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ISRAEL TO PAY FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN LIBYAN PLANE CRASH; WORD 'COMPENSATION' IS NOT MENTIONED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided today to pay cash sums to the families of the 106 Libyan airplane victims who died Wednesday when the plane entered Israel-occupied air space and was brought down by Israeli fighters. The Cabinet communicate pointedly avoided the word "compensation" which, it was explained would imply restitution for a wrong which Israel does not admit having done.

The government announced its readiness to make unspecified payments to the families of the victims "in deference to humanitarian considerations," the communicate stated. The decision came despite Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's statements Thursday and again yesterday that he personally felt there was no reason for Israel to make any such payments. Cabinet sources said no figures or other details were discussed. When 11 Israeli Olympic athletes were killed by Arab terrorists in Munich last Sept., the German government paid out \$1 million in a similar humanitarian gesture.

The Cabinet decided not to open a commission of inquiry into the plane mishap and declared itself satisfied with the internal army investigation which was held over the weekend. Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar reported to the Ministers on the findings of this inquiry. The Cabinet expressed once more "Israel's profound sorrow over the death of the passengers. They died in the terrible disaster which occurred under circumstances of belligerency and incessant threats of acts of terrorism from the air."

The Cabinet stated that the Air Force had acted in compliance with international law when it forced the plane to land and noted that Israel had informed all states that its front-line deployments near the Suez Canal were closed to civilian aviation. Cabinet sources explained later that Israel had notified the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), to which Libya belongs of all the closed military areas in Israel and the occupied territories.

Will Provide All Available Information

One Minister suggested that an Israeli quasi-judicial commission of inquiry be established, not, he explained, because he had any doubts about the propriety of the Air Force's action, but because he thought such a commission would help to placate international opinion. After some discussion the Cabinet rejected this idea.

The question of an international inquiry was not raised, according to Cabinet sources, since no country has formally approached the Israel government requesting that one be set up. Instead, the Cabinet resolved to provide all the available information on the plane incident to the relevant governments and international organizations. Since there was no clear decision ruling out an international inquiry, observers here believe that the government might still agree to one if strong pressure were brought to bear by friendly Western governments.

This evening, French Ambassador Francis Hure called on Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to request once more that French observ-

ers be included in any inquiry. He had made the same request Thursday to Israel's Paris envoy. The Ambassador left the meeting professing himself satisfied. This is interpreted to mean that Eban told him of the Cabinet's decision to make all information available and this was sufficient.

Dayan is to present a government statement to the Knesset tomorrow and a debate is expected to follow with the left-wing parties calling for a commission of inquiry and the right-wing decrying exaggerated foreign condemnation of Israel over the plane incident.

AVIATION EDITOR ON PLANE TRAGEDY

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The aviation affairs editor of the Dutch liberal daily "Handelsblad," commenting on the Libyan plane disaster, called the pilot "extremely clumsy" in his handling of the plane. A sandstorm, the editor said, may well have hindered a normal landing, but since a sandstorm has "no influence" over a height of three kilometers, it could hardly have affected the plane's navigation instruments.

DEMANDS OF 'DEATH TO JEWS,' 'LIGHT UP THE OVENS,' IN WAKE OF PLANE DISASTER

PARIS, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A wave of anti-Semitism broke out in the town of Nice on the French Riviera last Thursday night following the Libyan airline tragedy. Slogans saying "Death to Jews," "Light up the Ovens," and "Seven Frenchmen Have Been Killed, Seven Jews Will be Assassinated" appeared on the walls of synagogues, on the doors of the French Jewish welfare association (FSJU), the French United Jewish Appeal (AUJF), and on the fronts of Jewish-owned businesses.

Jewish community leaders met with police and with the Mayor on Friday. In a communicate, they "deplored the haste with which certain groups have revealed their violent anti-Semitic feelings by calling for the murder of French citizens." Police have opened an investigation. No further incidents have since occurred. In Paris, a leading Jewish personality told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he hoped the incident was "just a local one, which will not spread." He added, however, that the Jewish community should be "vigilant."

