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Israel Leaders Step Up Efforts To Forestall Big Four Mideast Talks

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA)--Israel's leaders are engaged in an 11th hour effort to forestall the forthcoming Big Four talks on the Middle East which they fear would result in an imposed solution without any real peace between Israel and its neighbors. The seriousness with which Israel regards that prospect was reflected in statements in the past two days by Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, and Foreign Minister Abba Eban who is currently visiting the United States. Mrs. Meir reiterated her government's opposition to Four Power talks to U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour yesterday. She was reported to have told him that they would not advance peace but rather would merely provide the Arabs with a further pretext to oppose any form of negotiations with Israel.

Gen. Dayan, in an address at the Haifa Technion yesterday, declared that Israel must reject any attempt by the Big Four to impose a Mideast solution even if it carried explicit guarantees by the United States and the Soviet Union. "I would not accept the guarantees of the Soviet Union nor would I even accept U.S. guarantees," Gen. Dayan said. "They did not fight. We must not accept them as our guardians and we must not become captive to their attempts," he said, adding, "nor should we accept safeguards of the United Nations."

Israel's determined stand against a Four Power solution has created some differences with the administration of President Nixon, who was reportedly determined to proceed with Big Four talks even though conceding that they might fail. Mrs. Meir said at a press conference Tuesday that there were some disagreements between Washington and Jerusalem. Foreign Ministry officials yesterday denied press reports that Israel might break off its dialogue with the U.S. if Washington insisted on retaining certain boundary suggestions attributed to Secretary of State William P. Rogers as a basis for discussion.

There was no confirmation from American or Israeli spokesmen of the so-called Rogers plan, but informed sources here said the Secretary of State had proposed a settlement based on the defunct 1949 armistice lines, with some frontier adjustments. According to the informants, the plan called for ceding the Gaza Strip to Jordan in return for the Latrun area and parts of Jerusalem's environs. The boundary with Egypt would remain the same as the one fixed during the British Mandate of Palestine, the one existing before the June, 1967 war. Other features of the reported plan said to have been presented to Foreign Minister Eban in his talks with Mr. Rogers last week called for stationing a UN force at the Strait of Tiran and a Four Power guarantee of the whole arrangement. Israel has categorically rejected the old armistice lines as well as a return of UN peace-keeping forces, which, Israel has noted, failed twice before to prevent war.

Reports reaching here from Washington today said that Israel's objections have delayed the start of Four Power talks on the Mideast which were reportedly about to begin on an ambassadorial level at the U.N. U.S. officials were quoted as saying that the talks probably would not get under way until early next month. According to the Washington sources, the Nixon Administration has not succeeded in dispelling Israel's fears that the talks would result in an imposed solution that would not adequately guarantee Israel's security. U.S. officials reportedly contend that Israel has misinterpreted the intent and scope of the Big Four meeting. They said the Nixon Administration simply wanted to work out "areas of agreement" with the other powers--Britain, France and Russia--to give UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring additional support. The U.S. was reportedly skeptical about whether the Soviets would really agree to any compromise solution the Arabs resist but was nevertheless willing to try to find out.

Hussein Will Be Nixon's State Guest For 2-Day April Visit

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA)--White House spokesman Ronald Ziegler announced today that King Hussein of Jordan will come to Washington on April 8 and remain for two days as the personal and official guest of President Richard M. Nixon. The Hussein trip was described as a "state visit." It was pointed out that the visits of Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to Washington this month did not fall into this category. Mr. Eban came on Israel's initiative and not in response to an invitation originated by the United States Government. The U.S. took the occasion of the Eban talks to try to persuade the Israeli Government that it had nothing to fear from the Four Power peace concept and to convince Israel to go along with the undertaking, highly placed official sources said.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said that Mr. Eban returned to Washington today on his own initiative for another discussion with Secretary of State William P. Rogers before leaving the country. The Administration would again seek to dispel Israel's concern that an imposed settlement might emerge that would ignore Israel's security, he said. The State Department was troubled because of recent Israel anti-guerrilla air attacks against Jordanian territory. Officials would like to inhibit such military responses to terrorism and other attacks owing to fears that it might undermine the position of King Hussein prior to his meeting with President Nixon. The department feels that adequate assurances have been given to Israel that any Big Four formula would take into account Israel's security. It was deemed unlikely that the talks would be joined by the four nations--the U.S., USSR, France, and Britain--until the Nixon-Hussein discussions were held in Washington on the Mideast situation. White House spokesman

