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Israeli Government Silent On U.S. Sale Of Additional Hawk Missile Batteries

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Israel maintained official silence today on yesterday's announcement by the Defense Department in Washington that the United States has agreed to sell Israel additional batteries of Hawk surface-to-air missiles under a credit arrangement. There was no editorial comment either in Israel's press. The agreement was the first for the sale of U.S. military equipment to Israel since the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war.

Some political circles here took the Pentagon's announcement to be an attempt by the U.S. to "buy off" Israel which had been seeking other types of American arms, mainly the supersonic Phantom jet fighter-bombers, the most advanced operative warplane in the U.S. arsenal. But other sources here noted that the sale of the Hawks was only the logical continuation of an old agreement. The U.S. agreed to sell Hawks to Israel in 1962 to offset weapons acquired by the Arab states from the Soviet bloc. Enough missiles to form a battalion were delivered to Israel in 1965 at a cost of \$25 million.

A battalion normally has a total of 24 Hawk missile launchers each bearing three missiles. The new sale, according to the Pentagon, involves "additional batteries." A battery has six launchers and 18 missiles. The Hawk — Homing All-the-Way-Killer — can destroy aircraft at altitudes as low as 100 feet and as high as 38,000 feet, which is considered "medium" altitude.

(In Washington a Defense Department spokesman disclosed that agreement on the Hawk transaction was reached June 29 but refused to say how many batteries were involved. The announcement did say however that the "acquisition by Israel of additional Hawks should enhance its ability to defend itself against air attacks." That gave rise to speculation that the missiles were viewed by the U.S. as a substitute for the 50 Phantom jets that were requested by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol during his visit with President Johnson last January. The Administration has since been under strong pressure from many Congressmen and from political candidates to sell the Phantoms to Israel in view of the massive Soviet build-up of Egypt's Air Force. But the State Department is believed to have sought to defer the sale. Some observers in Washington said today that the State Department recommended to the White House that a formula be found to bolster Israel's air defense but deny her the Phantoms which could be used offensively. The Hawk is a purely defensive weapon.

(Other sources speculated that the agreement to sell Israel additional Hawk missiles would pave the way for the sale of the Phantom jets. Following Mr. Eshkol's visit, Mr. Johnson promised Israel about 20 more A-4 Skyhawk fighter-bombers. The U.S. has already begun the shipment of three squadrons of 48 Skyhawks under a sales agreement concluded in 1966. Their delivery had been held up by the June, 1967 war. The President was said to have made no commitment on Israel's request for the faster, more modern Phantoms. Officials have maintained that their sale remained under "sympathetic consideration.")

(The London Telegraph reported from Amman Friday that the U.S. has just completed an publicized airlift to Jordan of arms and military equipment. Heavy equipment, including "dozens" of Patton tanks, artillery and anti-tank guns are being sent by sea and are expected at Aqaba later this month, the paper said. According to the Telegraph the shipments were not announced apparently at the request of American authorities who are sensitive about re-entering the Middle East arms race and are worried about the reaction of the "Zionist lobby.")

Israel Gives Cold Shoulder To Egypt's Willingness To Accept Sinai Peace Force

LONDON, July 7 (JTA)--The substance of a new Egyptian "peace offensive" was unveiled over the weekend with an announcement by Cairo that Egypt would be willing to accept the return of a United Nations peace-keeping force in the Sinai Peninsula which it had ousted in May, 1967. It got a cold reception in Israel. Although there was no immediate Government comment, Israeli officials made it clear that they would never again accept the presence of UN observers in the Sinai as a substitute for a negotiated peace treaty with Egypt. Israel had done just that — under United States and Soviet pressure — following the 1956 Suez crisis and gained neither access to the Suez Canal for Israeli shipping nor a lasting peace.

