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ISRAEL'S 27TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS UNDERWAY

SAPIR CALLS ON WORLD JEWRY TO HELP EXPLAIN ISRAEL'S JUST CAUSE

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the World Zionist Organization, today called on world Jewry to help Israel explain to the world the justice of its political case and position. "Sadly," Sapir said in his Independence Day message, "Israel's readiness for peace is displayed abroad as an intransigent position." He said this year's Independence Day finds Israel in the midst of a tough and fateful political struggle.

"At the same time, though, Israel and the Jewish people control within their power and ability the future strength and growth of Israel--which in themselves are the best guarantee of its future political strength," Sapir said. He called for mass aliya as the "duty and right" of Zionist organizations everywhere to "encourage, organize and foster."

Expressing concern at the state of Soviet aliyah, Sapir said that "the more the Soviet Jews long for Zion, the more obstacles are put in their way.... We will do everything to ensure that they can come to Israel without interference and that their creative absorption in the country be effected...."

He spoke, too, of the ongoing concern for the fate of Soviet Jewry, pledging to do all possible to save this community. "Let us remember that despite the difficulties and the obstacles, the State of Israel lives and flourishes," Sapir concluded, "....with the help of the savior of Israel we shall march together on the path leading to peace...." The message was tape-recorded for distribution to Zionist federations abroad where it was to be played over loudspeakers during Independence Day celebrations.

PERES SAYS ISRAEL'S ARMED FORCES IN BETTER SHAPE THAN EVER By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres told Israelis on the eve of Independence Day that their armed forces were in better shape than ever; disclosed that Israel has offered, through the International Red Cross, a mutual agreement with its Arab neighbors not to strike at civilian centers in the event of another Mideast war; and declared that Israel must stand firm against pressure from the United States, without forgetting "that it was America that helped us thus far."

Peres made these points in interviews published today in Israel's two largest dailies--Yediot Achronot and Maariv--in their Independence Day supplements. He said that the Israeli army has not only restored itself since the Yom Kippur War but is very different and much improved over what it had been.

He said that the young men coming into the army today are "the best the State has ever known. The command is younger and we have more formations than we ever had." He said the lessons of the Yom Kippur War have been studied carefully and, he hoped, all the shortcomings have been remedied.

Peres acknowledged that Israeli cities were

within range of the Soviet-made "Soud" missiles in the possession of Syria and Egypt. But, he said there is almost no harm that they can inflict on Israel without Israel being able to retaliate manyfold. He said the Red Cross was aware that Israel is ready to undertake an agreement, on a mutual basis, to refrain from hitting civilian centers.

Increasing Tension Predicted

The Defense Minister said, with reference to the U.S., that Israel must continue to promote friendship and explain its position and not be dragged into fruitless discussions or pursue personal recriminations. He said Israel must be prepared for increasing tension in the region, up to the brink of war which may occur on all three fronts. He said that after May or June, "We may offer the Egyptians one of the two possibilities. Either we go back to the Kissinger-style negotiations or go to Geneva where the solution of a final settlement is to be sought."

Peres disclosed in his interviews that about 30 percent of the equipment and weaponry used by the Israeli army is manufactured locally. It was learned, meanwhile, that the Israel Air Force has begun to absorb the new Israeli-made jet fighter, the "Kfir" (Lion Cub), which was unveiled to the public yesterday. The plane was described as a combination of the French Mirage, powered by the same jet engine that drives the faster American Phantom, and embodying improvements and innovations conceived by Israeli designers and engineers.

The "Kfir" is manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries which is reportedly capable of producing the American General Electric J-79 engine. Israeli officials stressed, however, that it was not intended to replace existing combat planes but to re-enforce the Air Force's strength. They said the "Kfir" was an intermediate generation of fighter plane to fill the gap between the F-14 Phantoms, now the backbone of Israel's air arm, until Israel acquires the more advanced American F-15 or F-16 jets.