Ziegler said that the President and King Hussein would review all aspects of American-Jordanian relations. Mr. Ziegler said he knew of no planned visits by other Arab leaders nor by Mrs. Golda Meir, the new Israeli Premier. Mr. Nixon met with King Hussein in 1959 when he served as Vice-President. The Jordanian ruler made an official visit to the U.S. in 1964 to see then President Johnson. He made two private visits here in 1967.

Al Ahram Raps U.S. For Training 120 Israeli Pilots For Phantoms

LONDON, March 20 (JTA)--The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram criticized the United States today for training Israeli fighter pilots on American soil. The U.S. Air Force disclosed this week that 120 Israeli pilots would be taught to fly supersonic F-4 Phantom jets at a California airbase. They are currently undergoing language training in Texas. Al Ahram, which is regarded as a mouthpiece of the Nasser regime, warned that the training would undermine chances for a Middle East peace. The paper said the U.S. "was not merely replenishing Israel's military arsenal but also developing Israel's technical know-how."

Stewart Differs With Israel On Direct Talks As A Settlement Condition

LONDON, March 20 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart said today that he thought Israel's insistence on direct peace talks with the Arabs was reasonable but that it was a mistake to make direct talks a pre-condition for a settlement. Mr. Stewart spoke at a meeting of Labor Party parliamentarians dealing with the Middle East. He said Israel must be convinced that the Arabs want to make a genuine peace. The Arab states have said they will not sign a peace treaty, but there has to be a binding document, Mr. Stewart said. He said that Israel's destruction would not be in Britain's own long term interests.

Swiss Release Israeli Security Agent Who Shot Arab Terrorist During El Al Attack

ZURICH, March 20 (JTA)--Swiss legal authorities released on \$24,000 bail today Israeli security agent Mordechai Rahamim, who had been held since Feb. 18 in connection with the killing of an Arab terrorist at Kloten airport in Zurich that day. The slain terrorist was one of a group of four who attacked an Israeli El Al airliner as it was preparing for takeoff.

Mr. Rahamim was allowed to leave Switzerland and departed by air for Tel Aviv. His release followed a hearing. Swiss officials withheld information pending release of an official statement later. The officials said Mr. Rahamim had been held because of an investigation which sought to determine whether the terrorist had surrendered to airport police before he was shot. The three other terrorists also were arrested and presumably were still under detention. The Israel Government guaranteed Switzerland that the agent would be returned if charges were brought against him, it was understood.

Report Iraqi Forces Based In Jordan Have Fired On Beisan Valley Settlements

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA)--Iraqi forces stationed in Jordan took part in yesterday's artillery attack on Beisan Valley settlements, a military spokesman revealed today. He said shell fragments found in the settlements showed that they came from Russian-made 122-mm. field guns and 120-mm. mortars, weapons used by the Iraqi Army but not by the Jordanians who are equipped with British and American-made guns.

The disclosure followed a demand by Israel at the United Nations yesterday that the UN get an affirmation from the Baghdad Government of its acceptance of the 1967 cease fire agreement and a pledge that all Iraqi forces will observe it. Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief Israeli representative to the UN, noted in a letter to Secretary-General U Thant that Iraq was an active participant in the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war but "has been evasive in respect of its acceptance of the cease fire." He maintained that Iraq has based forces in Jordan close to the cease fire lines which have participated in breaches of the cease fire and have supported terrorist actions against Israel. Yesterday's artillery duel across the Jordan started as a small arms skirmish, the military spokesman said. Iraqi artillery then opened fire but was silenced by Israeli return fire and air strikes, he said. A munitions dump in Manshiyeh village was hit. There were no casualties reported on the Israeli side.

