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ISRAEL BUYING 100,000 TONS OF CEMENT FROM THE SOVIET UNION

First Commercial Deal Since Ties Broken Between Two Nations

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA)--Israel is buying 100,000 tons of cement from the Soviet Union in the first commercial transaction between the two countries since Moscow severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, it was reported here today.

The first consignment--20,000 tons--is expected from Russia next month. It will be the largest single shipment of cement ever to reach Israel and will be carried in an American vessel which will load the cement at a Soviet port after discharging a cargo of U.S. wheat, the report said.

The report, carried by the newspapers Maariv and Yediot Achronot, said the price of the Russian cement is slightly higher than the current price on the international market. It was quoted at \$28 a ton at a Russian port and \$35 a ton in Israel. But it is not known what price Israel is paying under the deal. Payment will be effected through a third party, the newspapers said.

It has not been disclosed when the deal was made and whether it was negotiated directly by Israel and the USSR or through a third party. While Israel suffers a shortage of cement and must import large quantities, there was no immediate explanation as to why Israel would go to the Soviet market for the product.

The government indicated recently that it intended to encourage the establishment of new cement plants to supplement the Neshor monopoly which has been unable to produce sufficient cement for domestic building needs. Neshor is required to import cement when it falls short of its quotas.

\$300,000 PAID IN COMPENSATION FOR PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN LIBYAN AIRLINER DISASTER

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA)--Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro disclosed yesterday that Israel has paid out \$300,000 so far in compensation for persons killed or injured when Israeli jets downed a Libyan airliner over Sinai on Feb. 21, Shapiro did not say how many families had received compensation. He told the Knesset, however, that the Arab states apparently did not prevent their nationals from filing claims with Israel.

After the disaster which took more than 100 lives, Israel offered, as a free will gesture, to pay \$30,000 to the families of each of the fatal victims and \$10-\$30,000 to the injured depending upon the extent of their injuries.

WALDHEIM TRIP DUE BEFORE UN ASSEMBLY CONVENES IN SEPT.

UNITED NATIONS, July 18 (JTA)--A UN spokesman said today that Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's trip to the Middle East will take place before the General Assembly convenes in Sept. The spokesman said, however, that no date has been set. He denied reports that Waldheim has postponed the trip, observing that since no date has been announced there

could be no postponement.

No date has been announced for resumption of the Security Council's general debate on the Middle East. Some sources here said the Security Council would reconvene this Friday but there was no confirmation from UN sources.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, returned to New York last night and will meet tonight with members of the non-aligned group of nations. Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah will meet with Secretary General Waldheim this afternoon. The meeting is a Tekoah's request.

KHARKOV JEW WARNS JEWISH GROUPS NOT TO BE SMUG ABOUT ACHIEVEMENTS

LONDON, July 18 (JTA)--A Kharkov Jew who has been denied an exit visa on grounds that he and his wife are "security risks," has warned Jewish organizations in the U.S., Britain and France not to be satisfied with their achievements on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Mikhail Kerbel, whose "open letter" was just received here, said, "We are a visible example of the enormous difference between what the Russians really do and what they say to the world public."

Kerbel and his wife, Adella, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, have been trying to leave the Soviet Union for two-and-a-half years and have been consistently denied exit visas. "Our family has been appealing to all the Soviet bodies in charge of emigration to Israel, but our requests have gotten nowhere," he wrote.

"On the contrary, they are being used by the authorities as an excuse to subject our family to even more indignities. I have been deprived of the right of free movement, my correspondence is opened and not delivered to me, and our letters to our relatives and friends abroad do not reach their destinations," Kerbel said. "We have been deprived of all contact with the outside world."

His letter concluded, "Having exhausted all the possible means in our struggle for our right to emigrate and finding ourselves in the position of being forcibly kept here, we must urge you not to be satisfied with your achievements so far, but to continue giving support to our struggle."

GRENADE FOUND ON TIBERIAS BEACH

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--A hand grenade concealed in a parcel of fruit was discovered by a lifeguard at the Lyddo beach in Tiberias this evening. Police who were called said no timing device was wired to the grenade. Two hand grenades with timing devices were discovered in two movie theaters in Haifa Monday night. Five Arabs were arrested yesterday on suspicion of having planted them.

EBAN: ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban made it clear today that Israel has no intention of negotiating with the Palestinians and that it considers the Kingdom of Jordan and a Palestinian state to be synonymous.

Addressing the Knesset in reply to a motion by the New Communist Party on the rights of Palestinian Arabs, Eban said that the problem of the Palestinians will be solved in the process of negotiations between Israel and the neighboring Arab

states aimed at fixing borders and establishing peace.

He said it was the absence of peace that prevented the Palestinians from defining their aims and their problems. According to Eban, Jordan has always had a Palestinian majority and most of the Palestinians live in Jordan. Geography, history and basic cultural and national facts have always created a congruency, though not a total identity, between the Palestinian complex and the Jordanian complex, Eban said.

