over the Gulf of Suez this morning, it was announced here. According to the announcement, the fight developed when Egyptian interceptors challenged an Israeli air patrol over the Gulf at what was described as a medium altitude. All Israeli planes returned safely to their bases. The Egyptian pilot was not seen bailing out of his plane which crashed into the Gulf. This was the first clash between Israeli and Egyptian aircraft since June 1972, and the 150th Egyptian plane downed by Israel since the Six-Day War.

This afternoon a number of shells were fired from the Syrian line towards the Ramat Hagolan settlement. There were no casualties or damages. Israeli forces returned fire. Investigation of the splinters of the shells revealed they were of an anti-tank missile type known as "sager" and supplied to Syrians by the Soviet Union.

NO GERMAN FUNDS FOR JEWISH AIRLIFT

BONN, Feb. 15 (JTA)--A Foreign Office spokesman today ruled out any possibility of West Germany helping to finance the Vienna-Tel Aviv airlift for Soviet Jewish immigrants. In Dec. 1971, the Israeli government appealed to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration in Geneva for extra funds to help finance the airlift. Many countries responded, especially the United States, by providing extra funds over and above normal annual contributions to ICEM.

The West-German section of ICEM has been trying unsuccessfully to persuade the Bonn government to give more than its annual two million DM general payment to ICEM. Because of the increasing number of Jews leaving Russia, ICEM funds set aside for the Vienna-Tel Aviv airlift have become inadequate.

ICEM officials in Bonn believe that the West German government has been shy about providing specific contributions for fear of jeopardizing relations with the Arab states. A Foreign Office spokesman said today that when the appeal was first made it had been decided that no contribution could be made for domestic budgetary reasons, and this had not changed. He said the Foreign Office considered the matter closed.

GOREN URGES SOVIET TO SUPPLY JEWISH PRISONERS WITH MATZOS FOR PASSOVER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Acting in response to a plea from Jewish political prisoners in the Soviet Union, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren has cabled Soviet authorities urging them to supply Jewish prisoners with matzos for the Passover holiday and to permit them to practice their religion freely in accordance with their conscience. The Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi said that if he receives a favorable response from the authorities he is prepared to send the Jewish prisoners in Russia packages of matzos and other Passover foods sufficient for all their needs.

Rabbi Goren said he cabled the International Red Cross in Geneva asking its intervention. He

has also asked the chief rabbis of Britain, France and Switzerland and the presidents of rabbinical organizations in the United States to use their good offices to see to it that Jewish prisoners in the USSR are adequately supplied for Passover.

26 MORE SUSPECTS IN SYRIAN-SPONSORED SPY RING REMANDED FOR TRIAL NEXT MONTH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Nine more suspects in the Syrian-sponsored espionage ring were brought to Haifa district court today and remanded for trial. Yesterday 17 defendants--four Jews and 13 Arabs--were brought into the same court and also remanded for trial. The latest 17 defendants will be tried separately from the six original suspects--two Jews and four Arabs--who entered pleas last Sunday for a trial scheduled to begin Feb. 25.

All 26 defendants remanded yesterday and today were charged either with membership in the spy ring or knowing of its activities but failing to inform the authorities. Their trial is scheduled to start on March 11. Among the four Jews brought to court yesterday were Rami Livneh, son of Rukah Kneseter Avraham Levenbrum, and Mali Lehrman, a new immigrant from Argentina. They were charged with meeting a foreign agent: Livneh in a forest near Nazareth, and Lehrman at his home in Tel Aviv.

The other two Jews are David Cooper, 26, of Holon, and Yehezkel Cohen, 30, of B'nai Brak. Cooper and Cohen were accused of membership in the ring and of failing to report a visit to Syria by Ehud Adiv, a 26-year-old paratroop veteran and former member of Kibbutz Gan Shmuel, who allegedly headed the ring's Jewish section.

Adiv pleaded guilty last Sunday to charges he passed intelligence to Syrian agents in Lebanon and Syria and that he contacted a Syrian agent, Anis Kahawagi, in Greece, but pleaded not guilty to charges that he trained in Syria in the use of firearms and explosives.