Official sources in Jerusalem branded Cairo's offer as "insincere." They said its immediate aim was to force an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the June, 1967 war so that the Suez Canal could be reopened but without the right of passage for Israeli ships. The Cairo statement was issued by Hassan el-Zayyat, official spokesman of the Egyptian Government. He told newsmen that "if implementation of the Security Council's November (22, 1967) resolution necessitated the peacekeeping forces, we should have no objections." That statement coincided with the presence in Moscow of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt accompanied by the Egyptian Chief of Staff, Gen. Abdel Moneim Riad. It followed by two days a statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, in Copenhagen that Egypt recognized Israel as a "reality" and did not seek its destruction. But Mr. Nasser's current visit to Moscow, though billed as a "peace" mission, was intended, according to most reports, to press the Soviet leaders for more and greater military and economic aid. He was reported to have said in Moscow Friday that if a political solution could not be reached with Israel, the Arabs would "liberate the occupied territories."

The peace-keeping force referred to by Cairo — United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) — was first sent to Egypt in the autumn of 1956 as part of the settlement of the Suez crisis, authorized by a vote of the UN General Assembly. Its purpose was to keep the peace between Israel and Egypt and toward that end it patrolled the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Desert and Sharm El Sheikh, commanding the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba which provides the only maritime access to the port of Eilat. The UNEF consisted of troops

loaned by Canada, India, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Brazil, Norway and Denmark and was stationed entirely on the Egyptian side of the border; Israel refused to permit any UN forces on its side of the frontier. UNEF was removed - too hastily many observers contended - when President Nasser demanded its withdrawal in a note to Secretary-General U Thant in May, 1967. In the opinion of many, that withdrawal was a direct cause of the June, 1967 Six-Day War as it permitted Egypt to establish a blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba and to mass troops in the Sinai which threatened Israel with invasion.

The return of UNEF now would pose some thorny legal problems. Observers at UN headquarters in New York pointed out that the force ceased to exist upon its withdrawal in May, 1967 because its existence was based on agreement between the UN and the governments involved. The question raised there was whether the former UNEF now dissolved could be "returned" or whether a new peace-keeping force had to be established by action of the General Assembly. The matter was further complicated by disagreement over the way UNEF was dissolved in the first place. Many governments, including Israel's, felt that Mr. Thant had acted hastily and without sufficient consultation with UN members in complying with President Nasser's demand. Others claimed that only the General Assembly could order the withdrawal of UNEF since that body had created it.

Diplomatic Activity, Credence Given 'Peace Offensive' Disturbs Israelis

The diplomatic activity in some European capitals and the credence given by many diplomats to the Egyptian "peace offensive" has disturbed many Israelis, the Times said. They fear that plans are afoot to work out an arrangement that would not include a contractual agreement with the Arabs. That, they say, was a big mistake in 1956 when Israel sought guarantees of free passage through the Straits of Tiran from everyone except Egypt. When President Nasser decided to blockade the straits again in 1967, he was able to say that he never had any commitment to keep it open, the Israelis pointed out.

The Egyptian proposal for a return of the UNEF overshadowed the allegedly "dovish" statements by Foreign Minister Riad which caught the fancy of editorial writers last week. The London Times hailed Mr. Riad's words as the "most significant advance toward a solution since the UN sent Jarring (Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring) to mediate" the Middle East dispute. The Telegraph said that Mr. Riad's words were "a move toward peace" but asked "is the presence of thousands of Russian officers and technicians with Egyptian armed forces in the least reassuring to Israel?" The paper believed that the first step toward a Middle East peace must be taken by the Kremlin. Foreign Minister Riad's reported assertion that Egypt accepts the "reality" of Israel's existence was apparently taken more seriously by Palestinian Arab politicians than by Israelis. According to Beirut reports, the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine has attacked Mr. Riad. In a telegram addressed to the heads of Arab and Moslem countries, it said the statements by Mr. Riad "and some Arab officials indicating recognition of Israel as a reality...stab the Palestine commando action in the core and contradict the Khartoum conference resolutions." The Khartoum conference of Arab heads of state in August, 1967 resolved that there would be no negotiations, no recognition and no peace with Israel.

