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### Secretary Rusk Says U.S. Will Not Take Unilateral Action on Akaba Gulf Issue

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk dismissed today as "speculation" reports about United States efforts to organize other maritime countries to jointly test the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Akaba which is preventing ships from reaching Israel's port of Eilat with cargo for Israel as well as cutting off passage of Israeli ships through the gulf. He also made clear that the United States did not envisage "unilateral action."

Mr. Rusk made his statement following a closed door meeting with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Participating in the meeting were also Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. The main theme of the Administration officials appeared to be the need to delay action on the Egyptian-Israeli crisis to provide time to seek a diplomatic solution, according to Senator Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota Democrat, who attended the meeting.

"I don't know of any proposal to test the blockade," the Senator said. He added that he thought there was a general "consensus" of the top members of the Senate Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations committees -- with respect to American obligations to uphold Israel's territorial integrity and advocate free passage in the Gulf of Akaba. "Everyone knows our legal obligations and our moral commitment on this issue are much clearer than in the controversy over Viet Nam," he stated. He voiced a personal view that "the Russians haven't really over committed themselves to the Arabs as yet."

Secretary Rusk declined to evaluate the Soviet position. Asked if war could be averted between Israel and the Arabs, Mr. Rusk said: "Don't make a prophet of me. I can assure you that the United States is doing everything it can to bring that result." Vice-President Humphrey, commenting on the same Senate committee meeting, said when asked about the American commitment to Israel on the Akaba Gulf, that "we seek to have the world community understand its responsibilities."

The U.S. Defense Department said today that the USS Intrepid, the air craft carrier that transited the Suez Canal, was proceeding to Viet Nam and will not stop at the Strait of Tiran area. Reports from Cairo said the Intrepid was being escorted by two Egyptian submarines.

(Reports from Cairo today said the Egyptian Government made known that not only will Israeli ships be barred from passage through the Strait of Tiran but all strategic items of cargo carried on ships of other flags, including American, will be confiscated if such cargo is bound for Eilat.)

### U.S. Jet Bombers Not Yet Delivered to Israel, Defense Department Announces

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department announced today that the United States had not yet delivered the jet bombers America last year promised to sell to Israel. He could not state when delivery could be anticipated.

Through the fiscal year 1966, the spokesman told the press, Israel received \$27.6 million worth of U.S. arms. Israel has orders on the books at present for a "modest amount" of purchases including Hawk missiles, jet aircraft, recoilless guns, small arms, other weapons, ammunition, vehicles, communications and other equipment. The United States has supplied arms worth \$345.9 million, much of it free, to Moslem countries backing Egypt, the spokesman said.

### Britain Indicates Fear of Use of Nuclear Weapons in Arab-Israeli Conflict

LONDON, June 1. (JTA) -- Lord Chalfont, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed fears today in House of Lords debate on the Middle East crisis that nuclear weapons might become involved. He said that for this reason, he would like to see a negotiated settlement not only of the Akaba Gulf blockade dispute but also of the wider tensions in the area. He warned that if nuclear weapons became available in areas of local conflict, the dangers of nuclear war would increase "almost beyond calculation."

(From Bonn it was reported today that Israel asked West Germany today for 20,000 gas masks for its current civilian defense preparations. Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger and Foreign

Minister Willy Brandt agreed to provide the gas masks but the Defense Ministry refused to send them without Cabinet approval. The matter will be taken up at an urgent Cabinet meeting.)

Authoritative Government sources said here today that Prime Minister Wilson, who left today for Canada, will discuss with Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson responses by the world's maritime nations to the Egyptian blockade of the Tiran Strait. It was reported that Mr. Wilson would like to have Mr. Pearson head a group of maritime nations to oppose the blockade, whether inside or outside the United Nations.

### Israeli Cabinet Approves Eshkol Plan for a National Unity Government

TEL AVIV, June 1. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and a special Ministerial committee began today a new round of negotiations with former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's opposition National Workers Party (Rafi) and the Gahal alignment of Liberals and Herut for a national unity Government for which popular pressure has been mounting.

The renewed talks were approved last night by the Cabinet at a special session on the issue. After a reportedly stormy debate, the Cabinet approved Premier Eshkol's plan, which calls for appointment of Labor Minister Yigal Alon as Defense Minister, and the naming of a special Ministerial committee to conduct the unity talks with Rafi and Gahal. The Premier currently holds the Defense portfolio.

It was reported that the Cabinet approved Premier Eshkol's proposals only on condition that Gen. Moshe Dayan, commander of the forces that routed the Egyptians in the 1956 campaign and now a leader of Rafi, would be offered and would accept a major Cabinet post. The negotiating committee consisted of Premier Eshkol, Moshe Shapira of the National Religious Party, Achdut Avodah's Israeli Galili, Mapam's Israel Barzilai and Liberal Moshe Kol.

Many large Mapai branches, particularly the powerful Haifa section, bitterly opposed the Premier's proposals and urged Gen. Dayan's appointment as Defense Minister. Gen. Dayan reportedly agreed, at a meeting last night with Premier Eshkol, to accept an army appointment under the direction of Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin.