Refuse Request For Release On Bail

Cooper and Cohen were also charged with planning to go to Greece and from there to Syria for training in use of arms and explosives. Both failed to leave Israel, Cooper for undisclosed reasons and Cohen because he was arrested before he could leave. Cohen also was described by the prosecution as a man with extremist views who discussed with Adiv and Dan Vered the overthrow of the Israeli government and its replacement with a "dictatorship."

The prosecution said Cohen met Adiv and Vered in the extreme left-wing Matzpen group. Vered, a 28-year-old teacher, refused to enter a plea last Sunday.

The prosecution said that the most important Arab among the 13 Arabs brought to court yesterday was Jassan Akbariyeh, 22, of the Um El Fahem village. The prosecution said he was the man with whom an El Fatah agent, Akhmed Khalid, made the initial contact for the spy operation in 1970 and that Akbariyeh arranged for a meeting between Khalid and Adiv and between Khalid and Lehrman.

In remanding them to prison pending trial, the court stressed it could not grant a defense request for release on bail because the charges were "serious" and that the security of the state had been

involved. The prosecution said that the Fatah agent proposed to Lehrman and Livneh that they smuggle weapons and explosives into Israel for sabotage acts. Livneh and Lehrman were accused of knowing that Khalid was an enemy agent and with refusing to report on his activities to Israeli authorities.

PROGRAM OFFERED TO ENHANCE ZIONIST IDEOLOGY, CULTURE, IN THE DIASPORA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Abraham Shenker decried the "impoverishment of ideological life" in the World Zionist Movement in a speech last night to the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) and offered a program which he said would stress Zionist ideology and culture in diaspora communities.

Shenker, who heads the WZO's organization and information department, proposed "permanent mobile seminars" to tour Jewish communities abroad under the auspices of the local Zionist federations. He said the seminars, which would be staffed by academicians, writers and journalists from Israel and possibly from some of the larger diaspora communities, would hold lectures and lead discussions that would "restore the atmosphere of thought and philosophical discussion to our ranks."

He contended that while most Jews abroad support Israel in broad terms, they are ignorant of specific aspects of Israeli policy. He said it was the task of the Zionist federations to disseminate such specific information which would help Jewish students rebut the allegations of Arabists and their supporters.

Defends Magazine Rapped For Extremist Views

Shenker, a Mapam leader, replied to an allegation by Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz of the Herut movement, a former Chief Rabbi of South Africa, that the WZO's organization and information department was dispensing views inimical to Israel. At an earlier session of the General Council meeting, Rabbi Rabinowitz claimed that the department's organ, "Dispersion and Unity," published articles by left-wing and Matzpen personalities that cast Israel in an unfavorable light and discouraged Jewish youth from emigrating to Israel. He specifically mentioned articles by Prof. Jacob Talmon of the Hebrew University who has been a critic of government policies.

Shenker denied that the publication was one-sided and flooded with left-wing opinion. He said its pages were open to anyone who sought to express an opinion. "I think that 'Dispersion and Unity' is highly respected in the intellectual world," Shenker told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It presents widely varied views, and if anyone with a reputation equal to Prof. Talmon's wants to air his views he is welcome." Prof. Talmon is a highly respected scholar in Israel and abroad and the author of numerous works on philosophy and history. He is not associated with Matzpen, an extreme left-wing splinter organization.

QUARRY TO REPLACE PARK STIRS DEBATE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Four hundred workers at the Nesher cement plant near Haifa stopped loading cement today to support their management's demand to be allowed to quarry another section of Mount Carmel, a proposal which has spurred heated protests from ecologists in Israel. Their action came a day after Development Minister Haim Gvati told the Knesset that there was complete agreement that Nesher plans to quarry in a section of the Chrmel National Park would

seriously harm the park.

The workers asserted that "cement production is more important than ecology and beauty" and they demanded an end to the public campaign aimed at preserving the green natural reserve of the park. Ecology experts, students and the general public have joined in efforts to persuade a ministerial committee to reject the company's proposal to quarry in the park for the limestone needed for cement production. The worker's action has cut off about one-third of Israel's supply of cement.

RES. 242 ONLY BASIS FOR MIDEAST PEACE

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The only conceivable basis for peace in the Middle East is Security Council Resolution 242 because it is the only program which all parties have accepted, including the United States and the Soviet Union, according to former Under-Secretary of State Eugene V. Rostow, now Sterling professor of law at Yale University.

