Air and Ground Clashes Mount on Israel's Borders

(Continued from Page 1)

Lt. Gelberson left his widowed mother and a 14-year-old sister.

Syrian gunners at Urfiya opened light machinegun fire Wednesday on members of Kibutz Gonen (another "adoptee" of Detroit JNF women), who were making a routine check of the settlement's fences near the Syrian border. One of the settlers was wounded.

The shooting ended after Israeli forces were alerted and returned the fire. Earlier, an army patrol found an anti-vehicle mine planted on a dirt road near the Lachish area. Meanwhile, two unarmored Israeli tractors continued to plough the fields in the Tel Katzir area without evoking any Syrian shooting.

An 18-year-old Israeli youth, Yehouda Simontov, was wounded Tuesday in Jerusalem. Simontov, who was hit when Jordanian soldiers opened fire from their positions in old Jerusalem, was taken to Hadassah Hospital where his condition was reported as not dangerous. No reason was reported for the Jordanian shooting.

Israel Cabinet Is Gratified with Reports on Battle with Syria

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Israel Cabinet Sunday heard reports on Friday's sudden land-and-air battle with Syria during which Israeli flyers shot down six Syrian Soviet-made MIG-21 jet fighters while army units destroyed Syrian gun posts firing artillery from remote positions against Israelis working in tractors in the demilitarized zone on the border.

Not a single Israeli plane was lost in the battle, but two Israelis were wounded by ground fire—one of them fatally—and damages to Israeli border settlements were estimated at millions of pounds. The Cabinet, after hearing the reports on the battle, voted congratulations to the Israeli border settlers, the air force and the soldiers for their "disciplined and courageous behavior in the face of deadly attacks by Syria."

The reports were given at the Cabinet meeting by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's armed forces. At the conclusion of the meeting, the premier issued the following statement on behalf of the government:

"It was Israel's right and duty to protect her legitimate rights against the recurring attempts by Syria to move the border and violate Israel's sovereignty. During the period of the talks in the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, which had been summoned in extraordinary session by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, and discontinued by Syria, incursions into our territory became more numerous. Simultaneously, Syria started firing at farmers' settlements to hamper work in areas where our rights of cultivation have not been disputed.

"This probably was intended to bear out the statements by Syrian propagandists who had said that the 'popular war' against Israel must start by firing at the Jewish tractors.

"One can be proud of Israel's soldiers. But we would forego demonstrations of this superiority. The Syrian rulers should understand that their mistake regarding Israel's patience is most dangerous to themselves, and they had better desist from trying it to the point where Israel has to act in self defense."

Israeli officials said that one Syrian tank was destroyed and three Syrian artillery batteries air bombed. Two Israeli tractors were damaged in the heavy shooting and several houses were hit.

The exchange began when Syrians started shooting at an Israeli tractor working on a field which has been regularly cultivated by members of the nearby Haon Kibutz. It was the third such incident in a week. After desultory firing for a few minutes, the Syrians attacked with heavy automatic fire from several positions against an armored tractor sent into the field.

After Israelis returned the fire, the Syrians put tank guns into operation, with Israel replying in kind. The Syrians also fired a number of mortar shells into the fray. The United Nations asked for a cease-fire. The Syrians accepted on condition that Israel remove its tractor from the field, a condition Israel rejected. The shooting continued.

After several hours of ground fighting, the Israel Air Force was sent into action. Israeli planes destroyed three Syrian artillery batteries at Tawafik. At that point, Syrian MIG-21s were sent into battle and two of them were shot down.

A cease fire was arranged but the Syrians broke it with a renewal of shooting. Heavy mortar fire damaged two Israeli tractors which were finally extricated. The shooting spread to the nearby Haon and Tel Katzir settlements. Several houses were hit and one Israeli was then hurt.

(Colonel Mordechai Hod, chief of Israel's air force as of last Friday, was raised to the rank of Brigadier-General. The air force chief, born in Dagania, had been slated for promotion next month. However, he was given the higher rank "in recognition of the excellent performance by the air force.")

Foreign minister Abba Eban declared Wednesday in parliament, in rejecting Syrian claims of shooting down five Israeli jets in the border clash, that Israel "has the habit of openly admitting and detailing her losses in defensive actions."

He reiterated earlier official Israeli statements that no Israeli planes were lost in the clash.

Eban made the statement in a summary of foreign policy debate on his statement last week covering his Asian tour. He also told parliament that the events Friday had shown that Israel would not acquiesce in having its border pushed westward.

Eban declared that the United Nations charter was not intended to prevent citizens of a nation from ploughing their land, even near a border, but rather to halt armed clashes between nations.

He asserted that Syria had been acting in "flagrant violation" of this principle, making a mockery of the charter and the Israeli-Arab armistice agreements. He said this situation should be made clear by international bodies.