No Factor For Third State

He added that no international factor or serious Arab viewpoint suggested that a Palestinian state be created in addition to Jordan and Israel. The idea of a third state was always used to eliminate one of the existing states in the region, Eban said. He noted that President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia recently termed Jordan an "artificial entity" and suggested that King Hussein step down in favor of a Palestinian Jordan.

(Bourguiba's remarks were cited as the principal reason why Jordan broke diplomatic relations with Tunisia yesterday. According to Amman radio, the decision was made 24 hours after the Jordanian Ambassador in Tunis was recalled following a stormy meeting with Bourguiba. Tunis radio reported that Bourguiba had rejected a Jordanian request for an explanation of his statements.)

Meir Wilner of the New Communist Party observed that the United Nations decision of Nov. 29, 1947 which set up the State of Israel provided for the creation of two democratic states, one for Jews and one for Arabs, who each merited self-determination and independence. He claimed that it was ridiculous, racist and barbaric to deny that the Palestinians constituted a nation.

ALMOGI LEAVES CABINET TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF HAIFA

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA)--Labor Minister Yosef Almoqi announced today that he would leave the Cabinet to run for mayor of Haifa. He said he was doing so at the behest of the Labor Party leadership which wants him to take over the administration of Israel's largest port city whose mayor, Moshe Flieman, died recently. Almoqi said that if elected he would devote himself solely to municipal affairs and would not sit in the Cabinet even as a minister without portfolio.

10 TERRORISTS CAPTURED IN LEBANON CHARGED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL Prosecutor Cites Eichmann Precedent

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Ten Arab terrorists who were captured by Israeli commando units last September during a raid on terrorist training bases in Lebanon were charged before a military tribunal in Lod yesterday with membership in hostile organizations and training for acts of sabotage against Israeli security.

The defense counsels questioned the jurisdiction of the court to try the men who were brought to Israel against their will and were in another country where Israel's jurisdiction does not apply.

Prosecutor Dan Ben Ner replied that the question of where they were captured and how they were brought to court is irrelevant. He said in the Eichmann trial it had been ruled that the court was dealing with the charges brought against the accused and not how he was brought to the court.

The ten Arabs, citizens of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Qatar, were remanded until further hearing on the case next week. Several of

the accused were said to have been trained in the People's Republic of China for acts of sabotage.

JAPANESE ENVOYS URGE ROLE IN MIDEAST

TOKYO, July 18 (JTA)--Fourteen Japanese ambassadors assigned to Middle Eastern countries and two former ambassadors to that region contended at a conference here last week that a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute could not be achieved by the concerned parties alone. They stressed that Japan should cooperate to assist mediation efforts by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry sources disclosed here.

According to reports in the Japan Times and the Asahi Evening News, the envoys unanimously endorsed Japan's "neutral attitude" in the Middle East conflict and said it should continue "particularly in view of the recent trend of using oil as a political weapon." They agreed that Japan could not help but continue to endorse Security Council Resolution 242 "from the viewpoint of opposing expansion of territory by military force," according to the newspapers.

The participants in the meeting, which was opened by Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira, included the ambassadors to Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, and the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs bureau.

Plans To Aid Mideast Nations

The conference was held at the Foreign Ministry "to review and assess the political and economic situations in the Middle East." The envoys agreed that the oil-producing countries in that region "have the positive intention of selling oil so that they may utilize the ample foreign currency thus obtained in their own economic development." Ambassadors assigned to non-oil producing countries in the region stressed that Japan's one-sided trade with those countries should be corrected, according to Ministry sources.

The sources said the government plans to increase official development aid to the Middle East nations only if it serves to help the economic and social development of those countries. Some envoys said that newspaper reports of increased tension in the region because of U.S. and Soviet arms sales there were exaggerated.

(The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram, commenting on the Tokyo meeting, criticized Japan for not playing a greater role in the Middle East and not taking a stand in the Arab-Israeli dispute. The newspaper claimed that Japan's main interest in the region was based on economic consideration and its supply of oil, 86 percent of which came from Arab countries.)

8 JEWISH ACTIVISTS BEATEN BY GUARDS

LONDON, July 18 (JTA)--Eight Moscow Jewish activists who were released from jail several days ago, bore marks, and in three cases severe injuries sustained from beatings they suffered at the hands of prison guards. The eight served 15-day sentences for "hooliganism" and "disorderly conduct." They were arrested outside a Moscow subway station June 29 while demonstrating to protest the denial of exit visas.

According to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union one of them is suffering from a kidney infection as a result of beatings. Another has spinal injuries and a third is unable to use his left hand. All had visible bruises.

A Soviet deputy prosecutor surnamed Makarevich saw the prisoners after they had complained

of the beatings to a high ranking Army officer. He admitted that the prison guards had violated regulations but excused them by suggesting that they might have been "nervous" or "just in a bad mood," the sources reported.

Jewish sources reported that the investigation into the case of the Goldstein brothers, Grigory, 42, Isai, 35, of Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, has been completed by the authorities and files have been presented to court but no trial date has been set. The brothers have been charged under Art. 206 of the Georgian penal code with dissemination of anti-Soviet propaganda, spreading anti-Soviet information and slandering the Soviet State.