Aviation sources say the "Kfir," which has a speed 2.2 times the speed of sound, is on a par with the latest Soviet MIG-21s in the Egyptian and Syrian air forces. Some sources here claimed it was superior to the Russian's MIG-23, also supplied to Syria and Egypt and considered to be faster than the Phantoms. But there could be no confirmation of such claims unless the two aircraft were pitted in combat.

TEKOAH: IF ISRAEL HAD YIELDED TO EGYPT'S DEMANDS THE MIDEAST WOULD HAVE BEEN VIETNAMIZED By William Saphire

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said here tonight that if Israel had yielded to Egypt's demands in the recent negotiations conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, "it would have opened the Middle East to a process of Vietnamization." Ambassador Tekoah addressed some 3000 persons at the Hunter College Auditorium, officially opening a nationwide celebration

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DAY BEGINS WITH REMEMBRANCE OF WAR DEAD, ENDS WITH FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING 27TH ANNIVERSARY

By David Landau and Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)--A day that began this morning with sorrowful remembrance of the nation's war dead was transformed this evening into a national festival celebrating the 27th anniversary of Israel's independence. The abrupt change of mood reflected the catharsis that Israelis undergo annually--the Jewish tradition of tempering sadness with joy maintained by having Memorial Day precede and merge with Yom Haatzmaut.

Officially, Memorial Day began at sundown yesterday. All cafes and places of entertainment were closed when air raid sirens sounded their brief dirge for the soldiers and civilian victims of Israel's four wars and the violent episodes between them. President Ephraim Katzir kindled a memorial torch at the Western Wall where bereaved families assembled.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur told grieving parents, wives and children that Israel had not "wasted" the past year, that it was stronger now in weapons and spirit than ever and prepared to "face the political and military tests to which we may be put in the coming year." Chief Army Chaplain Mordechai Firon recited a memorial prayer he composed for the occasion and the widow of a fallen soldier lit a memorial lamp. Similar ceremonies were conducted in towns and villages all over Israel.

Services Held Throughout Country

The sirens sounded again at 11 this morning, signaling two minutes of silence and a halt to all activities. Traffic came to a standstill on city streets and on highways all over the country. Pedestrians stopped in their tracks and stood silent with bowed heads. Memorial services were held at military cemeteries. Premier Yitzhak Rabin attended the ceremony on Mt. Herzl overlooking Jerusalem. He eulogized the fallen youth of Israel "who did not look forward to military conquests but knew how to hit the enemy deep in its territory."

In another ceremony at the military cemetery in Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim, just outside Jerusalem, Defense Minister Shimon Peres said: "Our people has never had what other people had--large territories, abundant water and natural resources and a continuous period of peace. However, our people has a strong conviction, an historical continuity and a marvelous youth. We are a people which believes in man. The Jew is a believing soul."

Memorial services were also held at industrial plants and on university campuses. Katzir reviewed an honor guard for the war dead in downtown Jerusalem.

Streets Swarm With People

The sirens sounded again at sundown today and the Independence Day festivities commenced. Cafes and theaters reopened, Israelis swarmed into the streets for music, singing and dancing. The customary fireworks display was missing in Jerusalem tonight because of the high price of imported fire-works. Other municipalities had skyrockets and Roman candles left over from last year, however, and a few small localities received fire-works supplies from the Independence Day Committee which otherwise kept a tight rein on its budget.

Independence Day was ushered in officially

when 12 citizens, selected for their outstanding service to the nation during the past year, lighted 12 beacons on Mt. Herzl, symbolizing the Twelve Tribes of Israel. There will be no massive military parades or displays of armed might tomorrow. Instead of converging on the cities for such events as in the past years, Israelis have been encouraged to use their holiday tomorrow for hikes and picnics in the countryside. Public transportation will be operating at peak capacity and thousands of private vehicles are expected on the roads.

Cultural events are expected to attract thousands. Arthur Rubinstein, the pianist, will perform a solo concert with the Jerusalem Broadcasting Authority Symphony Orchestra. The event was initiated by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem to benefit musical education programs of the Jerusalem Foundation. The programs enable every student at Jerusalem schools to attend free musical events during the year.

