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Los Angeles Arabs Reported Nervous, Sympathetic With Sirhan Anti-Zionism

WASHINGTON —(JTA)— The Arab community on the West Coast is nervous over possible reprisals in the aftermath of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and has "gone into hiding" ever since it was learned that the accused gunman is an Arab, Sirhan Sirhan, the Washington Post reported from Los Angeles. According to Post reporter George Lardner, there is, at the same time among Los Angeles' 25,000 Arab-Americans, a "widespread rationalization, even sympathy, for the murder for which Sirhan stands indicted. His anti-Zionism is widely shared," Lardner wrote and "time and again it is argued that the real villain is 'international Zionism' and secondarily, Kennedy's support of jet fighters for Israel." Mr. Lardner said that "not a few of the Arab-American organizations show the same sort of persecution complex so widely attributed to Sirhan. It also makes them candidates for the overtures of the American far right and white racists."

The Post report named four Arab-American organizations that had been active before the assassination. They are the United American Arab Congress, formed after Israel's victory in the June, 1967, Six-Day War "to help raise funds for Arab refugees and to combat 'support of Zionism by the American press'; the American Arab Citizens Council; the Americans (of Lebanese-Syrian ancestry) for America; and the Arabic Society of Americanists. The United Arab Congress has likened Israel to "Nazi Germany" and "Fascist Japan" in its propaganda, Mr. Lardner reported. "Sirhan does not appear to have been a member of any of the Arab organizations in the city," he said, but "accorded to one report, Sirhan and several of his brothers attended meetings of the so-called 'American Arabs' which was allegedly a youth auxiliary of the UAAC."

Target of Incidents

According to the Post report, the Arab community in Los Angeles has been the target of a few minor incidents by cranks since the assassination. But Sirhan's family is under tight security guard. Mr. Lardner said it was an open question how successful the Arab organizations have been at resisting overtures from the extreme right. "One UAAC newsletter last summer warned against 'white racist groups . . . coming out in support of the Arabs' and cautioned its members against aligning themselves with 'hatemongers,'" Lardner said.

The Lardner report on the plight of West Coast Arab-Americans followed by two days an anti-Israel article by the Washington Post's senior White House correspondent Chalmers M. Roberts, who charged that Israelis were trying "to take political advantage of the fact that a Jordanian-born man is accused of killing Senator Kennedy." Mr. Roberts, who is close to both President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, claimed in his story that "Israelis and their more passionate American supporters are trying to nail down a policy of firm American support" for Israel in an election year. He also chastised "cynical American politicians (who) long have noted that there are no Arab votes of consequence in this nation whereas the much sought after Jewish vote and financial support is often of critical importance in such cities as New York and Los Angeles." Observers here saw the Roberts article as an attempt to generate support for Administration policy which is currently directed toward improving American relations with the Arab states. Administration sources have expressed concern lest Sen. Kennedy's assassination arouse anti-Arab feelings in the United States and embarrass these attempts.

Haifa appeared first in history as the home of various Jewish scholars after the first century. In the fourth century it was a fishing village called Epha.

Archaeologists Dig Into Holy Shrines

JERUSALEM — (JTA) — Archaeologists excavating on the site of the Temple in Old Jerusalem have unearthed several large stones which were once part of the pavement leading to the southern entrance of the holiest of Jewish shrines. The archaeological team, headed by Prof. Benjamin Mazar of the Hebrew University, found the stones under six feet of debris after digging through 13 layers representing various eras of Jerusalem's long history. The discovery was made on the 100th day of digging which happened to coincide with the first anniversary of the liberation of East Jerusalem by Israel.

The stones were described as weighing about a quarter of a ton each and measuring approximately two feet by three feet. They were laid during the reign of Herod Antipas who lived from 20 B.C.E. to 39 C.E. and was king of Judea under the Roman occupation at the start of the Christian era. The discovery revealed a possible error in the account by the contemporary Jewish historian Josephus who said the Temple area was paved with marble. The slabs found were well dressed grey Jerusalem stone. It is believed that some of them may have toppled from the southern wall of the Temple when it was destroyed by the Roman Emperor Titus in 70 C.E. Prof. Mazar's archaeological work is being carried out under permits issued by the Department of Antiquities of the Israel Government and the Jerusalem municipality. Attempts by the Chief Rabbinate to block the scientific undertaking as sacrilegious were rejected by the authorities.

