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President Nixon Says U.S. Will Take 'Initiatives' To Promote Middle East Peace

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- President Richard M. Nixon characterized his Administration's Mideast policy today as an active one. The United States will take "initiatives" to promote peace and "will not wait for something else to happen," he told his second White House press conference.

The President said his diplomatic approach will be five-fold: Support of UN envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring's peace mission, bi-lateral talks with the Big Four at the UN to be followed by full formal talks, meetings with the concerned Mideast parties, and advancement of other aid plans for the region. One such assistance program, he said, would be a plan formulated two years ago by Adm. Lewis L. Strauss and endorsed by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower that would bring atomic desalination to the area and, among other things, provide employment there.

Reiterating his belief that the Mideast "might explode into a major war" and needs "immediate attention," Mr. Nixon stressed the multi-lateral nature of the "initiatives" and pledged that Washington will pursue every possible avenue that might promote peace.

Answering a question about a onetime connection that UN Ambassador Charles W. Yost had had with convicted Soviet spy Alger Hiss, Mr. Nixon expressed confidence in his loyalty to the U.S. and praised his judgement and "valuable contributions" to the National Security Council on Mideast problems. Mr. Yost is a Mideast specialist.

Mr. Nixon said he hoped all governments would ratify the nuclear non-proliferation treaty--Israel has not--saying that the U.S. would not gain that objective by "public" and "high-handed methods" to obtain international approval for it. Foreign governments "know what we think," he said, adding that "in the end most of our West European friends will follow our lead." Observers took his comments to include non-European nations as well.

Mr. Nixon asked the Senate yesterday to proceed promptly with the treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons, saying ratification would "advance this Administration's policy of negotiation rather than confrontation with the Soviet Union." Some 80 nations, including the U.S., have signed it but this is merely a preliminary formality. Only nine have ratified it. Britain is the only major power to do so.

The U.S. proposed to France, Britain and the Soviet Union yesterday that preliminary meetings should be held at the UN to investigate whether there is sufficient agreement to justify formal talks. Replying to a French note of Jan. 16 calling for a Big Four meeting, Secretary of State William P. Rogers handed Ambassador Charles Lucet a letter to President Charles de Gaulle which said that bi-lateral talks should take place promptly. The U.S. takes the position that the talks must take place "within the framework of the Security Council" and must serve as an instrument of assisting Dr. Jarring.

Nixon's Emerging Mideast Policy Seen Sign Of New U.S. Fluidity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- President Nixon's emerging stand on the Mideast was interpreted today in Administration circles as part of an effort to make United States foreign policy more fluid. It was not seen as an abandonment of Israel although the Jewish State opposes Four Power talks on the peace question, reports JTA Washington correspondent Milton Friedman.

Steps to "cool" the region were depicted as an essential prelude to the President's forthcoming trip to Europe and his desire to revitalize the European community. The trip may lead to meetings with Soviet leaders at a later date when the West can deal with them on mutual problems from a stronger position.

Officials said that Mr. Nixon was fully aware that the Soviet Government and President Charles de Gaulle were biased on the Arab-Israel issue and had "exaggerated" the crisis. However, to understand Mr. Nixon's acceptance of the French proposal for Big Four talks "in principle," the broader aims of U.S. diplomacy must be considered, they observed.

Mr. Nixon was said to have decided that the time had come to "de-fuse" the Middle East "bomb" through Super Power efforts to prevent an American-Soviet nuclear confrontation. The Administration does not feel a sense of panic but a festering danger is seen and Big Power talks are thought timely. The immediate top priority of Nixon policy is the success of the Paris talks and conclusion of the Vietnam War. Entrance into a dialogue on the Middle East may enhance chances at Paris, where de Gaulle and the Russians wield influence, observers said. The new Administration wants to stem Soviet penetration of the Middle East and regain Arab friendship wherever possible. A basic U.S. commitment to Israel is recognized and reiterated privately. But a decision appears to have been made that "leverage" on Israeli policies is essential.

The Israelis are being described behind closed doors as "rigid" and "trigger happy," with the ob-

ervation being made that Israeli "hawks" are motivated by the approaching Israel national election. Washington officials say that this is a reason why the Administration wants to keep Israel at "arm's length" while looking to UN and Big Powers initiatives. As one official put it, "We cannot let the Israeli tail wag the American dog." This "wagging" has been exploited by the Russians and American relations with the Arabs have been undermined, according to proponents of more "fluid" policies.