"I'm more optimistic than I have ever been that a peace agreement is quite feasible to hope for if not to expect," Prof. Rostow said at a symposium yesterday on "World Politics and the Jewish Condition," at the American Jewish Committee offices here to introduce a new book by that title. The book, a compilation of background papers prepared for AJC's Task Force on the World of the '70s, contains articles by Prof. Rostow and nine other international relations experts.

The same "forces of tension among the major powers" that led to the Cease-fire in Vietnam could also lead to peace in the Middle East, he said. The emergence of the People's Republic of China as an active participant on the international political scene "gives new hope of a true detente among the major powers, and the acceptance by the Soviet Union of a policy of peaceful co-existence." Without Soviet influence, Soviet support, and Soviet arms, there would have been peace long ago between Israel and its neighbors; Dr. Rostow said. "The Arab states would have had no alternative but to accept Israel's right to exist."

Dr. Zvi Y. Gitelman, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, and an authority on the political scene in Eastern Europe, supported the contention that the Soviet Union might be ready to cultivate trade and political relations with the West and to make some concessions in its domestic policies in order to achieve these goals. "While there are no indications that Soviet authorities are now prepared, or will be prepared in the future, to allow Jews the cultural, religious, social and political opportunities that would allow them to survive and flourish as an organized nationality and community," he said, "they can probably afford to let some portion, carefully defined, of the Jewish population to emigrate to Israel in the interest of improving relations with the West."

Emigration seems to be the "only currently realistic solution to the Jewish problem in the USSR," said Dr. Gitelman, who also authored a chapter of the book. But, he added, while it is legitimate to focus on emigration it is important to bear in mind that at least half of the Jews in the Soviet Union would remain there. Therefore, he continued, "the main thrust of our concern should be toward a Russian-Jewish culture," within the context of Soviet ideology.

Seventy members of the Federation of Jewish Youth in Belgium demonstrated in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Brussels last night on behalf of Iraqi Jews. They carried banners listing the names of the Iraqi Jews believed to have been recently executed. Police arrested the 70 demonstrators but released them. There were no other incidents.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

YOSEF TEKOAHI: ISRAEL'S VOICE IN THE UN
By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--During the debate on the Middle East last year in the United Nations General Assembly, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah once again, as he had on many occasions before, presented an impassioned plea for peace in the Middle East.

"It is with regret," he began, in clear and measured tone, "that we are again entering upon a debate on the Middle East situation. This is a feeling shared by all who have the cause of peace at heart. Public discussions of the Israel-Arab conflict in the United Nations have been characterized throughout the years by polemical exchanges consummated in controversial, one-sided resolutions which multiplied differences and heightened tensions."

Several of the Arab delegates sat back in their chairs consumed with apathy. One Soviet delegate scanned some papers on his desk. A delegate from the People's Republic of China stared languidly into space. Some 40 minutes later Tekoah ended his presentation, stating: "The year ahead of us can be one of meaningful progress toward understanding... Acrimony, controversy, confrontation have proved harmful in the past. The time has come to free ourselves from them."

Speeches by the Arab-Soviet bloc following Tekoah's presentation indicated that they had listened with deaf ears. So far as they were concerned it was just one more "speech," a replay of the "Zionist propaganda machine." The Arab-Soviet bloc delegates didn't say so in those many words, but their vituperations, tirades and diatribes against Israel, and against Tekoah in particular--now as in the past--added up to this.

In view of this, why does Israel remain in the UN, what does it hope to achieve there? Tekoah was asked these questions during an interview. He remained silent for a few moments as he looked at the pictures of Golda Meir and Abba Eban that are hung on the walls of his office in the Israel Mission to the UN.

Israel's Goals In The UN

"The goal of Israel in the United Nations," he said, "is to declare its policy from this international stage. But mainly, it is to prevent the UN from becoming an efficient tool in the political battle that the Arabs are waging against Israel. We must reach the point where UN discussions about Israel are at a minimum. The Arabs automatically have a majority in the UN and this factor dictates our actions and goals."

Tekoah noted that Israel's situation in the world body is especially difficult "when we consider that in addition to the 18 Arab delegations there are also 11 pro-Soviet delegations and 15 Moslem delegations who are cooperating with the cause of the Arabs." The Israeli diplomat and statesman, who had his first assignment in the UN in 1947, said, Israel has no illusions about what she can achieve in that organization. "Therefore," he said, "Israel's goal is to neutralize as much as possible the Arab parliamentary majority, to reduce the UN's dealings with Israel, and to let the Arabs know that they can't harm Israel or influence her with endless complaints."