Eban Holds Israel's Future Boundaries Should Be Based on Nation's Security

JERUSALEM— (JTA) — Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban said at a press conference here that there was general agreement in the Cabinet that Israel's future boundaries should be based primarily on the nation's security and on the juridical and political relationships that would be worked out between Israel and the Arab states in the course of peace negotiations. However, Mr. Eban said, Israel was not yet committed to any one plan "for the reason that there is no context of negotiation." Nevertheless, he said, "the thinking and discussion of alternative ideas are serious, varied and active." Some observers here interpreted Mr. Eban's statements as a reference to the so-called "Allon Plan," a proposal made public by Labor Minister Yigal Allon last week which, according to local newspapers has been favorably received by Prime Minister Eshkol, Eban, Defense Minister Dayan and others. The plan would create an Arab enclave in Judaea and Samaria, linked to Jordan by a corridor passing through Jericho. Israel would retain the Jordan Valley which has only 14,000 Arab inhabitants, more than half of them residents of Jericho.

Mr. Eban said he thought the people in the occupied areas were sincere in their desire for peace and that they could someday serve as a bridge between Israel and the Arab states. But the idea of concluding a separate peace with them is meaningless, he said, because "only those who have the means to wage war can bring about peace in the area, namely the governments of the independent Arab states." He reviewed Israel's policies and statements over the past year and said that no opening for peace had been neglected by Israel but there had been no response on the part of any Arab state.

The Arabs, he said, still stand by their Khartoum resolution—no peace, no recognition, no negotiations with Israel. Replying to a question, Mr. Eban said that neither the United States nor Britain had ever asked Israel to clarify the future geography of the region as Israel sees it, nor had they asked Israel to negotiate with any non-Arab government. He reiterated that Israel's views on the matter were not likely to crystalize in binding form until there was very concrete evidence that negotiations are imminent. Eban also repeated Israel's willingness to leave the administration of the holy places in Jerusalem to those who hold them holy—Moslems as well as Christians. He said this policy has been communicated to the Arab states.

Eban Asserts Israel Seeks Contacts With Arabs Via Many Channels

JERUSALEM— (JTA) — Israel is engaged in a search for contacts and negotiations with the Arab states through many channels, including the mission of special United Nations peace emissary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the 27th World Zionist Congress. He reiterated Israel's position of seeking to replace the present cease-fire agreements by peace agreements freely negotiated and contractually confirmed. He said any other arrangement, such as Big Power guarantees, could not be a substitute for a formal peace treaty, adding that the doctrine of Israeli "withdrawal without peace" had been defeated. Mr. Eban said that there was no Cabinet plan as yet for peace frontiers between Israel and her neighbors. He clarified press reports on his news conference last week in which he had said that consultations on the subject had taken place.

Bill for State Aid to Parochial Schools Passed by Pennsylvania Senate

HARRISBURG, Pa., —(JTA)— The Pennsylvania Senate passed a bill to provide state aid for parochial schools. The measure permits state payment to non-public schools for purchase of secular services, including instruction in mathematics, modern foreign languages, physical sciences and physical education. The chief beneficiary of the measure, which Gov. Raymond P. Shafer, said he would sign, are the Catholic parochial schools which educate the bulk of the state's 600,000 non-public school pupils. But Jewish day schools are also eligible for aid.

The measure won in the Senate by a 30 to 17 vote, with 25 required for passage. It now goes to the House of Representatives for concurrence in major amendments providing for financing. House acceptance is considered virtually certain. The bill, first of its kind ever to reach the floor of the Pennsylvania legislative chambers, was opposed by civil liberatarian and other groups, including some Jewish organizations, on the grounds that it would violate the principle of separation of church and state. It was supported by the Catholic and Orthodox Jewish groups. State aid would become effective on July 1 and would be financed initially by $4.3 million from harness race track revenues.

The House concurred later and the governor signed the bill into law.

S.S. Liberty Commander Given Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON —(JTA)— The Medal of Honor was presented this week to the Navy officer who commanded the intelligence ship Liberty when it was attacked off the Sinai coast during the Six-Day War on June 8, 1967. Capt. William L. McConagle got the award in ceremonies in the Washington Naval Yard.

Thirty-four U.S. sailors were killed in the air and torpedo attack. Israel apologized and has paid $3,323,500 in compensation. That sum was the full amount claimed by the U.S. on behalf of families of the dead sailors. The Pentagon said Capt. McConagle was cited "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."