Since Israel looks to Washington for Phantom jets as well as protection against outright Soviet intervention, officials want a formula providing greater control over Israeli policies. The U.S. lever here is seen in the total dependence of Israel on Washington in the forthcoming bi-lateral and probable Big Power talks. The American public mood, it is said, will support the new approach because of a desire to avert "another Vietnam."

According to the State department, the time has come for an outside influence to bring restraining pressures on both sides and to promote a viable settlement.

Reports from Cairo today said that Yassir Arafat, the El Fatah leader, announced that a Viet Cong-type army would be established within Israel. He called for a national liberation struggle conducted underground within Israel and Israel-held territory.

Scranton Reiterates Support Of 'More Even-Handed' Mideast Policy

BOSTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Former Gov. William W. Scranton, of Pennsylvania, who went to the Middle East on a special fact-finding mission for Mr. Nixon last year, has reiterated his controversial statement made at that time that the United States should adopt a "more even-handed" policy in the Middle East.

Gov. Scranton told Christian Science Monitor correspondent Godfrey Sperling, Jr., in an interview published today, that there is "rightly or wrongly the impression all over the Middle East (outside of Israel)--an impression that has been growing in the last two or three years--that the U.S. is interested only in supporting Israel, regardless of what it does."

The Scranton report to Mr. Nixon has not been made public. His recommendations, however, were "said to have moved President Nixon, more than anything else, to make a No. 1 priority of an effort toward achieving peace in the Mideast," Mr. Sperling reported. He said Gov. Scranton told him, "I believe that January and February are the key periods" for making progress in that direction.

Gov. Scranton's suggestion that U.S. Middle East policy could be "more even-handed" generated a furor in pro-Israel circles here and abroad. Some saw in it a proposal that the U.S. swing away from its traditional support of Israel.

Israeli Patrol Captures Heavily Armed Arab Band In Negev, Killing 2

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A heavily armed band of saboteurs was intercepted and captured by an Israeli patrol in the Arava region of the Negev south of the Dead Sea on Tuesday, a military spokesman disclosed today. Two were killed and six taken alive in a fight. The gang, believed to be affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization, crossed into Israel with two guides and several camels loaded with high explosives. A military spokesman said they were headed for the Hebron area when Israeli forces surrounded them in a gully. They refused to surrender.

In addition, the Israeli patrol seized a quantity of "button" mines and anti-vehicle mines, Russian-made Kalatchnikof assault rifles, Czech-made submachine guns and, for the first time, a French-made weapon, a nine millimeter mortar. A military spokesman said the capture probably averted a major act of sabotage aimed at civilians like last November's Machane Yehuda market bombing in Jerusalem.

An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday while on duty in the Golan Heights. Jordanians fired on Israeli forces in the vicinities of Kfar Ruppin and Shaar Hagolan last night. The fire was returned. There were no Israeli casualties.

Curfew Reimposed In Nablus As Demonstrations Staged Anew; Business Shuts Down

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A curfew, lifted yesterday, was re-imposed today on the old quarter of Nablus, the largest West Bank town, after students and Arab women staged new demonstrations against the Israeli occupation. Youngsters set fire to barricades. All shops and business establishments were shut down as local merchants staged a protest strike. Schools remained closed for the third consecutive day. Minor disturbances were reported today in Jenin, Kalkilya, Tulkarem and El-Bireh. Stoning incidents were reported in the Gaza Strip.

Sharef Asks Israelis To Subscribe To Loan To Help Pay For 50 Phantom Jets

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Zeev Sharef appealed to the Israeli public yesterday to make special efforts to subscribe to a national security loan in order to cover at least one-third of the \$350 million cost of 50 Phantom jet supersonic fighter-bombers which Israel will buy from the United States. Mr. Sharef, who also heads the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said the Government hoped to raise some \$95 million from the public and from local banks. Moshe Kashti, Defense Ministry director general, said in Jerusalem yesterday that despite the rapid growth of its armaments industry, Israel still was buying abroad war materials valued at more than eight percent of its gross national product. He added that French-made Israeli aircraft would be able to continue in operation indefinitely because Israeli industries can make most of the needed spare parts.