SISCO: DESPITE TRAGEDY, PROSPECTS FOR MIDEAST TALKS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Despite the Libyan airliner tragedy, the international atmosphere has improved for further progress in establishing "a process for negotiation" in the Middle East, Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said today.

Appearing on CBS-TV "Face the Nation," he pointed to the "utmost restraint" by Arab leaders since the incident, President Nixon's "very useful discussion" with Jordan's King Hussein Feb. 6, and the "cordial, frank discussion" conducted by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Deputy Secretary Kenneth Rush with Hafez Ismail, Egyptian President Sadat's special emissary. Sisco said Ismail "made an effective presentation of the Egyptian position" in Washington Friday.

CBS reporter Robert Pierpoint asked Sisco whether the United States would continue to supply weapons to Israel from the half-billion dollar pipeline earmarked for Israel. Sisco replied that the

issue of continuing weapons to Israel to maintain the arms balance in the Mideast would be discussed with Israeli Premier Golda Meir when she visits Washington this week. Mrs. Meir is to appear on Face the Nation next Sunday, CBS announced.

Sisco said that the Libyan airliner crash "reflected the deep distrust in the Middle East" and is "a cogent reminder--if we need a cogent reminder--that, as President Nixon has said, we must get this situation (in the Middle East) off dead center." Sisco added that "this is a time for private diplomacy" to explore the views of all parties and that this will be the focus of talks with Mrs. Meir.

Asked about Soviet-American relations in regard to the Middle East, Sisco said that the two super-powers at their summit conference last May in Moscow "committed themselves" not only to the goals of the UN Security Council Resolution 242 but also to the principle of no confrontation between the major powers. This is, he said, "paralleled" by the interest of both countries to maintain the cease-fire in the area.

MRS. MEIR HAS NO NEW SUGGESTIONS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet held a two-hour discussion today on the forthcoming trip of Premier Golda Meir to the United States, but held off from deciding on a fixed set of borders which she would advocate for a final peace settlement with the Arabs. Thus Mrs. Meir apparently has no new Israeli suggestions to discuss with the U.S. as she moves closer to her talks with President Nixon scheduled for the end of this week. The Cabinet took up the question of a partial settlement and concluded that this remained the best basis for some kind of early agreement with Egypt.

In a brief statement issued after the Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet "resolved that the policy and the resolutions of the government will guide the Prime Minister in her talks in the United States with the purpose of promoting peace between Israel and the Arabs within defensible borders." The Cabinet spokesman stated that Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported during the Cabinet discussion on the visit of President Anwar Sadat's national security advisor Hafez Ismail to Washington last week. But the spokesman refused to go into detail on the Foreign Minister's report.

IATA HEAD URGES INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Knut Hammarskjold, secretary general of the International Air Transport Association, proposed today an international inquiry commission on the downing of the Libyan airliner. Hammarskjold, who is due in Israel tomorrow, made the proposal in a cable to Mordechai Ben Ari, general director of El Al and a member of IATA. Hammarskjold also suggested an international conference to discuss means of preventing such tragedies in the future, a conference based on the findings of the proposed international investigation.

Two Israeli captains of the Israeli Pilots Association, Itzhak Shaked and Shimon Ash, left for London today to attend an extraordinary session of the International Federation of Pilots Associations (IFALPA) which has on its agenda proposals to boycott flights to Israel in retaliation for the downing of the Libyan Boeing.

Olaf Fursberg of Finland, IFALPA president, arrived here today, in an unexpected visit, as captain of a Finnish airliner on charter flight to Israel. He conferred with Israeli pilots. During refueling of the charter plane, he said IFALPA

views with extreme gravity the crash of the Libyan plane.