Two Israeli border policemen were injured today when their patrol was attacked near Ashdot Yaacov in the Beisan Valley. The fire was returned and the injured men were hospitalized.

Israelis Silence Rumors Of Torture By Producing East Jerusalem Arab Physicians

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA)--Two doctors from East Jerusalem held on charges of terrorist activities and a large quantity of arms and ammunition seized there in the past two weeks were presented to some 40 Arab neighborhood mukhtars (headmen) by police yesterday. The doctors, Nahib Muammer and Subhi Ghoshi, were rumored to have been tortured and otherwise mistreated by police. They appeared surprised by the rumors and told the mukhtars that they were well and needed nothing from home because they were in contact with their families. The "showing" was put on at the request of Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem to silence the torture rumors and to convince the Arab leaders who did not believe that arms had been found in East Jerusalem homes.

Canadian Rabbi Says Jews Should Meet Moscow Halfway And Avoid Demonstrations

MONTREAL, March 20 (JTA)--A Canadian rabbi who just returned from a visit to Russia claimed today that the best way for Jews abroad to help Soviet Jews was to try to meet the Communist regime halfway and not engage in public protests and violent demonstrations against it. Rabbi A. Hechtman, executive director of the Montreal Jewish Community Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that this technique was the only practical attitude to adopt when dealing with a country that is anti-religious

in philosophy and politically hostile to Israel.

Rabbi Hechtman, the only Canadian rabbi to attend the 75th birthday celebrations for Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow's central synagogue, said he found signs that the Soviet regime was somewhat relaxing its repression of Jewish religious and cultural observances. He said that he was promised by Michail Teodorovitch Kundicof, chief adviser on religious affairs to the Soviet Council of Ministers, that steps would be taken to ease restrictions on Jewish ritual practices. Specifically, Rabbi Hechtman said, Mr. Kundicof promised he would bring before the Council the question of separate burial grounds for Jews. Jewish cemeteries were closed by the authorities two years ago and Jews and gentiles are now buried in the same cemeteries.

The Soviet official also promised that the government would print 40,000 to 50,000 additional copies of Jewish prayerbooks and Hebrew calendars which are sold to Jewish congregations. Rabbi Hechtman said that 10,000 calendars printed recently were sold out in a day. Rabbi Hechtman reported that for the first time the Soviet Government has made sufficient flour available to Jewish bakeries for the production of enough matzoh to take care of local needs. In the past, Jews had to buy their own flour and take it to the bakeries in time for Passover. This year the bakery run by the Moscow Jewish community baked 90 tons and the Jewish bakery in Riga, 45 tons, Rabbi Hechtman said. Moscow has a Jewish population of a half million and some 45,000 Jews live in Riga.

Rabbi Hechtman said that 50 years of Communism and the machinations of the Jewish section of the Communist Party had failed to uproot Judaism in Russia. He said that on Purim he saw at least 20,000 Moscow Jews listening to the reading of the Megillah over a loudspeaker outside the Central Synagogue and that there was singing and dancing in the streets. He said that despite the anti-religious attitude and the scorn heaped on ritual observances, some 80 to 100 Jewish weddings are performed each year in Moscow and a like number of Bar Mitzvahs. He acknowledged that this represented about one percent of the ceremonies performed in an American city with a Jewish population of similar size. He said there were only three mohels in Moscow and only seven or eight students in the Moscow yeshiva, one of them studying to be a Torah scribe. He said, that while he was there 28 Jews left Riga for Vienna on their way to settle in Israel.