West German Cabinet Will Seek Court Ban On Anti-Israel, Neo-Nazi Rightist Paper

BONN, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- The West German Cabinet authorized the Ministry of Interior yesterday to start action to ban the neo-Nazi weekly newspaper, Deutsche National Zeitung und Soldaten Zeitung, an extreme right-wing organ that has viciously attacked Israel. The paper, published in Munich, accused Israel of "genocide" in an article last week. Israel formally protested this and previous articles.

Legal proceedings against the paper will be brought before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe. The Government will contend that the paper "abuses freedom of expression" in violation of the Federal Constitution. The suit will be the first Government attempt to ban a newspaper in the 20-year history of the Federal Republic. The proceedings could last several years. The paper has a circulation of about 120,000. An Interior Ministry official described its attacks on Israel as an "unspeakable, tasteless concoction."

Commons Gives Anti-Genocide Bill Second Reading Leading To Convention Ratification

LONDON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- An anti-genocide bill was given an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons yesterday preparatory to ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention of 1948. During debate earlier, Labor MP Edward Lyons said it was depressing that neither the Soviet Union nor the United States had passed a bill like the one before Commons.

Angry Reaction To Iraqi Executions Continue To Echo; Release Of Jews Demanded

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Angry reaction to the Iraqi hangings continued to reverberate today. Memorial services for the nine Jews executed last week as alleged spies for Israel were held in several cities around the country. Prominent public figures spoke out in condemnation of the "show trials" and public executions. Demands were made in several quarters for pressure on the Baghdad regime to permit the remaining Jews in Iraq to emigrate.

In New York today, the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations Association of the U.S.A., a private, non-official organization supporting the UN, called on Secretary General U Thant "to dispatch immediately a special representative to Iraq, who will observe any new trials and will inquire into the nature and circumstances of the previous trial and executions." The appeal to Mr. Thant contained in a statement presented at an emergency meeting of representatives of more than 400 non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN convened by the Human Rights Committee of the UN Association. The statement demanded that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "the remaining members of Iraq's Jewish community, who now live in fear and trembling for their lives and future, be given the opportunity to leave, and to re-establish themselves in friendlier environments."

The Negro mayors of two Middle West cities publicly deplored the Iraqi hangings. Mayor Carl B. Stokes, of Cleveland, expressed the hope "that our entire community will declare its outrage and will offer to assist the Jewish population of Iraq in every way possible. This is a time to speak out without subtlety or ambiguity."

Mayor Richard G. Hatcher, of Gary, Indiana, wrote in his weekly column in the Gary Post-Tribune: "That a pogrom mentality should be allowed to develop in this age anywhere in the world, just one generation from the searing experience of Auschwitz, is intolerable."

In New York some 1,000 workers, including Negroes and Puerto Ricans, picketed the Iraq Mission to the UN and presented a statement condemning "the obscene spectacle of the festive behavior of 200,000 Iraqis" who witnessed the executions. The picketing was sponsored by the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut and its New York branch.

In Boston today, Richard Cardinal Cushing denounced the hangings in a statement prepared for a prayer vigil held on Boston Common under the auspices of the Boston Jewish Community Council. "From whatever point of view this action is judged, its character must be recognized as both brutal and inhuman...It cannot fail to make all men anxious about the future of the small Jewish community in Iraq, a remnant already beset with weighty problems and threatening dangers," Cardinal Cushing said.

In New York, Samuel Bronfman, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of its North American section, urged the mobilization of the "collective moral pressure" of the world to permit the emigration of Iraq's remaining Jews. He said that approximately 1,000 Jews remained in Egypt and about 4,000 were still in Syria "also unwanted, also harassed and humiliated and also prevented from leaving."

An Iraqi living in London charged today that the Baghdad trials which led to the public executions of 14 Iraqis, nine of them Jews, for allegedly spying for Israel, were conducted by a court guilty of irregularities. He said the military tribunal pre-supposed the guilt of the accused, shouted down their protestations of innocence and intimidated them into making confessions. Hamid Amir-Dagh, in a letter published in the Guardian, said he based his impressions of the trials on official reports broadcast by Radio Baghdad and accounts in Iraqi newspapers.