To Address Rabbinical Council Convention

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik — Yitzchak Rabin, Israeli Ambassador — Dr. Samuel Belkin

Rabbi Pesach Z. Levovitz, President of the Rabbinical Council of America, which represents 1000 orthodox rabbis, serving two million congregants in the United States and Canada, today announced that three of the most eminent Jewish leaders in world Jewry will address the annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, General Yitzchak Rabin; President of Yeshiva University, Dr. Samuel Belkin; dean of the world Talmudists, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik.

The Convention will be held from June 24-27, 1968 at the Pine View Hotel, Fallsburgh, New York. Over 600 rabbis from every part of the United States and Canada will participate.

The theme of the Convention is the "Challenge to Religion of changing Moral and Ethical Values."

The Chairman of the Convention Committee is Rabbi Benjamin Sharfman.

Peace

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and Great Bitter Lake, fatally wounding one Israeli soldier. The Egyptian account said that two Arab soldiers were wounded in a 55-minute machine-gune and mortar duel.

45-Minute Battle

The Israelis reported that the Jordanians had opened fire across the Jordan River near the Allenby Bridge touching off a 45-minute battle that caused no Israeli casualties.

Lebanese and Israel gunners exchanged mortar fire early in the day. The Lebanese Government sent a protest to the United Nations Security Council, terming Israel's action in the shelling "wanton and unprovoked." Israel also submitted a letter to the Security Council alleging a breach of the cease-fire by Lebanon. In the letter to this month's president, Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg of the United States, Israel said that the Lebanese sent mortar fire against the village of Manara in the Upper Galilee and that Israel returned the fire, in self-defense, silencing the Lebanese positions.

Reveal JFK's '61 Pledge to Aid Israel Against Arab Aggression

WASHINGTON — Myer Feldman, former assistant to President Kennedy, confirmed that in 1961 he had given Israel assurances from Mr. Kennedy of the United States military support in the event of Arab aggression.

In an article scheduled to appear in Parade magazine, Jack Anderson, an associate of columnist Drew Pearson, reported that President Kennedy sent Mr. Feldman secretly to Israel early in 1961 to pledge the protection of the United States Sixth Fleet. Mr. Feldman was also reported to have been authorized to offer Hawk antiaircraft missiles to Israel in return for not developing nuclear weapons of her own.

Mr. Feldman confirmed the details of the report. However, he challenged two assertions in the article by Mr. Anderson. Israel, he stressed, already had a nuclear reactor, but was not planning to develop nuclear weapons. Thus, he said, Israel did not "stop" developing them in return for the United States missiles, which were delivered.

Demand Life at Labor

COLOGNE — (JTA) — The prosecution in the Grodno war crimes trial has demanded life imprisonment at hard labor for Kurt Wieser, one of two defendants who is charged with the murder of 86 Jews in one of Grodno's two ghettos during World War Two. No sentence has been demanded yet for the second defendant, Kurt Erelis. The prosecutor argued that the accused has shown no signs of emotion or remorse as evidence revealed details of the murder of some 25,000 Jews in Grodno.

Tiff

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matter was subjected to full-scale debate.

He stressed that the founding charter of the party provides specifically that there be no changes in the party leadership until a convention of elected delegates is held. The Israel Labor party was formed earlier this year as the result of a merger of Mr. Eshkol's Mapai party, General Dayan's Rafi party, and the Ahdut Haavoda party, of which Mr. Allon is a leading member.

Mr. Eshkol worked out the details of his plan to elevate Mr. Allon with Mrs. Golda Meir, the secretary general of the Labor party, and presented it more or less as an accomplished fact to the coalition. This has produced criticism about unauthorized "kitchen-cabinet decisions."

The promotion of Mr. Allon would put him in a favored position to succeed Mr. Eshkol whenever the Premier steps down. Mr. Eshkol has given no public indication of when this might be, but the assumption of political observers here is that he would retire shortly after winning re-election next year.

The Cabinet decided to create a new ministry to handle the absorption of immigrants, a matter that previously has been administered by the Jewish Agency, as the executive arm of the World Zionist Movement.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!
As a preview to the Testimonial Dinner in honor of David Siegel, a Parlor Meeting for Men will be held in the home of Burton B. Polansky, 8585 North Manor Lane, on Sunday, June 23, at 8 P.M. with
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