BREZHNEV TRIED BUT FAILED TO SHAKE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR MFN BILLS

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA)--Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev tried but failed to shake U.S. Congressional support for the Jackson and Mills-Vanik legislation when he was in Washington last month, Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said today. Furthermore, Maass said, the "patently false" figures on Jewish emigration from the USSR and the number of visas granted which Brezhnev recited at a meeting with Senate and House members, seriously damaged his credibility.

There was no erosion of support for the measures linking U.S. trade concessions to the Soviet Union with an easing of emigration policies. In fact, an additional legislator, Sen. Russell Long (D., La.) has since added his name to the list of sponsors of the Jackson Amendment, Maass told a press conference at the Biltmore Hotel.

Other points Maass made in reply to reporters' questions were: there are now 1400 "hard core cases" of Soviet Jews deprived of jobs and awaiting exit visas--nearly a 50 percent increase over the 1000 such cases that he, Jacob Stein, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Max Fisher of Detroit cited to Presidential advisor Henry Kissinger before the latter's trip to Moscow last May; that he "hoped" the Supreme Soviet, currently in session in Moscow, will come up with new citizenship laws that will result in the "regularization" of emigration procedures and not in tightening restrictions.

Undiminished Activity On Behalf Of Soviet Jews

Maass said that when Brezhnev came to the U.S. for his summit talks with President Nixon he expressly intended to crack Congressional support for Soviet Jews as embodied in the Jackson-Mills-Vanik bills. Brezhnev reported that 61,000 visa applications were received in 1972 and 60,200 visas were issued. Actually, said Maass, as of June, 1973 more than 110,000 applicants were awaiting exit visas but only 31,700 visas were issued in 1972.

Maass said that he and other American Jewish leaders expect to meet shortly with Dr. Kissinger for a briefing on the Nixon-Brezhnev summit results as they relate to Soviet Jewry.

Others attending the press conference were Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry and Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization. Asked by a reporter if there might be a resurgence of anti-Semitism in this country if it appeared that the Jewish community was hampering detente and trade agreements with Moscow, Lowell replied, "We are for detente, but detente with freedom." Mrs. Jacobson also dismissed the possibility

of a rise in anti-Semitism and said that efforts to aid Soviet Jews would continue with "undiminished intensity." She said that during her recent visit to Israel she met with many Soviet Jewish emigres. "Someone would win a Pulitzer prize for telling the story of the miracle of the absorption of so many Soviet Jews by Israel," she told reporters. She said that 95 percent of the immigrants are satisfactorily settled by the end of their first year in the country.

SHARON TRYING TO ORGANIZE COALITION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AS ALTERNATIVE TO LABOR ALIGNMENT IN ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--Gen. Aryeh (Arik) Sharon who unexpectedly resigned from the Army this week to begin a career in politics, is creating a stir in Israeli political circles. The colorful soldier, who once headed the famed "101 Commandos" which carried out deep thrusts into enemy territory during the years prior to the Six-Day War, says he wants to organize a coalition of opposition parties to run as an alternative to Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment in the elections this fall.

He met today with another retired general, former Air Force Commander Ezer Weizman who is now a leader of the Herut faction. He is meeting tonight with leaders of the Liberal faction which, together with Herut, comprise Gahal, Israel's largest opposition political party.

Sharon is expected to raise his proposal for an election front made up of Gahal, the Free Center, State List and other opposition factions, Dr. Elimelech Rimalt, Liberal Party chairman, declined to comment on Sharon's plan. He said the retired general was speaking as a private individual and that the Liberals have not yet discussed the matter of an opposition coalition.

LABOR, ZIONISTS BEGIN 2-WEEK CONCLAVE

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA)--A large delegation of leaders and active workers from all parts of the United States and Canada arrived here today to participate in a two-week assembly of the Labor Zionist Alliance. The assembly, which opened tonight at the Habimah Theater here, will mark the 25th anniversary of Israel and the 75th anniversary of Labor Zionism.

The assembly will include meetings between members of the American Labor Zionist Movement and those in the World Labor Zionist Movement and with leaders of the Israel government, the Labor Party and Histadrut. On July 23 in Jerusalem hundreds of former LZA members now residing in Israel are scheduled to join with the assembly to consider ways and means to increase settlement from the U.S. and Canada and to discuss problems facing new immigrants. During the two-week conclave there will also be visits and reunions with Labor Zionists who settled on kibbutzim and a "Histadrut Day."

Other highlights include workshops on American-Israel relations, a colloquium between young leaders of the LZA and those of the Israel Labor Party, an aliya seminar with Labor Zionists who settled in Israel, and meetings with new immigrants from the Soviet Union and with Arab workers.

The cost-of-living in Israel rose only 0.3 percent in June, according to official figures issued in Jerusalem. Food and furniture showed especially high jumps but were balanced by seasonal drops in fruit and vegetable prices. The ease is expected to continue through the summer because of the government price freeze which will be in force until Sept. 30.