Eban Says Nasser's Tough Speech In Moscow Belies Sign Of 'Thaw'

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in a national radio address tonight that a bellicose speech by Egypt's President Nasser at a luncheon attended by top Kremlin leaders in Moscow Friday gave lie to the so-called "peace offensive" by Egypt that had been widely reported by the world press in recent days as a sign of a "thaw" in the Middle East dispute. Mr. Eban contrasted Mr. Nasser's Moscow words with those of Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad who said Egypt was prepared to accept the "reality" of Israel's existence.

Mr. Nasser did not speak of Israel as a state to whose existence the Arabs could become reconciled, but stressed the possibility of renewed warfare and the forcible "liberation" by the Arabs of areas occupied by Israel since the June, 1967 war, Mr. Eban said. "As Nasser is the person in charge of Egypt's policy, it must be said regretfully that there is no substantive change in Egypt's policy," Mr. Eban declared.

According to the official Egyptian version, Mr. Nasser said in Moscow that the Arab nations wanted peace with Israel "but not at any price" and characterized a peace based on the status quo as "simply surrender." He referred to Israeli "aggression" and "imperialism" and pledged that the Arabs "would liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression whatever the cost and sacrifice." He spoke after a three-hour conference with Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, President Nikolai V. Podgorny and Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev. It was announced later that Nasser decided to extend his stay in Moscow and postponed for several days his trip to Yugoslavia for talks with President Tito. Mr. Brezhnev reportedly pledged that the USSR would "always side with the Arab nations" in the struggle for the "undelayed withdrawal" of Israeli troops from all occupied territories.

Mr. Eban said today that the importance of Egyptian Foreign Minister Riad's statements was "grossly exaggerated." He also said that there has been no shift in the attitude of the Big Powers on Israel's insistence on negotiations as essential to a peace settlement. Mr. Eban doubted that the Egyptian "peace offensive" might lead to combined East-West pressure on Israel. No state that has in the past year advocated the formula of agreed and secured boundaries as a basis for peace has changed its position, he said.

Referring to the possible re-opening of the Suez Canal, Mr. Eban said Israel would be happy to see the canal functioning again for the ships of all nations, including Israel's, but such an event could in no way be linked to an Israeli withdrawal from the canal's east bank.

Dr. Eisendrath Calls Reform Jews 'Bitterly Maligned Group' In Israel

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, described Reform Jews in Israel as a "bitterly maligned group" following a Knesset committee's rejection of an attempt by Reform Jews meeting in Jerusalem to hold a mixed prayer service at the Western (Wailing) Wall. In a statement to the 15th international convention of the World Union for Progressive Judaism here, Dr. Eisendrath said some quarters are challenging the unquestioned loyalty of Reform Jews to Israel and attempting to deny their religious rights.

At the organization's final business session on Friday, the American Reform Jewish leader denied that lack of courage was the reason for the Union's calling off Thursday's family-style mixed prayer service at the Wall. He declared that the decision was determined solely by the fear of physical violence and the possibility of political repercussions reflecting on Israel's right to her Holy Places.

Reform Jews, Dr. Eisendrath said, have participated in all of Israel's wars and also in civil rights demonstrations in the U.S. "where we displayed no lack of physical courage in the face of stone throwing or worse." Dr. Eisendrath noted that in the Jewish nation of Israel, the tiny Anglican minority is given freedom of worship according to their own beliefs and practices but not Reform Jews.

Israel Cabinet Transmits To Knesset Plan For Reform Of Educational System

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--The Cabinet today approved and forwarded to the Knesset (Parliament) a plan to reform the Israel school system, basing it on three educational stages of six, three and three years instead of the present eight and four year steps. One of the recommendations adopted by a divided Cabinet calls for raising compulsory and free schooling to nine years instead of the present eight while an alternative draft proposed to raise it to 10 years.

Elementary school teachers recently held a one-day strike in protest against the expected imminent approval of the plan which was worked out by a Parliamentary committee. Proposals of Prof. Yehoshua Praver, chairman of the advisory council on education to the Minister of Education and Culture, formed the basis of the proposed reforms.

