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MIDEAST WAR SCARE ABATES; TENSION REMAINS HIGH: ISRAELI FORCES ON THE ALERT ON SYRIAN, SINAI FRONTS By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Nov. 17 (JTA)--The worst war scare in the Middle East since the Yom Kippur War appeared to have abated today but tension remains high and Israeli forces are on the alert on both the Sinai and Syrian fronts. The threat of an imminent war was eased last night after urgent representations by the United States elicited assurances from Cairo and Damascus that they intend to adhere to the disengagement agreements. Israel also gave assurances that it planned no pre-emptive strike.

The Cabinet confirmed today that there was "a relaxation of tension" but that "there is a continued need for alertness and vigilance to watch Syrian intentions." The statement was issued after a three-hour meeting at which the ministers were briefed on the situation by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon summed up political developments of the last two days. Peres and Gen. Rafael Vardi, coordinator of activities in the administered territories, reported on the unrest on the West Bank which was attributed to Yasir Arafat's UN appearance. (See separate story.) The Arafat speech will be the subject of debate in the Knesset this week.

For 48 hours, the world was braced for a new explosion in the Middle East. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger announced in Washington, on the eve of his departure with President Ford on a visit to the Far East, that the U.S. was investigating on "an urgent basis" reports of threats of an "imminent" war in the Mideast, and was cautioning all parties to a possible conflict including the Soviet Union, to exercise restraint. (See separate story.)

At the United Nations, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expressed concern over the worsening Middle East situation and met with Arab, Israeli and Soviet delegates. UN forces on the Golan Heights reported stepped-up military activity on both sides of the disengagement lines yesterday. This morning, however, a UN officer reported that the situation was visibly relaxed.

Basis For War Tension

The sudden escalation over the weekend developed out of the convergence of several developments pointing to a new outbreak of hostilities. One factor was the mounting belligerence of statements emanating from Arab capitals in support of the rigid, maximalist stand taken by Arafat in his address to the UN General Assembly last Wednesday. Another was the staging of large-scale military exercises by the Syrian army on the northern front, reminding Israelis that it was just such exercises that immediately preceded the Yom Kippur War.

At the same time, Israeli intelligence reports indicated that at least 20 Soviet merchant ships were unloading large cargoes of war equipment at the Syrian port of Latakia. The Syrians, for their part, continued to hint that they might oppose renewal of the mandate of the United Nations

Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) which expires Nov. 30. Premier Yitzhak Rabin made it clear in a statement Friday that Israel regards the UN force as part and parcel of the disengagement agreements.

The Syrians were reportedly fomenting unrest on the West Bank which has been the scene of pro-PLO demonstrations since Arafat's speech. (See separate story.) The deterioration culminated in reports over the week-end, confirmed today, that Israel had mobilized a third of its reserves.

Appropriate, Necessary Steps Taken

Peres described the Israeli moves as "carefully thought out and appropriate precautionary steps." He observed that the Arabs may have mistaken the present economic and political difficulties faced by Israel as a sign of weakness. Over the weekend, the Defense Minister visited Israeli forces deployed on both the Syrian and Egyptian fronts, accompanied by Gur. Peres reported on radio later that they were impressed by the state of preparedness and the spirit of the Israeli troops.

Nevertheless, Israel informed Washington of the dangerous situation that was building up. The Egyptians were reportedly calling up some reserve units and making military preparations in their zone on the east bank of the Suez Canal. But Israeli sources conceded that up to now there had been no overt disengagement violations by the Egyptians.

The situation on the Syrian front, however, is another matter. Israel has already complained against the introduction of heavy mortars and the emplacement of tanks in the Syrian limited forces zone. Whether or not this constitutes a violation remains a matter of dispute between Israel and Syria, but so far no further violations have been reported. Despite the tension, the Golan Heights remained open to civilian traffic Saturday. Busloads of tourists roamed the Heights, taking snapshots. Life in the various settlements followed the usual routine undisturbed.