Political Situation Not Forgotten

The political situation could not be entirely forgotten on Independence Day. Some Arab leaders were expected to attend the traditional Presidential reception and other formal events. But the mayors of Arab towns near Jerusalem indicated today that they would not accept Kollek's invitation to the Independence Day reception he holds annually at the Tower of David at the entrance to the old walled city. The mayors of Bethlehem and Beit Jallah, who had attended these receptions in past years as a "personal gesture" toward Kollek, said they wouldn't be there this year.

Arab clergymen who usually attend the Kollek reception are not expected to show up tomorrow. Since the trial and conviction of Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucoli, relations have cooled between the clergy and the Israeli Establishment.

The three top leaders of the Jewish Agency also will not be present at Independence Day festivities in Israel--they are all visiting Jewish communities abroad. Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives will be in Australia tomorrow, part of a month-long tour that will take him to Iran and later to the U.S. Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dulzin is in South Africa at the invitation of the local Zionist Federation. Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency, is accompanying Foreign Minister Yigal Allon on his American tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

JACKSON AND JAVITS DIFFER ON NEXT STEPS TOWARD MIDEAST PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) severely criticized Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's Middle East diplomacy here last night, saying that "Negotiated settlements that do not include movement toward a genuine peace are certain to fail... Without starting the process of political accommodation, cease-fires and disengagements that alter only the military situation cannot lead to lasting peace."

But Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY), speaking at the same forum, said Kissinger's step-by-step efforts "should be continued because they are in the best interests of all parties concerned" and claimed that the differences between Egypt and Israel have "already been significantly narrowed."

The divergent views of Kissinger's methods were expressed by the two Senators who addressed the 16th annual policy conference dinner meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) at the Shoreham Hotel. Another speaker

was Israel's former Foreign Minister Abba Eban. (See separate story) More than 1100 AIPAC members and guests--a record number--attended the dinner meeting at the hotel that climaxed a two-day conference.

Link Between Indochina And Middle East

Jackson, an announced candidate for his party's 1976 Presidential nomination and a long-time critic of Kissinger's diplomacy in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, maintained that the Secretary's penchant for promoting military detentes without laying the groundwork for fundamental political accords represented "the most profound connection" between the tragedy in Indochina and the failure of Kissinger's mission in the Middle East. "In the search for peace, a change of line is no substitute for a change of heart," he said.

He also disagreed with Javits' view of the Ford Administration's current reassessment of American Middle East policy. The first conclusion is that "pressuring Israel to diminish her physical security without a political reconciliation with her neighbors is dangerous and unwise," Jackson said.

Javits, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, viewed the reassessment as "a rather routine development" when measured against the background of the U.S. moral commitment to the security and integrity of Israel. Denying that there was "a crisis in relations with Israel," Javits declared:

"The mountain of the moment is really only a molehill when viewed from the perspective of the fundamental identity of interests which have bound the U.S. and Israel together for the past 27 years.... We all know that there is a highly publicized 'reassessment' of the U.S. Mideast policy being conducted by the Secretary of State. It is not clear just what is being 'reassessed' and by whom. Indeed, I am not aware of a 'reassessment' being conducted by the Congress which has an important, even decisive say in these matters."

Peace Must Involve Direct Negotiations

Jackson said that another conclusion the Administration must make in its reassessment is the recognition "that a real peace must involve direct negotiations among the parties in which Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognized borders is matched by an end to the state of belligerency." He said that this was in line with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jackson declared that "a fair reassessment will reaffirm the soundness of the long-standing American policy of helping to maintain the military balance in the Middle East," and finally "any clear-sighted reassessment will include a reappraisal of the role of the Administration's detente in promoting peace in the Middle East."