Latin American Parley Urges Moscow To Honor Reunion Pledge By Premier Kosygin

SANTIAGO de Chile, July 7 (JTA)--A conference of leading Latin American intellectuals and writers on the plight of Jews in Russia closed here today with the adoption of a resolution demanding that the Soviet Government grant Jews the same cultural and religious freedoms enjoyed by other ethnic groups in the USSR and that it honor the Dec. 3, 1966 pledge by Premier Alexei Kosygin in Paris that Russian Jews would be permitted to emigrate to be reunited with their families abroad.

The conference, which opened last Thursday, brought together 48 intellectuals from eight Latin American countries, among them a former President of Guatemala, leading academicians and editors and directors of some of the continent's foremost newspapers and periodicals. It was the first gathering of its kind in Latin America devoted to the condition of Soviet Jewry and drew participants whose political philosophies ranged from the conservative to the extreme left-wing. Its impact on the orthodox Communist apparatus here was reflected in the local Communist daily, El Siglo, which condemned the gathering as an "anti-Communist, Zionist provocation."

The resolution demanded that the Kremlin immediately cease all forms of discrimination against Jews and Judaism and return to Soviet Jewish citizens their rights guaranteed in the Soviet Constitution. It urged that Russian Jews be allowed to live their lives as they wished and to transmit their language, literature, tradition and historic culture to their children. Although the resolution was a strong indictment of Soviet treatment of the Jews, it was regarded by some participants as moderate. Sympathizers of Cuba's Fidel Castro demanded a much stronger resolution.

The conference's opening session was addressed by Dr. Jose Luis Romero, former rector of the University of Buenos Aires, among others. Other participants who spoke on succeeding days included Juan Jose Arevalo, a writer and former President of Guatemala; Jose Antonio Rial, director of the Venezuelan newspaper Universal; Jose Luis Borges, the conservative Argentinian author; Jose Revueltas, a Mexican writer of the extreme left; Luis Franco, of Argentina, a sympathizer of the Peking Communist regime, and Peruvian sociologist Dr. Hugo Pesces, a sympathizer of the Soviet Union. The nations represented at the conference by delegates were Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela and Mexico.

Prior to the opening, Mr. Borges held a press conference at which he told newsmen that he was attending the conference because whatever affected the Jewish people affected him personally. "I believe that two peoples are essential to our civilization," he said, "the Greeks and the Hebrews. Without Plato, Socrates and the others, and without the Bible, our civilization would be inconceivable." The conference was held in the auditorium of the National Library. Dr. Rojas was elected president of the conference, and Carlos Morand, secretary.

Rabbi Levin Says U.S. Jews Have 'Distorted' Idea Of Jewish Life In Russia

LONDON, July 7 (JTA)--Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, who concluded his trip to the United States last week, told his congregation at Moscow's Choral Synagogue yesterday that American Jews have the "most distorted and utterly incorrect notions" about Jewish life in the Soviet Union but that his trip had been "useful" in dispelling some of their misconceptions. According to reports reaching here from Moscow today, Rabbi Levin said that during his U.S. visit with Cantor David Stiskin, of Leningrad, "we had to explain on many occasions that all Soviet people had equal rights whatever their nationality or denomination."

American Jewish Congress Assails Kiesinger Testimony At War Crimes Trial

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has condemned as "astounding and shocking" the testimony by West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger that he did not realize until World War II was nearly over that "something ugly was happening to the Jews of Europe." Mr. Kiesinger was "either blind to what was happening" around him "or deliberately closed his eyes," Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the AJCongress' Commission on International Affairs, said in a telegram to the West German Chancellor.

Dr. Prinz of Newark, N.J., a former rabbi of Berlin who was expelled from Germany in 1937 for his repeated public criticism of the Hitler regime, noted that Mr. Kiesinger had been a member of the Nazi Party before and during the war and said it was "inconceivable" that he could not have seen or known that "something ugly" was happening to the Jews of Germany starting in 1933 and to the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe starting in 1941.