ARAFAT'S UN SPEECH SPARKS RIOTS IN WEST BANK TOWNS By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Helmeted Israeli soldiers and police patrolled curfewed West Bank towns today after a wave of pro-terrorist rioting by high school students that resulted in the death of a 16-year-old Arab girl, scores of injuries and up to 50 arrests. The unrest, the most serious on the West Bank since the Six-Day War, engulfed the largest population centers--Jenin and Nablus in Samaria, Hebron and Halhul in Judaea, and to a lesser extent Al Birah and Bet Zeth, north of Jerusalem.

Four high schools were ordered closed by the Military Governor until the end of the current school year. School principals and the mayors of West Bank towns were warned that more schools would be closed if rioting broke out again.

The disturbances were attributed by Israeli authorities to PLO chieftain Yasir Arafat's inflammatory speech to the United Nations General Assembly last Wednesday which West Bankers apparently viewed as a green light for anti-Israel demonstrations. In Jenin, high school students and students from the upper grades of elementary schools staged a pro-Arafat rally yesterday which rapidly degenerated into a stone-throwing melee against Israeli security forces.

Incidents Of Violence

pital: Local Arabs claimed she was hit by an Israeli army car. Physicians who treated her indicated, however, that she sustained a fatal head wound from a rock thrown by one of the demonstrators. A new demonstration developed during the girl's funeral today but it was prompt ly quelled and a curfew was imposed on the township.

In Hebron, an Israeli army officer, the Military Governor's chauffeur and six other Israeli soldiers were slightly injured by stones hurled at them by students. Twenty-three students were arrested on suspicion of having organized the demonstration. Late yesterday afternoon rioters set fire to a restaurant and souvenir, shop belonging to Jewish settlers near the Machpela Cave. An Israeli car was attacked, its windows were smashed and its four occupants were dragged out and beaten. A curfew was clamped down on Hebron last night.

Israeli security forces were also stoned in Nablus and Halhul where demonstrators were dispersed by club-wielding police. Some anti-Israel slogans and Palestinian flags appeared today in East Jerusalem. They were removed by police.

'NATIONS' & 'PARTIES' IN THE MIDEAST By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--The White House has declined to clarify President Ford's remarks last Thursday night in which he told a press conference in Phoenix, Arizona, that the U.S. is "trying to get the Israelis to negotiate a settlement or additional settlements with the Egyptians and other Arab nations," and then said that Israel should negotiate with the Egyptians and "other Arab parties."

To some, the phrase "other Arab parties" implied the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization. This implication was suggested by Ford's statement last month at a press conference in Washington where he said that negotiations should be held between Israel and Egypt PLO." Both the White House and the State Department said at that time that the U.S. has not changed its attitude toward the PLO. But even then there were some in Washington who felt that the reference to the PLO was merely premature rather than a slip of the tongue or an imprecise formulation.

White House press secretary Ronald Nessen, asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to clar- developments. ify Ford's Phoenix remarks, replied that he did not know why the President referred to both "nations" and "parties." He said he would not go beyond Ford's remarks, but stated that the President's comment was "an excellent summation of U.S. policy in the area" and that the U.S. "is leaving the decision as to who will be the negotiators to the parties involved."

Mideast Situation Potentially Serious

Ford, meanwhile, described the Middle East situation as potentially very serious in an interview published today in U.S. News and World Report magazine, and said a peaceful solution

was "imperative." The President said, "It ought to be obvious to everybody that we cannot go on indefinitely with the very delicate circumstances that exist between Israel and Egypt, Israel and Jordan, Israel and Syria--or fail to take into account the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people." In addition, he said, "We have the problem of the Several Israelis were injured. A 16-year-old potentiality that if there were a new confrontation Arab girl who was injured died later in a hos- between the Israelis and Arabs, we could face the possibility of another oil embargo and the United States and the Soviet Union could also become somehow involved."

At a news conference here last Thursday, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger denied that there was any contingency plan for the U.S. to enter a new Arab-Israeli war should such an outbreak occur, though he indicated that this might change if another outside power intervened. "The U.S. attitude will be what it was in previous wars to avoid conflict and bring it to as rapid an end as possible if there is war," the Secretary said. 'He added, however, that "It is the clear U.S. intention--unless there are outside interventions--to confine its role to what it has been."