According to the Harvard educated envoy, Israel was a subject of many discussions in the Security Council after the Six-Day War. Now, the Security Council seldom bothers with Israel. Why? "The Arabs have understood that they can't influence or change the situation with one-sided res-

olutions in the Council," he observed. "As a result, the Arabs have decreased the number of their complaints."

Tekoah, who was born in Russia, spent his childhood and early youth in China. He received a law degree in Shanghai, then studied at Harvard where he taught international law in 1947 and 1948. In 1948 he served with the Israeli delegation to the UN, was ambassador to Brazil from 1960-62, and served as ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1962-65. He is multi-lingual and is at home in English, French, Russian, Chinese and, of course, Hebrew, the language in which he conducted the interview.

Before returning to the topic of Israel and the UN, Tekoah told the visitor that he has three children and "my daughter is an officer in the Israeli Army." He stated this with great pride and his eyes sparkled. For a fleeting moment the weight of international politics receded into the background. But only for a moment. "The UN as an international institution which can intervene and change facts on the international level is deteriorating," he said. "This is true especially in the case of the Middle East. From the point of view of Israel it is just as well. Israel does not regret it."

'One Does Not Leave A Difficult Front'

Asked whether Israel has ever considered decreasing its activities in the UN, the 47-year-old diplomat responded that this course would not be acceptable to either the Israeli government or the Israeli public. "One does not leave a difficult front," he asserted. "You have to stand firm and 'hit back.' To a certain extent, the feeling is that our delegation in the General Assembly is too small. Between one Assembly session and the next there are many issues which demand attention. Israel has a six-member delegation. But there are as many as 180 members in the Arab delegations and hundreds of Soviet and Moslem delegates who are hostile to Israel."

So far as the African states are concerned, Tekoah observed that breaks in diplomatic relations between African states and Israel "of course have implications for power alignments and alliances in the UN." The world body, an organization of states with diverse, interlocking, or, as the cases may be, conflicting interests, reflects the general-world political situation and, therefore, "this situation is reflected in the way various states vote in the UN," Tekoah said.

The Israeli diplomat, who was appointed in 1968 as Permanent Representative to the UN, was asked to assess the differences between Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and his predecessor, U Thant. "I think the main difference is that Waldheim tends more to political thinking, while Thant viewed problems more narrowly and acted more on the basis of UN formalities."

Tekoah, through the years, has developed his own style of delivery, one that frequently nettles the opponents of the Jewish State. His presentations are always lucid, logical and filled with historical references that illuminate the topic under discussion. He is always, in the words of one admirer, "unflappable and unruffled." Quite frequently visitors in the gallery applaud Tekoah as he reduces to a shambles the emotional invectives of the Arab-Soviet bloc spokesmen.

One delegate said recently, "The Arabs could use someone like Tekoah to present their cause." The compliment, ironically, missed the point. In the final analysis the eloquence of Yosef Tekoah is not the principle of delivery but the delivery of principle.

CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY TO APPEAL COURT RULING BARRING RENTALS TO ORTHODOX JEWS IN HOUSING PROJECT

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA)--The New York City Housing Authority announced today it would appeal a federal court ruling barring the Authority from proceeding with plans to rent to Orthodox Jews many of the apartments in a new Lower East Side housing project in Manhattan.

Federal District Court Judge Morris Lasker ruled on Feb. 8 that the plan excluded Puerto Rican residents and that "the use of religious criteria in the assignment of an apartment" in the 23-story apartment building "is a violation of the First Amendment." The building is part of the Seward Park Extension Urban Renewal Project.

The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, which is acting as counsel in the case for most of the Orthodox Jews, welcomed the announcement. COLPA and the Legal Aid Society appeared in the case to argue the validity of the leases granted to the Jews. The apartment building, though completed last July, has remained vacant while the court battle was in progress.

The Housing Authority had leased 171 of the 369 apartment units to Orthodox Jews now living in other Lower East Side housing projects. The goal was to bring them all into one building across the street from a synagogue. The Housing Authority had planned to move Puerto Rican families into the apartments--most of them reportedly large--vacated by the Jews.