Educator Sees New Youth Aliyah Function--Aiding Israel's Disadvantaged Children

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A prominent American educator said yesterday that Youth Aliyah, the international child rescue movement that brings disadvantaged or endangered Jewish children from abroad to Israel for upbringing and education, may in coming years have to deal with the problem of native-born disadvantaged youngsters in Israel. Dr. Milton Schwebel, dean of Rutgers University's graduate school of education, said that these children were mainly offspring of immigrants from the Arab countries.

Dr. Schwebel spoke before some 300 leaders of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, which sponsors the Youth Aliyah movement. The occasion was a banquet marking the 35th anniversary of Youth Aliyah which wound up a four-day mid-winter conference of the Hadassah national board held to plan activities during the year ahead.

Dr. Schwebel said that Youth Aliyah had developed "unique methods" for dealing with disadvantaged children that stressed "the problems rather than the child's alleged incapacities." He said, "The expectation that the child will learn is a highly important factor in the teaching of such children. Youth Aliyah methods may have lessons for us in the United States."

Complains Newark Jewish Policemen Given Preferential Treatment On Holidays

TRENTON, N.J., Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A Newark police sergeant complained in New Jersey Supreme Court yesterday that the policy of giving Jewish policemen extra time off for religious holidays without loss of pay was discriminatory against non-Jewish members of the force. Sgt. Joseph A. Ebler, a policeman for 22 years, said that Newark police get 12 paid holidays a year and any additional time off is charged against their accrued overtime pay. But the city's 50 Jewish policemen receive an additional six religious holidays off without having to give up any overtime pay. As a result they earn \$200 more per year than non-Jewish police, he said.

Sgt. Ebler said the City of Newark, Essex County and the State of New Jersey "have no business getting involved in religion." Justice John J. Francis said the policy was "discriminatory on its face." Assistant Newark Corporation Counsel Sanford Schneider said certain "benefits accrue to Jewish personnel" but he rejected the argument that government should remain "absolutely neutral" in religious matters. He said this would result in "absolute chaos." The court has taken the case under advisement.

Allon Will Be Guest Of Honor At Inaugural Conference For Israel Bond Organization

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon will be guest of honor at the 1969 international inaugural conference for State of Israel Bonds which will be held at Miami Beach, Fla. from Feb. 27 through March 2, it was announced by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Bond organization. Mr. Allon will be the principal speaker at the inaugural dinner March 1.

The conference, opening a campaign that will seek to provide at least half of Israel's \$333 million development budget for 1969 through the sale of bonds, will be attended by 2,000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada, Dr. Schwartz said. He announced that Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, has been named national chairman of the conference. Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization, will serve as an associate national chairman of the parley.

150 Rabbis Will Pay Israel 7-Day Visit To Study Variety Of Problems

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A delegation of 150 rabbis from 50 communities will fly to Israel Sunday for a seven-day visit to study its social welfare, educational, and defense problems. Rabbi Dudley Weinberg of Milwaukee, Wis., chairman of the United Jewish Appeal national rabbinic advisory council, will serve as coordinator of the mission which will include spiritual leaders from Judaism's three branches.

Labor Secretary Visits Israel Embassy At Reception For Histadrut Drive, Keyserling

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz, the first Cabinet member of the new Administration to visit the Israeli Embassy, attended yesterday a reception marking the 45th annual Histadrut campaign and honoring the new president of the National Committee for Labor Israel, Leon Keyserling, who served as chairman of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors.

Israel Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin welcomed Secretary Shultz, Mr. Keyserling, Speaker of the House of Representatives John W. McCormack, and numerous members of Congress. Many leaders of the Histadrut campaign attended the reception as did a large number of leaders of the AFL-CIO and other trade union personalities.

ZOA Slates National Executive Committee Session In Capital On Mideast Tensions

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Reacting to the tensions in the Mideast, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has summoned its top leadership for an extraordinary national executive committee meeting in Washington on March 10-11. The conclave will draw several hundred top ZOA officers and leaders from throughout the nation. ZOA region and district delegates will meet with their Congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill. The Delegates will formulate plans of action to support Israel.