The press conference was called as a briefing on Ford's 10-day visit to the Far East, which will culminate Nov. 25 in a summit meeting with Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev at Vladivostock where the Mideast is expected to receive high priority consideration. But the questions focussed mainly on the deteriorating Middle East situation.

Arafat's Speech Not Moderate

Referring to another Middle East matter, Kissinger told a press conference Friday that the U.S. would not "give advice" to Israel on whether it should enter negotiations with the PLO. He described Arafat's UN speech as not providing "a particularly moderate position." He said that as the U.S. read it, Arafat "calls for a state which did not include Israel. We do not consider this a par-Laticularly moderate position."

Asked if the U.S. considered it "inevitable" for Israel to deal with the PLO. Kissinger said the Ford Administration view has not changed. It still prefers that the future of the West Bank is settled between Israel and Jordan. "As to any other parties that might negotiate, this is entirely a decision for Israel to make and for any other parties that might be involved," he said, adding that "it is not a matter on which the U.S. will give advice."

Meanwhile, a UN spokesman in New York reand between Israel and Syria and "Jordan or the ported that Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had been in touch with Kissinger by telephone and had also conferred with the Soviet, French, British, Syrian and Egyptian diplomats at the UN and with Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah. He reported that Waldheim had expressed concern over the Middle East situation and had cancelled plans to visit his country home in Connecticut over the weekend in order to remain in closer touch with

FORD CONSIDERS BROWN CASE CLOSED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--President Ford's personal verbal rebuke of Gen. George S. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statement and the President's statement to a press conference Thursday night in Phoenix, Arizona, that he will not dismiss Brown for his "one mistake" closes the episode as far as Ford is concerned, the White House has announced.

Tuesday's Bulletin will contain a supplement on the 43rd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES HAS ISRAEL BEEN SET UP FOR A DIPLOMATIC 'KILL' AT THE UN? By Murray Zuckoff

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 17 (JTA) -- There is growing concern here in some quarters that Israel has been set up for a diplomatic "kill" in the General Assembly by the political "hit man" for the Arab-Asian-nonaligned-Communist bloc in the world body, Assembly President Abdela-ziz Bouteflika who is also Algeria's Foreign Minister.

The concern followed an unprecedented move in the UN's 29-year history when Bouteflika last Thursday, supported by an Assembly vote of 75-23 with 18 abstentions, moved to prevent Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah from the right to speak again during the remainder of the debate on the Palestine issue except for the standard and nominal 10-minute right to reply at the end of each day and at the discretion of the Assembly's President.

There is also a gnawing feeling among some diplomats and analysts that the Assembly's act may have set the stage for a later possible move to exclude Israel entirely from participating in Assembly activities, a move similar to that which the Assembly took earlier in the week by a vote of 91-22 with 19 abstentions to exclude South Africa for the duration of the current Assembly session which ends Dec. 17.

Although the Assembly vote Thursday, with Bouteflika's machinations behind the scenes, also limited all other delegates, Israel was hardest hit. Before the Palestine debate began last Wednesday, Tekoah asked for the right to speak each day during the debate "because of the avalanche of Arab speeches to be expected."

He noted that the Palestine Liberation Organization had the delegates of 20 Arab states at its disposal and that, in addition, the Arab states are a moving force in the nonaligned group that come close to 100, and the Soviet Union which supports the Arabs. Tekoah said that this line-up against one Jewish State made it imperative for Israel to be allowed to speak each day to present a balanced view on the issue, but added that he might not necessarily speak each day.

Move May Jeopardize Other Countries

The "hit" came 24 hours after Arafat's speech in the Assembly in which he issued a thin ly veiled threat that Israel might be suspended from the Assembly the way South Africa was the day before.

Tekoah received word early Thursday after his name had been placed on the speakers list for that day that Bouteflika had removed his name without any explanation. The Israeli diplomat protested to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim about this arbitrary move. Shortly after Tekoah held a press conference where he disclosed the removal of his name from the speakers list and charged that this was another attempt by Bouteflika to "muzzle Israel's freedom to speak," he was told that his name had been re-placed on the list for Thursday's session through the intervention of Assistant Secretary for the General Assembly Bradford Morse.

