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A Newspaper Clipping from the Jerusalem Post, February 1965

Published on 17 February 1965, this newspaper clipping from the Jerusalem Post contains an article regarding the efforts of Arab countries made against Israel, namely to build a military force, hold international campaigns to tarnish Israel's image, and disrupt Israel's development.

The Jerusalem Post of 17.2.1965

"The Arab countries are conducting the struggle against us in three spheres: the building of a military force, an international campaign to damage our prestige and our standing, and a plan to sabotage Israel's development by such means as boycott, and stealing of our water."

Propaganda

Mr. Eshkol said that the Arab effort to identify Israel with colonialism was an attempt to undercut Israel's ties and influence with the developing nations of Asia and Africa, by coordinating their propaganda style with the language of the Soviet Union and China.

He said that this propaganda influenced the Arabs to believe themselves and provided ideological justification for their struggle against Israel — a struggle, he noted, which is without international parallel — for it is aimed at the annihilation of the rival State.

"The occasional moderate talk, which is due to acquiescence in the postponement of a decision for a time, is in fact a cover for the most extreme goals. It is not an expression of readiness for peace. This does not mean, of course, that hope is lost for ever."

"Without undervaluing the gathering hostility and the political successes of those who cherish it, we must not forget the other side of the picture: Nasser's failures in Syria and Yemen and on the economic front. In Yemen, Nasser has invested tens of thousands of soldiers and tremendous resources, without having the power to bring about the decision that he desires."

"In the economic area, through his devotion to a policy of rearmament, aggression and grandiose operations, Nasser has brought his country, if not to bankruptcy, then, at any rate, to a catastrophic economic situation and dependence on foreign aid: in a nation of thirty million, one out of every two pittance eaten by the Egyptian fellah comes from foreign gifts."

"These developments may perhaps produce changes in the long run. A generation will arise that will understand that what is needed for socialism is socialists, and not ambitious dictators who starve their people and use a foreign-made arsenal to stick on the home-made bottle of chauvinistic poison," the Prime Minister stated.

Discussing Israel's deterrent force, the Prime Minister said the Israel Defence

Force "must have such power that the enemy will be compelled to take their reaction into account and refrain from embarking on any adventure."

He said that the Defence Forces were ready to deal with any attack, and noted that the Syrians had recently tasted of the nature of Israel's readiness.

Referring to the Lebanon, Mr. Eshkol said he hoped that country would succeed in maintaining its "special position in the region, with her democratic culture and her liberal economy. We hope that she will resist being swept away by a negative nationalism which for the Lebanon would mean the abandonment of her own characteristic policy and perhaps in the course of time her independence."

D. Lebanon is that one that nationalism will grow deeper and deeper in Lebanese hearts. It cannot but lead the hand in glove with the remaining Arab States, its safety, security, independence, and its policy.

17.2.65

Mr. Eshkol's address to the Knesset Convention held at Herta Auditorium Tel-Aviv on 16.2.1965.

A. Mr. Eshkol should be delighted by Nasser's entanglement in Yemen. It will keep the latter busy who thereby diverting his thought from Israel and leave no time for him to carry out his alleged intention to attack Israel.

B. Eshkol appears to have a tender heart. He is worried by the economic crisis allegedly prevailing in Egypt. He has forgotten that Israel lives on the aid it receives from foreign powers and that it is not of this aid, Israel would have been in catastrophic condition.

C. This is empty talk. It may appeal to Jews but not to Arabs who are proudly possessed and occupied with the Sudan and firm about to recover their occupied homeland.