Raps Campaign To Blame Israel

Jackson assailed the "campaign of background briefings, meetings and leaks to the press calculated to imply that Israel alone was responsible for the failure to reach an accord." He said that because Kissinger returned to Washington from Jerusalem, "some people concluded that the talks had failed when Israel rejected an Egyptian compromise proposal. The truth is otherwise and the record should be clear on this point. Kissinger departed Jerusalem when President Anwar Sadat of Egypt refused even to consider an Israeli compromise proposal that sought to provide a basis for continuing negotiations," Jackson said;

EBAN: CRUCIAL FOR U.S. AND ISRAEL TO STAND TOGETHER

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA)--Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said here last night that "it is crucial for America and Israel to stand together" because "if we give the spectacle of rift and contention," the hope for peace in the Middle East will fade. The "greatest obstacle" to peace is "an Arab vision of differences" between the U.S. and Israel, the Israeli diplomat said. Eban flew here from Tel Aviv to address the 16th annual policy conference dinner of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Eban appealed for a full Israeli-American reconciliation in the wake of the strained relations that developed between Washington and Jerusalem following the breakdown of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's efforts to promote a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian accord in Sinai. He recalled America's traditional friendship for Israel and their common ideals, remarking at one point that "freedom does not have many defenders in the world and Israel is among the surest of them all."

Eban urged that "we remember how the U.S. stood by Israel in the past eight years (since the Six-Day War) and particularly in the last 18 months." He said there is "no cause" to be "melancholy" or to seek "reprisal." "Let us not search for what went wrong in March but what we have to do in April, May and June." He said that with "American power and Kissinger's talents," Israel and the U.S. can "repair the texture of our relations."

The former Foreign Minister suggested a resumption of step-by-step diplomacy "arising from integrated discussion." He appeared to be referring to resumption of the Geneva conference to be followed by bilateral discussions between Israel and its neighbors, but he did not specifically mention Geneva. On the issue of the Palestinians, Eban said they can enter negotiations if they have unquestioning respect for "Israel's sovereignty and national personality." But "there can be no Palestine without Israel" while "Israel and Palestine side-by-side, can be negotiated."

Sanders Is New AIPAC President

President Ford sent a message expressing hope that AIPAC will make a "meaningful contribution to a just and durable peace." The message, read by Morris J. Amitay, AIPAC's new executive director, honored Isaiah L. Kenen who has retired as the organization's chairman and executive director. Edward Sanders, a Los Angeles attorney and immediate past president of the Jewish Federation-Council of Los Angeles, is AIPAC's new president.

Sanders, a member of the corporate board of the United Way in Los Angeles and a member of the Mayor's City Commission Task Force, is a director of the Joint Distribution Committee, a trustee of the Institute for Jewish Life, and a member of the executive committee of the United Jewish Appeal. He was chairman of the United Jewish Welfare Fund-Israel Emergency Fund campaign in 1970 and 1971. Kenen retired April 1 following 25 years in AIPAC and predecessor organizations in Washington. ***

VIENNA (JTA)--The spokesman of an outlawed right-wing student organization said Monday that Austria should get rid of all Jews living in the country. Hermann Plessl, chairman of the banned fascist League of National Democrat Students (BNS) said that "Austria is a German country. Jews are not wanted here," he said in an interview published in the tabloid "Kronenzeltung."

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of Israel's 27th Independence Day sponsored by the American Zionist Federation.

Declaring that the forces that opposed Israel's independence more than a quarter of a century ago and those who were indifferent to its fate then, are still trying to undermine its existence today, the Israeli envoy said, "For Israel there can be only one way--to defend itself, resist, strike back until the Arab states abandon their gruesome designs on Israel's existence and become ready to make peace with us."

He stated that the negotiations with Egypt last month broke down because "Egypt was not ready to make the first step in the direction of peace. Egypt wanted territory but was not prepared to abandon the path of war and to begin to construct peace together with Israel."

Independence Day Theme: Strength In Unity

"Strength in Unity" is the theme of this year's celebration of Israel's Independence Day in which Jews in the U.S. and other countries are joining Israel. Mrs. Faye Schenk, president of the AZF sounded that theme when she told the audience at Hunter College, "We, the Zionists of the United States, pledge our continued support to the State of Israel."