What is of particular concern to the U.S., most West Europeans and some South American countries and Spain and Japan, all of whom opposed limiting Israel's right to speak, is that the Assembly move may jeopardize the right of other minority countries to make fair presenta-

tions of their views. Aside from dealing a crippling blow to the very nature of the UN, the action is also seen as a dangerous precedent that may also lead to further limitations and abrogations of the right to speak as well as exclusions from the Assembly of countries whose views may not be to the liking of the Arab-Asian-nonaligned-Communist bloc.

But the latest move indicates to many that the UN may become—if indeed, it has not already become—a place where this bloc may succeed in the Assembly, where there is no veto and where every vote is equal whether cast by a super-power or a small nation, in effectively stifling at will all minority points of view on various issues.

The earlier move to exclude South Africa, according to some, may very well have been a harbinger of a move against Israel. There is no doubt that many of the nations that voted against this exclusion or abstained are repelled by the apartheid practiced by South Africa. But the violation of the UN Charter's principle of not excluding any state from the world body is now endangered by the bloc intoxicated with their seeming unrestricted power to provide a forum for those who reflect their own point of view as it did in the case of Arafat by a vote of 105-4, and to use their clout to gag those nations whose views are deemed antithetical.

Bouteflika's Inordinate, Arbitrary Power

Another concern is the inordinate and arbitrary power that Bouteflika accorded to himself,
a power that may later be used by other Assembly
Presidents for whom a precedent has been established. Throughout the UN's history there has
been an understanding that the Assembly President
will eschew political remarks and remain neutral,
a practice common even to chairmen of any meetings adhering to the Roberts Rules of Order.

But Bouteflika has violated this understanding at almost every crucial turn of Assembly developments since he was installed in his position at the beginning of the current Assembly session in mid-September, no doubt with the blessings of the anti-Israel bloc. He began by delivering a diatribe against the big powers, notably those of the West, and mounted an unabashed defense of the non-aligned nations and the so-called "freedom fighters" among which he included the Palestinians.

The political "hit man" again displayed his bias when he arbitrarily ruled, and then maneuvered to get the endorsement for his move, to exclude South Africa. It was Bouteflika, again, who arbitrarily extended the protocol to Arafat normally reserved for heads of states or governments by arranging for the terrorist leader to be escorted into the Assembly hall and to the podium by the UN Chief of Protocol, Sinan Korle.

It was also Bouteflika who postponed the opening session of the Assembly debate on the Palestine issue for 90 minutes to assure that Arafat would be the only speaker at the morning session, a courtesy extended only to heads of states. Outraged at this, the Israeli delegation protested by boycotting the morning session. And it was also Bouteflika who introduced the terrorist leader as the chairman of the PLO executive and the "commander in chief of the Palestine revolution."

Recognition In Principle

Meanwhile, according to knowledgeable sources, pro-Palestinian delegates were busy this weekend drafting a resolution on the Palestinian issue that will call on the Assembly to "recognize in principle" the right of the Palestinians to statehood based

on the right to self-determination. The draft, due to be circulated early this week before the debate formally ends, is also expected to urge recognition of a "government-in-exile" once it is established as a transitional atep toward statehood recognition.

The feeling among the pro-Palestinian delegates, sources say, is that "recognition in principle" will be easier to get across among some Western and Latin American delegations at this time than the outright call for immediate recognition of statehood pegged to a timetable. It is felt that should a resolution calling for the principle be adopted it would be a sufficient signal to the PLO to go ahead with a struggle on all levels to establish a state and then try to have its supporters push through another resolution "legitimatizing" this state at next year's Assembly session.

The substance of all these developments is that what the Arab states have been unsuccessful in accomplishing on the battlefield is taking place openly and behind the scenes at the UN: dismantling Israel diplomatically and isolating her from the body of world opinion. There is also concern that it is only a matter of time before the anti-Israel bloc in the UN captures the world body in a bloodless coup and transforms the UN into a diplomatic battering ram against its opponents.