Claim Priority For Puerto Rican Families

Lawyers from the Lower East Side Community Corp. and the Coalition on Human Rights contended that the Puerto Rican families deserved priority because they lived in the immediate neighborhood of the project and because many of their homes had been demolished to make room for it. More than 160 of the units have been leased to other white residents of the neighborhood and 26 remain unrented.

Simeon Golar, the Housing Authority chairman, said the Authority was trying to maintain the Lower East Side as an integrated community. He had noted that many Puerto Ricans and Blacks already live in public housing in the area.

Judge Lasker, in his ruling, declared that despite federal laws requiring the Housing Authority to promote integration, the former renewal area residents could not, in this case, be deprived of their priority for the new apartments. His ruling said that "by giving some persons apartments because they are religious Jews, the Housing Authority deprives others because they are not Jewish." COLPA and the Legal Aid Society indicated previously they would appeal the judge's ruling for their clients.

Howard Rhine, COLPA president, said that if the Housing Authority had decided not to appeal Judge Lasker's ruling, complicated legal action would have been necessary with uncertain results. He said COLPA's appeal petition is being prepared by a COLPA committee of attorneys, headed by Harvey Blitz. The Legal Aid Society appeal papers are being prepared under the direction of Kalman Finkel. Rhine added that "our chances in the appeal" would be enhanced by the Authority's decision.

More than 250 Jewish residents marched in front of the United States Court House in lower

Manhattan yesterday to protest Judge Lasker's ruling. The demonstrators chanted in Yiddish and English and carried signs demanding a "fair shake" for Lower East Side Jews.

LUBARSKY TO APPEAL COURT SENTENCE

LONDON, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Lazar Lubarsky, a Soviet Jewish activist, will appeal late this month his recent conviction by a Rostov court. An Australian lawyer, Marcus Einfeld, has applied for a visa so that he can attend the proceedings. Lubarsky, 46, an engineer, was charged with slandering the Soviet Union and giving away State secrets. Legal experts here described both charges as unsubstantiated and devoid of credibility. Lubarsky was sentenced to four years' imprisonment in a strict regime labor camp.

Einfeld had originally applied for a Soviet visa to attend the trial which was held in a closed court Feb. 1. He was told by the Soviet Consulate that a visa would be granted if he were to be invited by the Soviet Lawyers Association. Einfeld has written to the association's chairman to request an invitation.

TEKOAHS DENOUNCES JORDANIAN CLAIM

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 15 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah has denounced Jordan's accusation of Israel for the collapse of an inside wall in the El Aksa mosque, describing the charge as "vicious propaganda" that "demonstrates that the Jordanian government is not yet ready to replace hostility...with a serious search for understanding." Tekoah was responding to a Feb. 14 letter from Jordan's Ambassador to the UN to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in which the accusation was made.

Tekoah said the wall came down Feb. 11 while Arab workers, employed by the Moslems Waqf authorities, were digging a foundation for new marble pillars brought recently from Rome. According to Tekoah, the supreme Moslem Council immediately issued a statement that the possibility of the wall collapse had been anticipated and precautionary measures had been taken. "In fact," Tekoah added, "work is continuing normally under the direction of the Moslem authorities."

The Military Governor is considering supplying Gaza Strip residents with arms for their protection against Arab terrorists, it was learned today. Weapons would be provided to those who asked for them in the wake of the murder Sunday of Deib Ismaeil el Artibbi in the Gaza Strip and an attempt Monday on the life of former Gaza Mayor Rashid Shawa. Gaza residents, meanwhile, signed a petition to leaders in the Arab countries asking them to take measures to halt terrorist killings.

Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef took the occasion of a visit yesterday to Hebron to urge the government and the Jewish Agency to send new immigrants to Hebron and other settlements in the administered areas. Rabbi Yosef asked this be undertaken so that the immigrants "may be truly absorbed in the land." The Chief Rabbi was the guest of the border police and the Hebron Jewish settlers.

An Israeli film, "I Love You Rosa," has been nominated as one of five foreign films for an Oscar Award this year. It was voted the best Israeli film of 1972 and was Israel's entry at the 1972 Cannes Film Festival where it was very well received. It had its American premiere in New York earlier this month.