

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (WNS) Deep regret over Israel's torpedoing of an American ship in the Mediterranean was officially voiced here by Ambassador Avraham Harman at a meeting with Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

RI DE JANEIRO (WNS) Frank Paul Stangl, Nazi commandant of extermination camps where hundreds of thousands of Jews perished at the hands of the killers, has been ordered extradited to West Germany for trial under a Brazilian Supreme Court ruling which directed that the defendant be turned over to Austria in the event he is not tried or acquitted in West Germany.

MONTREAL (WNS) Prime Minister Daniel Johnson of Quebec told a Jewish audience here that he "will not condone the notion that there are first and second class citizens" in the Province of Quebec and that Jews need neither deny nor reject their heritage to be good citizens of the Province.

NEW YORK (WNS) Virtually all French newspapers, except the Communist newspaper L'Humanite, have reported Israel's military victories "with obvious relish under hug headlines," according to a report in the New York Times by its Paris correspondent, Henry Tanner.

PARIS (WNS) An unidentified Israeli pilot who bailed out in lower Egypt was lynched to death by an Egyptian mob, according to a report reaching here from Cairo.

MEXICO CITY (WNS) Obviously inspired by the torrent of vituperation against Israel Jews in the Arab countries, local Nasserites, Arabs and anti-Semites erupted into renewed anti-Semitic activity, smearing Jewish homes with swastikas and slogans such as "Long Live Nasser."

BONN (WNS) Final results of last Sunday's elections to the Lower Saxony State Legislature show that the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party had captured seven percent of the vote, winning ten seats in the chamber.

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our fortunes stood.

An army, greater than any force ever assembled in Sinai, had massed against Israel's southern frontier. Egypt had dismissed the United Nations forces which symbolized the international interest in the maintenance of peace in our region. Nasser had provocatively brought five infantry divisions and two armored divisions up to our very gates; 80,000 men and 900 tanks were poised to move.

PLAN TO ENCIRCLE ISRAEL

A special striking force comprising an armored division with at least 200 tanks, was concentrated against Elath at the Negev's southern tip. Here was a clear design to cut the southern Negev off from the main body of our State. For Egypt had openly proclaimed that Elath did not form part of Israel and had predicted that Israel itself would soon expire. The proclamation was empty; the prediction now lies in ruin. While the main brunt of the hostile threat was focussed on the southern front, an alarming plan of encirclement was under way. With Egypt's initiative and guidance, Israel was already being strangled in its maritime approaches to the whole eastern half of the world. For sixteen years, Israel had been illicitly denied passage in the Suez Canal, despite the Security Council's decision of 1 September 1951. And now the creative enterprise of ten patient years which had opened an international route across the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba had been suddenly and arbitrarily choked, Israel was and is breathing with only a single lung.

Jordan had been intimidated, against its better interest into joining a defence pact. It is not a defence pact at all: It is an aggressive pact, of which I saw the consequences with my own eyes yesterday in the shells falling upon institutions of health and culture in the City of Jerusalem. Every house and street in Jerusalem came into the range of fire as a result of Jordan's adherence to this pact; So also did the crowded, and pathetically narrow coastal strip in which so much of Israel's life and population is concentrated.

Iraqi troops reinforced Jordanian units in areas immediately facing vital and vulnerable Israel communication centres. Expeditionary forces from Algeria and Kuwait had reached Egyptian territory. Nearly all the Egyptian forces which had been attempting the conquest of the Yemen had been transferred to the coming assault upon Israel. Syrian units, including artillery, overlooked the Israeli villages in the Jordan Valley. Terrorist troops came regularly into our territory to kill, plunder and set off explosions; The most recent occasion was five days ago.

PERIL CONFRONTED ISRAEL ALL AROUND

In short, there was peril for Israel wherever it looked. Its manpower had been hastily mobilized. Its economy and commerce were beating with feeble pulse. Its streets were dark and empty. There was an apocalyptic air of approaching peril. And Israel faced this danger alone.

But not entirely alone we were buoyed up by an unforgettable surge of public sympathy across the world. Friendly Governments expressed the rather ominous hope that Israel would manage "to live". But the dominant theme of our condition was danger and solitude.

Now there could be no doubt about what was intended for us. With my very ears I heard President Nasser's speech on 28 May. He said:

"We intend to open a general assault against Israel. This will be total war. Our basic aim is the destruction of Israel."

On 2 June, the Egyptian Commander in Sinai, General Murtagi published his order of the day, calling on his troops to wage a war of destruction against Israel. Here, then, was a systematic overt, proclaimed design at politicide, the murder of a State.

The policy, the arms, the men had all been brought together. And the State thus threatened with collective assassination was itself the last sanctuary of people which had seen six million of its sons exterminated by a more powerful dictator two decades before.

BLOCKADE COULD NOT BE PASSIVELY SUFFERED

The question then widely asked in Israel and across the world was whether we had not already gone beyond the utmost point of danger. Was there any precedent in world history, for example, for a nation passively to suffer the blockade of its only southern port, involving nearly all its vital fuel, when such acts of war, legally and internationally have always invited resistance? This was a most unusual patience. It existed because we had acceded to the suggestion of some of the maritime States that we give them scope to concert their efforts in order to find an international solution which would ensure the maintenance of free passage in the Gulf of Aqaba for ships of all nations and of all flags.