POPE MEETS WITH PLO MEMBER

ROME, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Pope Paul granted a private audience yesterday to a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Gibreel egate was in Rome for the world conference on food. A spokesman for the Vatican declared that the audience had no political implications and did not constitute recognition of the PLO by the Vatican. However, this is believed to be the first private Papal audience granted to a PLO member.

JEWISH LEADERS DENOUNCE ARAFAT

CHICAGO, Nov.17 (JTA)--The speech by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafati at the General Assembly last Wednesday was denounced here this weekend by Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, as a "foolish and futile attempt to split the Jewish people and the State of Israel."

Sapir, who issued the denunciation in his address to the 2500 Jewish communal leaders from the U.S., Canada and overseas at the 43rd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, termed Arafat's entire speech an "utter distortion of history (that) will not deter the State of Israel and the people of Israel." Other Jewish leaders in this country and abroad also denounced the terrorist leader's call for the dismantling of Israel under the euphemism of a "democratic secular state."

Calling for the "entire Jewish people to rally to the State of Israel," Sapir said that "the solidarity of the Jewish people, united in its concern for Israel and in its readiness to aid Israel, will constitute the triumphant answer to all those who plot against the rebirth of the Jewish people." Sapir called for "every Jewish community to express openly and clearly not only complete repudiation of Arafat, but complete and unqualified identification with the State and the people of Israel."

"The Zionist movement is the Liberation Movement of the Jewish people," Sapir declared, adding: "it is unique in the history of liberation movements for the purity of its ideals and the pur-

ity of its deeds. Those who know the recent history of the Jewish people and what they have undergone have a responsibility to answer Arafat and those who listened to him, and say loudly and clearly We believe in the Jewish people--we believe in the State of Israel.''

Montage Of Lies, Half Truths

In New York, Mrs. Faye Schenk, president of the American Zionist Federation, termed Arafat's speech "a diabolically contrived montage of lies, half truths, distortions and perversions, masking his true purpose and intent, and that is the destruction of Israel as a sovereign state." She rejected Arafat's claim that Israeli leadership and Zionist ideology would lead to perpetual bloodshed and violence and declared that it was the Palestinians, not the Israelis, who "were the perpetrators of the Maalot and Munich massacres and, indeed, of every other recent act of terrorism in the Middle East."

Mrs. Schenk also sent a telegram to President Ford on behalf of the more than one million members of the AZF calling on the U.S. government "to make every effort to influence its allies at the forthcoming decision (on the Palestinian issue) in the United Nations to cast their votes for truth and justice, and not for political expediency." She also urged Ford "continue United States unconditional support of Israel."

Will Not Have Slightest Effect

In Paris, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, declared that Arafat's appeal to the Jewish people to dissociate itself from Shukri. PLO member and his wife. The PLO del- its identification with and support of Zionism and Israel "will not have the slightest effect and is just as unrealistic and immoral as Arafat's hope to liquidate the State of Israel and replace it by a socalled democratic state embracing the whole of Palestine."

Dr. Goldmann added: "While many understand the right of the Palestinian people to a country of their own, it is obvious that such a demand can be implemented morally and practically only if the Palestinian people will, at the same time, recognize the legitimacy and the existence of the State of Israel." Until then, he noted, Israel cannot recognize the PLO nor negotiate with it.

In New York, Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told a meeting of his national executive committee, "The time has come for Americans to recognize the United Nations for what it has become—an arena of evil--and to consider seriously the necessity of withdrawing support from it and its supportive organizations such as the United Nations Association of the USA,"

During the last few days there were a series of major rallies to protest against the appearance of Arafat in the General Assembly and to express solidarity with the Jewish State. In Montreal more than 4000 Jews huddled together in a cold wind and rain in the city's downtown section. In Paris some 5000 demonstrators staged a march through the city's central district. In Milwaukee more than 900 persons packed the city's central auditorium.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--"When a stream of the blood of children meets with a stream of oil, the oil takes the upper hand," Golda Meir told the triennial conference of the International B'nai B'rith meeting here. The conference was attended by President Ephraim Katzir and greetings were delivered by Mayor Teddy Kollek and Shlomo Gross, president of B'nai B'rith District No. 14 in Israel.