She observed that "Israel needs all the help she can get in combatting Arab propaganda and we will do whatever is in our means to present to the American public the truth about the conflict in the Middle East. We will use all our resourcefulness to enable the public to discern facts from fiction, and in this way, develop an appreciation of the need for a strong and secure Israel," Mrs. Sohenk said.

Israel Is Not Cambodia, Czechoslovakia

Tekoah called on American and world Jewry to "unite in one great national endeavor to see Israel through these crucial times." He observed: "We live in a world in which weakness has brought mortal disaster to nations. In recent years, mankind has watched Czechoslovakia succumb to a powerful neighbor, Pakistan torn apart by the force of arms, and now Cambodia and South Vietnam overrun and shattered. Israel is not Czechoslovakia or Cambodia. Israel is one of the few countries in the democratic world determined to stand up for its rights, prepared to safeguard, at all costs, its independence and ideals."

The Israeli envoy said that since Israel's inception, had Jews done what others wanted them to do, a Jewish State would not have been founded; Israel would not have resisted the Arab onslaughts; Israel would not have opened its gates to oppressed Jews all over the world. "Israel is the expression of the Jewish resolve to live by what is good and just for the Jewish people and not by what finds favor in the eyes of others," Tekoah declared.

He said that Israel "will not be swayed by charges that determination to attain peace is intransigence. It will not be impressed by the misguided view that Egypt's refusal to end war constitutes moderation. Israel will not bow to pressure from whatever quarter it may come. Israel will continue its struggle, steadfast and resolute, until its rights are fully vindicated."

Face The Future With Hope, Confidence

Tekoah stated that "Those who support peace in the Middle East will support Israel. Those who seek peace in the Israel-Arab conflict will strengthen Israel. A strong Israel means strong-

er prospects of peace. Reducing support for Israel would mean reducing the chances for peace."

The Ambassador declared: "The Jewish people's history is measured in thousands of years. The present is a mere prelude to the future. Though Israel's re-established independence has not solved all the problems confronting the Jewish people, it has provided us with the instrument for their solution. That is why we face the future with hope and confidence. The difficulties of today should not be more than transitory. There is enough dedication and strength within the Jewish people to overcome these difficulties."

ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY HAILED

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA)--Jewish leaders in the United States and Canada issued messages today on the occasion of Israel's 27th anniversary. They expressed solidarity with the Jewish State, awareness of Israel's problems and confidence in Israel's ability to cope with them.

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, in his message, observed that "The intensification of Arab economic warfare during the past year has served to place into bold relief the pivotal importance of the economic arena in Israel's struggle for peace." The Jewish State, he continued, still staggering from the effects of the Yom Kippur War on its financial position which has been further aggravated by an unprecedented defense budget and a very high rate of inflation, "must be fortified today by large-scale support."

Philip Givens, national president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, stated that "this will be a year requiring great courage and vigilance during a period of unparalleled tribulation." But, he noted, "with every passing day the State of Israel gains vigor and strength through its continued progress--winning status in the world community and wider recognition as the focal point for the Jewish people throughout the dispersion." He added: "Israel needs not only material aid. Our efforts must be geared toward a more creative Zionism--with an emphasis on aliya and Jewish education."

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, declared, "Never has American Jewry been as united in support of Israel as it is today. The Jewish community in the United States fully understands the problems Israel faces and is impressed by the spirit of compromise and flexibility" it displayed in the negotiations conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and unfortunately suspended "because of Egyptian intransigence."

Melvin Dubinsky, chairman, and Irving Kessler, executive vice-chairman of the United Israel Appeal, stated: "We trust that this year, though fraught with great dangers, will yet bring us all closer to the era of peace. This long-sought peace depends to a large extent on the inner strength of Israel's people. We, the Jewish community of the United States, share in strengthening them."

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said: "The birth of Israel was one of the great miracles of all time. Coming as it did upon the heels of the great war and the Holocaust, it represented God's providence and the fulfillment of His ancient pledge to restore the land of Israel to the people of Israel."

Meanwhile, it was announced that more than 100 contingents will be marching along Fifth Avenue in New York on May 11 in the "Salute To Israel Parade."