Mr. Kiesinger's testimony was given last week as a defense witness in a war-crimes trial for a man accused of complicity in the murder of over 30,000 Bulgarian and Greek Jews during 1942-43. During the war years, the Chancellor was deputy leader of the radio monitoring department of the Nazi Foreign Ministry. Observers at the trial had the impression that Mr. Kiesinger seemed to be defending his own past as much as testifying for the defense.

Dr. Prinz told the Chancellor in the telegram that "you and the German people stand charged with knowledge of the Nazis' morally malevolent design for Europe from Hitler's first pronouncement in which he made no secret of his intention to destroy German Jewry and to subject European civilization to a reign of barbarism and terror. Your testimony before the court is a sign of the inexcusable moral torpor that characterized the German people during World War II and that renders them responsible and accountable for the awful and ugly extermination of six million of Europe's Jews."

Kiesinger Declines To Predict Whether Crimes Statute Would Be Abolished

BONN, July 7 (JTA)--West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger declined to predict today whether his country would abolish the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals if the United Nations voted to abolish such statutes with respect to genocide. Chancellor Kiesinger was asked the question at a press conference. He said a UN decision on a statute of limitations would be of great importance for Germany but that he could not anticipate what the decision of the Bonn Government and Parliament would be in such an instance.

Meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to West Germany, Asher Ben-Nathan, addressing the Protestant Academy in Puetzingen, said that the impression in his country was that Nazi war criminals would no longer be punished once the statute of limitations went into effect. He also said that the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party, described as neo-Nazi by many, was a burden on relations between Israel and West Germany.

The statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals accused of murder is scheduled to go into effect on Dec. 31, 1969 after which suspects cannot be brought to trial. There has been widespread sentiment inside and out of Germany for an extension of the period before the statute becomes effective or for its outright abolition. But of West Germany's three major political parties, the Christian Democratic Union and the Free Democrats are opposed to an extension while the Social Democrats are split on the subject. A statute of limitations barring the prosecution of Nazis accused of crimes of a lesser degree than murder has been in effect for a number of years.

Three Former Hitler Bodyguards Sentenced To Life For Killing Jews in Northern Italy

BONN, July 7 (JTA)--The six-month old trial of members of Adolf Hitler's bodyguard ended in Osnabrueck yesterday with sentences of life imprisonment at hard labor imposed on three of the defendants convicted of murdering Jews in northern Italy in the autumn of 1943. Two other defendants received three year sentences.

The life sentences were pronounced on Hans Roehwer, 56, Hans Kruger, 57, and Herbert Schneller, 56, who were found guilty of shooting down at least 22 Jews at Lake Maggiore. Ludwig Leite, 47, and Oscar Schulz, 45, got the lighter sentences for aiding in the murders. All had been ordered to disarm Italians in the lake district following Italy's surrender to the Allies in 1943 but in the process arrested and shot Jews. Their trial began last January. The jury heard 180 witnesses at hearings in Milan and Maggiore as well as in the Osnabrueck courthouse. The Jewish cemetery at Essen was invaded by vandals who overturned more than 50 gravestones over the weekend.

AJCongress Cites Pentateuch In Calling On Congress To Support Guaranteed Income

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has called on both houses of the United States Congress to produce a "viable" plan for a guaranteed annual income for all Americans and cited ancient Torah law to back up its support for such a plan. A Federally-financed system of cash payments to families and individuals whose incomes fall below the subsistence level was urged in a statement submitted by Howard M. Squadron, co-chairman of the AJCongress' national governing council to the fiscal policy sub-committee of the Joint Economic Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives.

"The Pentateuch, the core of Jewish law, proclaims that the poor have both the moral and legal right to be supported," Mr. Squadron's statement said. "In fact, the Pentateuch speaks in a sense of a 'guaranteed annual income' for the poor when it decrees that the poor shall receive as a matter of right 'that which grows in the corner of the field, the forgotten sheaf or fruit, the produce of the fields every seventh year, and the tithes of the harvest every third year.'"