Syria Complains to Security Council; Says Israel Used Napalm

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (JTA)—Syria complained to the United Nations Security Council against Israel's air and ground actions of last Friday, in defense of Israeli farmers who had been attacked by Syrian fire while cultivating their own lands in a demilitarized zone of the Israeli-Syrian frontier. It claimed that Israel bombed eight Syrian villages, using bombs of half-ton weight, including napalm.

The letter to the council did not request a meeting on the issue and was a direct reversal of a statement made during the weekend by Syrian President Nurieddin Al-Atassi, who had announced at a Damascus rally that his government would file no more complaints with the Security Council.

The letter, sent to the Security Council president, George Ignatieff, of Canada, by Syria's Ambassador George J. Tomeh, accused Israel of "aggression with the traditional planning and brutality which have become a feature of the Israeli war crimes." The communication did not mention the fact that Israel's jet planes, defending Israel against Syrian attacks, had shot down six Soviet-made MIG-21's flown by the Syrians. The letter stated that Israel's planes had "penetrated deeply beyond" the Israeli-Syrian armistice lines, and claimed that "Syrian planes were able to meet them and defeat their intent."

Tomeh mentioned that Syria had filed a complaint last Friday night with the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, but failed to indicate that Syria had since then withdrawn that complaint.

On its side, Israel appeared to be planning no further diplomatic actions, beyond the complaint filed Friday night with the Security Council. (In that complaint, at the United Nations, Israel's permanent representative, Ambassador Michael S. Comay, informed the council of Friday's stiff altercation which, he stated, resulted from "continued acts of aggression and provocation by Syrian armed forces." The letter called only for circulation of its contents to all 15 members of the council, but did not request a council meeting.)

Both Prime Minister Eshkol and Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces, explained in separate press conferences here exactly what had happened Friday. Eshkol pointed out that Syria has used the hiatus in the extraordinary session of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, which has been in suspension since Feb. 2, "to try to put into doubt Israel's sovereignty over its territory" in the demilitarized zones on the frontiers of the two countries.

Eshkol called on Syria to "honor Israel's borders and territory, and discontinue infiltration and sabotage activities." He suggested that both Israel and Syria cultivate their sides of their borders "in peace, even before a peace treaty is achieved." At the same time, he congratulated Israel's air force fliers and soldiers for their "gallant stand and efficient following of instructions to the letter." Gen. Rabin warned the Syrians that Israe's armed forces have the strength to deal with the Syrians "in any form Israel finds fitting."

Syrians and Egyptians Start Secret Israel Talks

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Damascus Radio reported Tuesday that Syrian and Egyptian officials started secret high-level military talks in Syria on joint strategy against Israel. A Damascus radio broadcast Tuesday also admitted officially, for the first time, that the Syrians had opened fire on Israeli tractors.

There was an increased tendency in Israel government circles to revert to the border situation existing prior to the convening, last Jan. 25, when the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission met, at the summons of United Nations Secretary-General U Thant.

The session had been called to discuss the issue of land cultivation and cultivation rights in the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian frontiers.

In an effort to show good will to the UN chief's efforts to pacify the Syrian and Israeli borders, Israel halted cultivation in some areas under dispute. Now, under pressure from Israel's border settlements, and with growing doubts that Syria has any intentions of renewing the ISMAC talks—suspended since Feb. 2—the trend is toward renewing of farm work in all of the available lands on the border and in the demilitarized zones. Israel had been cultivating those lands for years until the voluntary halt in January.

Congressmen Show Sympathy for Israel After ME Mission

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Egypt has been depicted by a special House Foreign Affairs Committee study mission which visited the Near East as "the source of many of the troubles of the West in the Near East." The report stressed the intensity of anti-Israel tendencies in the region.

The study mission was under chairmanship of Rep. Edward R. Roybal, California Democrat, and included Representatives E. Ross Adair, Indiana Republican; J. I. Whalley, Pennsylvania Republican and E. Y. Berry, South Dakota Republican. The mission visited Israel and the Arab states in November and December and have just released their conclusions.

Arab "determination to liquidate Israel" was discerned as an aspect of the Arab military build-up noted. Arab hostility was described in detail. Israel was depicted as a state "whose up-to-date know-how and modern initiative tend to aggravate the existing envy and distrust among her neighbors."

The Congressmen said that "of paramount concern" is the fact that Nasser has continued to exploit the belligerency exhibited by the Palestinian Arab refugees. They noted also the "border violations by Syrian terrorists."

The Congressmen evaluated the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization and found Arab states distrustful of it. They said that otherwise the PLO would be "much larger." Emphasis was made on moves to remove from UNRWA rolls all Arab refugees serving in the forces of the PLO.

Notice was taken of the "large quantities" of arms purchased by Nasser from the Soviet Union. "He has also been promised Chinese aid in his drive against Western influence in the Near East," said the report. The mission revealed that Kuwait has undertaken to finance the PLO.