He was given a full account of what happened but he persisted in saying, "I cannot understand how it is possible to fire on a civilian plane." He indicated that the European pilots groups, especially those of Britain and France, were demanding sanctions against Israel. Aviation sources here expressed the view that Israel would be strongly condemned but that no sanctions would be imposed.

DAYAN: BOTH SIDES WERE MISTAKEN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan conceded yesterday that mistakes on both sides contributed to the downing of the Libyan airliner last Wednesday and the loss of 106 lives. He proposed a "hot line" with capitals of neighboring Arab states to be used to prevent such accidents. This was immediately rejected by Egyptian sources.

Dayan told members of a 25th anniversary Jewish National Fund mission last night that he regretted the immediate negative reaction from Egypt. He called it indicative of the Arab relations toward Israel in that "they are not ready to listen to a proposal for simple human precautions."

Speaking at a press conference after discovery of the "black box" of the downed airliner, Dayan cited three elements in the tragedy: the failure of the airline pilot to realize he was over Sinai rather than Egypt until the last minute and his assumption that it was Egyptian MIG's firing at his plane; the error of the Cairo airport ground control station which repeatedly "confirmed" the pilot's misreading of his position; and the assumption of Israel's defense officials that the airliner might be on a hostile mission.

In rejecting Dayan's proposal for a hot line, which Dayan said had been in operation 20 years ago between him, as commander in Jerusalem and the Jordanian commander of the Jerusalem area and with Egypt and other neighboring countries, the Egyptians said the proposal was an Israeli attempt to achieve through "a back door" what they could not achieve through the "front door." They reiterated Egypt's fundamental position not to have any direct dealings with Israel in any field.

Elazar Takes Full Responsibility

Gen. David Elazar, Army Chief of Staff, said yesterday that he assumed full responsibility for the decision to bring down the airliner. He said "under the suspicious circumstances of that moment, I thought then and I am sure of it now that the evaluation and decision to force the plane down were justified." He added that "knowing then what we know now, we would not have given the order to force the plane down by use of fire."

Elazar insisted there was no knowledge that there were passengers aboard the plane. He noted that the airliner "had managed to come through the Egyptian air defenses without being hit or even being warned, thus giving the impression that the plane was crossing into Israeli-held territory in coordination with the Egyptian defense system."

Gen. Mordechai Hod, the Air Force commander, said his flyers were caught in a "terrible dilemma," but after evaluating the situation in the short time at their disposal, they had to act as they did. He added "We could not have taken such a combination of errors into account."

The data from the black box gave a dramatic recital of the consistency with which the Cairo ground control fed the airliner pilot with incorrect information as to his position. Dayan told the press conference he could not understand how a

competent airline captain could mistake Israeli Phantoms for MIGs and the Israeli markings for Egyptian.

Dayan repeated his initial stand that there was no need for an Israeli investigation, but he also stressed again that any official agency or authorized parties, such as the Libyan Airways, the Pilots Association, the Red Cross and Air France were welcome to all material on the crash and that Israel would provide maximum help in any such investigation. Reacting to calls from Arab capitals for revenge, he expressed the hope that the Arabs would understand that Israel understood "that what has happened was a catastrophe. I share their sorrow."

RABIN CONFIDENT THAT NIXON-MEIR TALKS WILL BE IN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin expressed confidence yesterday that despite the "tragic" downing of the Libyan airliner, the meeting this week in Washington between Premier Golda Meir and President Nixon and top administration leaders will be conducted in "an atmosphere of friendship." Mrs. Meir, making her first visit to Washington since Dec. 1971, is scheduled to arrive tomorrow and will meet at the White House with the President on Thursday. Her trip had been arranged two months ago.

The Israeli envoy told newsmen: "I believe the President and the rest of the U.S. administration will distinguish between the unfortunate incident; however tragic, and the necessity to concentrate on fundamental problems of the Middle East." He added: "I believe the basic state of relations between the United States and Israel was never better in the past than it is today. I am confident that the United States government--as it has done in the past--will continue to do everything to conduct the visit in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding between our two governments."