As we pursued this avenue of international solution we wished the world to have no doubt about our readiness to exhaust every prospect, however fragile, of a diplomatic solution. And some of the prospects that were suggested were very fragile indeed.

ISRAEL'S MARGIN OF SECURITY DIMINISHED

But as time went on there was no doubt that our margin of general security was becoming smaller and smaller.

Thus, on the morning of 5 June, when Egyptian forces engaged us by air and land, bombarding the villages of Kissuffim Nahal-Gz and Ein Hasheloshah we knew that our limit of safety had been reached and perhaps passed. In accordance with its inherent right of self-defence as formulated in Article 31 of the United Nations Charter, Israel responded defensively in full strength. Never in the history of nations has armed force been used in a more righteous or compelling cause.

Even when engaged with Egyptian forces we still hoped to contain the conflict. Egypt was overtly bent on our destruction but we still hoped that others would not join the aggression. Prime Minister Eshkol, who for weeks had carried the heavy burden of calculation and decision, published and conveyed a message to other neighbouring States proclaiming:

"We shall not attack any country unless it opens war on us. Even now, when the mortars speak, we have not given up our quest for peace. We strive to repel all menace of terrorism and any danger of aggression to ensure our security and our legitimate rights."

ISRAEL HAD NO DESIRE TO EXPAND CONFLICT

In accordance with this policy of attempting to contain the conflict, I yesterday invited General Bull, the Chairman of the Truce Supervision Organization, to inform the heads of the Jordanian State that: Israel had no desire to expand the conflict beyond the unfortunate dimensions that it had already assumed and that if Israel were not attacked by Jordan it would not attack and would act only in self-defence. It reached my ears that this message had been duly and faithfully conveyed and received. Nevertheless, Jordan decided to join the Egyptian posture against Israel and opened artillery attacks across the whole frontier, including Jerusalem. Those attacks are still in progress.

To the appeal of Prime Minister Eshkol to avoid any further extension of the conflict, Syria answered at 12.2 yesterday morning by bombing Megiddo from the air and bombing Deganya at 12.0 with artillery fire and kibbutz Ein Hamifrats and Koordani with long-range guns. But Jordan embarked on a much more total assault by artillery and aircraft along the entire front with special emphasis on Jerusalem, to whose dangerous and noble ordeal yesterday I can bear personal witness.

HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF ISRAEL'S CAPITAL, JERUSALEM

There has been bombing of houses; There has been a hit on the great new National Museum of Art; There has been a hit on the University and on Shaare Tzedek, the first hospital ever to have been established outside the ancient walls. Is this not an act of vandalism that deserves the condemnation of all mankind? And in the Knesset Building, whose construction had been movingly celebrated by the entire democratic world ten months ago, the Israeli Cabinet and Parliament met under heavy gunfire, whose echoes mingled at the end of our meeting with Hatikvah, the anthem of hope.

Thus throughout the day and night of 5 June, Jordan which we had expressly invited to abstain from needless slaughter became, to our surprise, and still remains, the most intense of all the belligerents; Death and injury, as so often in history, stalk Jerusalem's streets.

When the approaching Egyptian aircraft appeared on our radar screens, soon to be followed by artillery attacks on our villages near the Gaza Strip, I instructed Ambassador Rafael to inform the Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter. I know that that involved arousing you, Mr. President, at a most unpropitious hour of the night, but we felt that the Security Council should be most urgently seized.

ISRAEL DISCONCERTED BY U.N. ROLE

I should, however, be less than frank if I were to conceal the fact that the Government and people of Israel have been disconcerted by some aspects of the United Nations role in this conflict. The sudden withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force was not accompanied, as it should have been, by due international consultations on the consequences of that withdrawal. Moreover, Israeli interests were affected. They were not adequately explored. No attempt was made, little time given, to help Israel surmount grave prejudice to its vital interests consequent on that withdrawal. After all, a new confrontation of forces suddenly arose. It suddenly had to be met. And at Sharm el-Sheikh at the entrance to the Strait of Tiran, legality walked out and blockade walked in. The peace of the world trembled. The United Nations had somehow been put into a position of leaving Sinai safe for belligerency.

It is not a question of sovereignty that is here involved. The United Nations has a right to ask that when it assumes a function, the termination of that function shall not take place in conditions that would lead to anti-Charter situations. I do not raise this point in order to linger upon that which is past; but because of Israel's general attitude to the peace-keeping functions of this Organization. I confess that my own attitude and those of my colleagues and of my fellow-citizens to the peace-keeping functions of the United Nations have been traumatically affected by this experience.

The United Nations Emergency Force rendered distinguished service. Nothing became it less than the manner of its departure. All gratitude and appreciation is owed to the individuals who sustained its action. If in the course of the recent combats United Nations personnel have fallen

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