Gen. Dayan reportedly told the Premier that he did not seek titles or political appointments. He suggested two courses: A Cabinet post for him but only the Defense portfolio and not Foreign Affairs, or the post of Vice-Premier, which the Premier reportedly offered him; or an active army post under Gen. Rabin's command. Gen. Dayan reportedly said he preferred the army appointment.

The negotiations today were understood to be of crucial importance because both the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberals reportedly told Premier Eshkol that, if the Cabinet was not widened to include the opposition, they might provoke a Government crisis by quitting the coalition. However, they agreed to the "last chance" talks on the basis of the Eshkol plan, which also provides for entry into the present coalition of four new Ministers, one from Rafi, two from Gahal, and one from the Premier's Alignment of Mapai and Achdut Avodah.

Rafi sources expressed skepticism about the prospects for a new broader coalition on the basis of the Premier's proposals. Rafi opposition reportedly was motivated by the fact that Gen. Dayan was not offered the Defense Ministry. Rejection of the plan by Rafi was expected to be followed by similar action by Gahal.

### 50,000 Attend Rally for Israel in Paris; French Deputies Address Audience

PARIS, June 1. (JTA) -- About 50,000 persons tried to attend a rally supporting Israel held at the Winter Circus here last night in the auditorium seating only 15,000 persons. The approximately 35,000 who could not get in massed outside the hall, singing pro-Israeli French and Hebrew songs. For two hours, the crowds outside the auditorium chanted "We Are With Israel."

The mass meeting followed an earlier march by an estimated 30,000 persons who paraded to the avenue in front of the Israeli Embassy, carrying placards pledging support for Israel and opposing the Egyptian blockade of the Strait of Tiran. Inside the auditorium, addresses were delivered by several outstanding members of the French Chamber of Deputies. All voiced ardent support for Israel during the current crisis.

### National Emergency Leadership Conference for Israel to be Held in Washington

NEW YORK, June 1. (JTA) -- A National Emergency Leadership Conference for Israel will be held in Washington June 7-8 under the auspices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, it was announced here today. The meeting will be attended by key Jewish figures.

### Rabbis Throughout the World Urged to Proclaim Fast and Prayer Days for Israel

JERUSALEM, June 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, Religious Affairs Minister, issued a worldwide appeal today to rabbis to unite in a "supreme effort" to help Israel in its current crisis. He urged the rabbis to organize meetings, proclaim fast and prayer days, "for it is a time of trial for Jacob."

**Jews in France Form Committee for Israel; Raise \$2,000,000; Expect More Funds**

PARIS, June 1. (JTA) -- A Committee of Coordination for Solidarity with Israel, an organization grouping practically all local Jewish organizations, has been formed here for the first time in French Jewish history. The committee is headed by Edmund and Guy de Rothschild of the French Jewish banking family.

In cooperation with French Jewish fund-raising organizations, the new committee urged every Jew to give immediately twice the money he regularly gave each year for Israeli causes. Guy de Rothschild said he hoped that \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 would be raised in a few days and that already \$2,000,000 had been received.

The committee published in all major French dailies today a statement that "Israel's situation and destiny concerns every Jew in France personally." An appeal was distributed through French newspapers and broadcasting media asking the people of France to sustain Israel. Thousands of French Jews have volunteered their services to Israel and the committee was awaiting suggestions from Israel's Government on use of the volunteers.

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NEW YORK, June 1. (JTA) -- The heads of the nation's four major maritime unions appealed today to President Johnson to hold fast to the position that the United States considered the Egyptian-blockaded Gulf of Akaba "international waters" and would "insist on maintaining its integrity."

The appeal was contained in a telegram to the President signed by Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union; Thomas W. Gleason, president of the International Longshoremen's Association; Jesse Calhoun, president of the National Marine Engineers Beneficial Association; and Capt. Lloyd W. Sheldon, president of the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots. A copy of the telegram was sent to Arthur J. Goldberg, the chief American delegate to the United Nations.

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VIENNA, June 1. (JTA) -- The Organization of Austrian Trade Unions sent a message today to Aharon Becker, secretary-general of the Histadrut, the Israel labor federation, expressing the hope for a peaceful settlement of the current crisis in the Middle East. In a cable to Mr. Becker, the Austrian trade unionists said they expected the democratic world to do everything possible to spare the Israeli people further suffering.

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GENEVA, June 1. (JTA) -- A pro-Israel committee, comprised of representatives of all Swiss churches and political parties in all Swiss cantons was formed in Berne today. The Swiss Federal Council meanwhile issued a statement expressing the hope that the present Middle East crisis would be settled in a just and peaceful manner.

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BUENOS AIRES, June 1. (JTA) -- The DAIA, Argentine Jewry's central representative agency, convened an extraordinary assembly in closed session and then issued a statement expressing "deep concern" about the menace of war in the Middle East motivated "by the aggressive attitudes of those who oppose Israel." The danger of a "new Munich" being prepared against Israel was stressed in a statement issued at an extraordinary meeting of the Argentine Zionist Organization.