Commenting on the meeting Friday between Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers and the special Egyptian emissary, Hafez Ismail, Rabin said: "If Mr. Ismail did not bring with him concrete proposals on how to make further progress toward a political solution through negotiations among the parties beyond past Egyptian proposals, I am doubtful that the visit of Mr. Ismail will have any impact on the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit."

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE URGES GREATER EFFORTS TO AID UJA 1973 GOAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A formal endorsement of the 1973 United Jewish Appeal was made by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations after a meeting with Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir at which he told more than 100 Jewish leaders that Israel has the "largest debt per capita of any nation in the world." He added "We need the UJA. We need your help during our first 25 years and it is even more important now."

Jacob Stein, chairman of the Presidents' Conference, called on the 30 national organizations in the Conference to "give every aid to the UJA's record-breaking 1973 goal by raising the level of our gifts, both as individuals and organizations, and by joining with the UJA and with local Federations and Welfare Funds in aiding all programs aimed at raising the greatest possible sums for the UJA."

Irving Bernstein, UJA executive vice-president, urged the Presidents' Conference and its

member units to put forth a resolution establishing participation in the 1973 UJA campaign as a central obligation for every Jew committed enough to be a member of a Jewish organization. He also urged each member organization "to sensitize your membership to the critical needs of Soviet Jewish emigrants and to exert every possible effort to secure total participation in the 1973 UJA campaign by giving the maximum of their time, effort and substance."

FIGHT ASSIMILATION, LABOR ZIONISTS TOLD

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, warned today that while Israel is vibrant and strong on its 25th anniversary, American Jewish life could crumble unless more attention was given to youth, Jewish education and aliya. At the same time, Dr. Shapiro told a meeting of the LZA's National Council, Labor Zionists must remember their commitment to the centrality of Israel in Jewish life.

Itzhak Korn, member of Israel's Parliament and secretary general of the World Labor Zionist Movement, said that while the centrality of Israel in Jewish life is accepted, great efforts must also be made to counteract the threat of assimilation in the diaspora, otherwise Israel may find itself alone as the cultural and spiritual center of the Jewish people. He called on the Labor Zionists to expand their educational system in America with emphasis on Jewish education and youth-serving functions. "If we are not careful," he declared, "we shall lose our national physiognomy."

Prof. Allen Pollack, member of the World Zionist Executive, American Section, and a Labor Zionist leader, told the delegates that "the Jewish world is changing. Zionism has triumphed, but what happens to the next generation must be the major concern of all Jews."

SEPHARDIC JEWS HOLD FOUNDING CONVENTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Declaring that they would "dedicate themselves to the revitalization of the Sephardic culture and heritage in the United States and in the world, and that they would aid the underprivileged population of the State of Israel through direct and material assistance to her Sephardic citizens," several hundred delegates from throughout the United States gathered today to establish the American Sephardic Foundation.

Terming the new Federation "a major step in the unity of all Sephardic Jews," Prof. Daniel Elazar, convention chairman and acting chairman of the Federation, and himself a prominent member of the American Sephardic community, said the purposes of the organization would be to "defend and foster the religious and cultural activities of Sephardic congregations and communities, and to promote, sponsor and support Jewish institutions of learning and institutions for the training of leaders, lay and religious, in accordance with Sephardic customs, rites and usages to serve Sephardic communities throughout the United States, the State of Israel and the world."

The Israel Consul General in Chicago, Shaul Ramati, will attend the funeral services tomorrow of Wladyslaw Porysgolebski, the sole American among the 106 victims who died in the crash of the Libyan airliner. The Embassy also reported that Ramati had telephoned the victim's widow and expressed to her Israel's deep sorrow and sympathy over her loss. The victim, 61, had been a U.S. citizen who emigrated from Poland and was naturalized last July.