A conclusion drawn was that enormous sums were spent by Israel and the Arabs for escalating the arms race "sapping the economic strength of both sides." The mission held that "it is necessary to recognize that prevailing and dominant ambitions of the current Egyptian leadership are aggressively opposed to the primary interests of the United States." Nasser's designs on Yemen and Aden were reported.

Thirteen Israeli Arabs Arrested on Charges of Spying For Egypt

HAIFA (JTA)—Thirteen Israeli Arabs have been arrested on espionage charges and face trial here before the Haifa District Court. Four of the Arabs, accused of spying for Egypt, were arraigned in the District court here today and remanded for 14 days each. They are residents of the village of Isafiye.

The nine others, residents of the Israeli village of Um Al Fahem, were accused of spying for Jordan. According to the charges, five of the men had crossed illegally into Jordan from their village, which is adjacent to the Jordanian frontier, and had returned to their homes with instructions to gather information of a "security character." The four other residents of Um Al Fahem were charged with failure to inform the Israeli authorities about the activities of the spy ring and failure to prevent espionage.

HEBREW SELF-TAUGHT

BY AHARON ROSEN

leave (m.s.) *yoh-tseh*	יוֹצֵא	.256	cashier's office *koo-pah*	קֻפָּה	.251
he left *yah-tsah*	יָצָא		ticket *kahr-teess*	כַּרְטִיס	.252
run (m.s.), he ran *rahts*	רָץ	.257	middle *ém-tsah*	אֶמְצַע	.253
laugh (m.s.) *tsoh-ḥehk*	צוֹחֵק	.258	meet (m.s.) *poh-gehsh*	פּוֹגֵשׁ	.254
he laughed *tsah-ḥahk*	צָחַק		he met *pah-gahsh*	פָּגַשׁ	
quickly *mah-hehr*	מַהֵר	.259	already *k'vahr*	כְּבָר	.255
mountain *hahr*	הַר	.260			

נְסִיעָה בְּמְכוֹנִית בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

– תּוֹדָה לָאֵל, אֲנַחְנוּ עוֹמְדִים
בְּרְחוֹבוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם. עִיר
דָּוִד. אוֹר גָּדוֹל בַּכֹּל וְשִׂמְחָה
גְּדוֹלָה בַּלֵּב. יְרוּשָׁלַיִם...
יְרוּשָׁלַיִם...

– מָה אַתָּה עוֹמֵד בְּאֶמְצַע
הָרְחוֹב? בּוֹא מֵהֵר! הַמְּכוֹנִית
יוֹצֵאת עוֹד מְעַט – אִם לֹא
יָצָאה כְּבָר – הִנֵּה, הִנֵּה. שָׁם!

– אֵיפֹה קוֹנִים אֶת הַכַּרְטִיסִים
לַנְּסִיעָה? אֵיפֹה הַקֻּפָּה?

– הַקֻּפָּה בַּמְּכוֹנִית, וְאֶת
הַכַּרְטִיסִים אֲנַחְנוּ קוֹנִים בִּזְמַן
הַנְּסִיעָה.

– אַתָּה יוֹדֵעַ מָה זֶה? אֲנִי כְּבָר
בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם, וְאַרְאֶה אֶת הַר־
צִיּוֹן. מֵהַר־צִיּוֹן אֶרְאֶה אֶת
יְרוּשָׁלַיִם הַחֲדָשָׁה, אֶת הַר־
הָרָצֶל, אֶת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם כֻּלָּהּ.

הִנֵּה אֲנַחְנוּ נוֹסְעִים... מָה
אַתָּה צוֹחֵק?

– מָה אֲנִי צוֹחֵק? חַ־חַ־חַ! אַתָּה
רָאִיתָ שְׁלוֹשָׁה אֲנָשִׁים רְצִים
אַחֲרֵי הַמְּכוֹנִית? אֵלֶּה הָיוּ
שְׁנֵי אֲנָשִׁים, שֶׁבָּאוּ אֶל הַתַּחֲנָה
וּפָגְשׁוּ אֶת בֶּן־הַדּוֹד שֶׁלָּהֶם,
שֶׁבָּא מֵאֲמֶרִיקָה. הֵם רָצוּ
אַחֲרֵי הַמְּכוֹנִית, הַשְּׁנַיִם עָלוּ
מַהֵר לַמְּכוֹנִית, וּבֶן־הַדּוֹד
עוֹד בַּתַּחֲנָה... חַ־חַ־חַ!

– הַשְּׁנַיִם נוֹסְעִים בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם,
וּבֶן־הַדּוֹד עוֹמֵד בַּתַּחֲנָה
בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם. טוֹב לָהֶם וְטוֹב
לוֹ, כִּי כֻּלָּם בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם...

בָּא – בָּאָה – בָּאוּ.
רָץ – רָצָה – רָצוּ.
הוּא רָאָה, אַתָּה רָאִיתָ, אֲנִי
רָאִיתִי, אַתְּ רָאִית, הִיא רָאָתָה

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