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MONTEVIDEO, June 1. (JTA) -- Egyptian President Nasser's blockade of the Tiran Strait to Israeli shipping constitutes "the gravest provocation" by the aggressive Arab rulers "who endanger world peace," the Central Committee for Uruguayan Jewry and the Uruguayan Zionist Organization declared today in a joint statement. The two groups issued the statement after a massive rally by Uruguayan Jews in the Great Hall of Montevideo.

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GUATEMALA CITY, June 1. (JTA) -- Guatemala's Congress, under the leadership of the Senate, adopted a strong resolution today condemning the "illegitimate blockade of the Strait of Tiran as an act of aggression and a violation of human rights. The measure categorically condemned "all forms of aggression or hostile acts which lead to war." The Congress voted also to send its resolution to all other parliamentary bodies in Latin America.

## Convention of Conservative Rabbis Opposes Federal Aid to Religious Schools

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of the Conservative rabbinate, voted here, at the conclusion of its 67th annual convention, to oppose Federal aid to private or parochial schools, except for such special programs as transportation, lunches and medical and dental services. The 500 delegates to the convention opposed "outright subsidies" by the Federal Government for textbooks or other supplies to religious schools, whether Jewish, Protestant or Catholic.

At the same time, the Assembly voiced its unanimous support to the all-day, Jewish day school movement, and called on the Conservative rabbinate "to assume energetic leadership to the great effort to mobilize Jewish communal funds from Jewish federations and welfare funds" for the support of Jewish education.

The Assembly reelected Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen, of Providence, as president. An announcement was made, after a debate concerned with the perils facing Israel during the current Middle East crisis, that 50 Conservative rabbis had volunteered to spend from one month to three months in Israel this summer. They will serve as teachers, counselors to children, or in other capacities that would help relieve Israel's manpower shortage, caused by the call-up of many young men into the armed Israeli services.

The discussion of the Middle East crisis followed addresses by Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and Israel's Ambassador Avraham Harman. Mr. Humphrey cited President Johnson's pledge of last week, reasserting United States support for Israel's right of innocent passage through the Strait of Tiran. He praised Israel's "self-restraint" during the current crisis, but warned that war must be averted and stressed the need for further political and diplomatic negotiations during a "breathing spell." At the same time, however, he indicated that a solution of the issue regarding Tiran must not be sought "at the expense of Israel's sovereignty, her life and her lifeline."

Ambassador Harman, emphasizing that there must be no miscalculation about Israel's determination and right to defend her freedom, noted that, as of now, "the world will have to decide what to do about this situation in which one United Nations member is threatening to destroy another." He expressed the hope that the international community would not permit "appeasement of a dictator." He said: "It is we who will defend Israel against aggression, if it comes to that."

## U.N. Council Votes for the Establishment of An High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 1. (JTA) -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council today adopted a resolution which, after approval by next fall's General Assembly, would establish a new world organization office, a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The adoption of that resolution culminated a five-year fight for the creation of such an office. The Soviet Union, which has fought against the proposal since it was first made, voted with the minority of four delegations that cast negative ballots on a rollcall. The others voting against it were Czechoslovakia, India and Rumania. But the majority garnered 15 votes in favor of the measure. Israel, the United States and Britain had supported the move vigorously.

At the same time, the ECOSOC reelected Israel to membership in the Human Rights Commission, one of the organ's principal subsidiaries. Israel has been on the Commission for the last three years, being represented by Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn. In arguments behind the scenes, the Soviet and Arab blocs insisted that one three-year term for Israel was enough, while others pointed out that Israel, as a Jewish state, has a special interest in human rights.

On the final vote, against the opposition of seven other candidates, Israel was reelected and Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne was declared holder of a seat on the Human Rights Commission for the next three-year term. Dr. Rosenne is Israel's deputy permanent representative here, and is also a member of the International Law Commission, another U.N. body.

## Jewish Librarians from 22 States Hold Convention; Discuss Acquisition Problems

BOSTON, June 1. (JTA) -- Jewish librarians from 22 states ended the second annual convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries here yesterday by electing Jacob I. Dienstag, Yeshiva University librarian, as president.

Acquisition policies in research collections of Judaica was one of the major problems discussed. Dr. Charles Berlin, Lee M. Friedman Bibliographer in Judaica and chairman of the Hebrew Division in the Harvard College Library, was one of the principal speakers. Other speakers included Prof. Isadore Twersky, Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy at Harvard University; Theodore Wiener, head of the Hebraic Cataloguing section of the Librarian of Congress, and Prof. Gard Korman of Cornell University.

## South African Jew Named Member of Swaziland Cabinet; Is Minister of Finance

JOHANNESBURG, June 1. (JTA) -- A South African Jew, Leo Lovell, has been appointed Minister of Finance in the Swaziland Cabinet. He was a Labor member of the South African Parliament from 1949 to 1958, representing Benoni, where he lived and had a leading part in Jewish communal affairs. He settled in Swaziland in 1961.