'Novosti' Describes Preparations For Passover In Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA)--About 90 tons of matzoh had been baked in Moscow a fortnight before Passover and preparations made for matzoh delivery to the homes of invalids and the elderly, the Soviet Novosti press agency reported today in a dispatch made available by the Soviet Embassy here. In a March 20 cable from Moscow, Novosti correspondent Samuil Rozin reported on Passover preparations. He quoted Menashe Mikhailovich, chairman of the community, as stating, "we have a well-equipped mechanized bakery of our own. It can produce as much matzoh as necessary. This year we started to bake early in January so as to avoid commotion. As a result, there are no lines" (of people waiting for it).

Matzoh will be sold in unlimited quantities not only to synagogue members but to all who wish to buy it, the report said. Mr. Mikhailovich said that a seder had been arranged on the first day of Passover for those who have no families. He also said that "religious Jews will be supplied kosher meat fully in keeping with the law of religion." The report said the Central Synagogue was assuming a festive appearance and that 2,000 were expected to celebrate Passover services. A rehearsal of Passover songs by a chorus led by Cantor David Shteinberg was described. Novosti also told of visits to synagogues in Maryina, Roshcha, Cherkizovo, and Malakhovka where Jewish communities prepared for Passover.

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, Chief Rabbi of Moscow, told Novosti, "we must redouble our common efforts for international friendship, for world peace." The Novosti correspondent said, "the heads of all the Moscow synagogues asked me to convey congratulations and the best wishes to their brethren in faith abroad."

Knesset Visitors Confer With Bundestag Leaders, Discuss Statute Of Limitations

BONN, March 20 (JTA)--A delegation of Knesset members visiting West Germany met with members of the Bundestag (Lower House) representing the three major political parties today. It was understood that their discussions were mainly about the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions and demands that it be abolished before it goes into effect at the end of this year. A member of the Israeli delegation, Joseph Tamir of the Gahal faction, will meet Walter Scheel, leader of the liberal Free Democratic Party, which is opposed to abolishing the statute. Mr. Tamir said he will make it clear that he intends to bring the matter before the International Union of Liberal Parties unless the German liberals change their attitude.

David Hachohen, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who heads the Israeli group, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he was favorably impressed by his talks with German political leaders. He said they paid much attention to Israel's problems. The Israeli visitors were guests at a dinner given by Israel's Ambassador Asher Ben Nathan which was attended by the newly elected President of the Federal Republic, Dr. Gustav Heinemann, and Interior Minister Ernst Benda. The Israelis were scheduled to meet today with Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Willy Brandt.

The Government today submitted a complaint to the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe against Dr. Gerhard Frey, editor of the pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic newspaper Deutsche National Und Soldaten Zeitung. The newspaper has been under constant and severe criticism for articles which have been termed libels, both of Jews and Israel.

New York Chapters Of 9 Major Jewish Organizations Endorse Decentralization Concept

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA)--The New York chapters of nine major American Jewish organizations have endorsed the concept of school decentralization, the controversial issue at the heart of last fall's strikes by New York City teachers. The organizations expressed their approval of decentralization in a joint statement issued through the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

It called for "increased community participation in the operation of our public schools...predicated on meeting New York State standards of education and on the assurance of equity and justice to the parties directly concerned." It also declared that "to the extent that anti-Semitic and anti-Negro sentiment have been injected into the issue of decentralization, we condemn it as a disservice to the racial and religious harmony indispensable to the viability of our multi-ethnic city." The statement warned that "anti-Semitism and any other type of bigotry will be resisted to the fullest extent of our capabilities." The issue of anti-Semitism arose in the school strikes from the confrontation between the Jewish-led, predominantly Jewish United Federation of Teachers and the largely Negro Ocean Hill-Brownsville experimental school district.

In a related action today, the New York Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue of America, one of the nine organizations endorsing school decentralization, urged Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and the New York State Legislature to include in any decentralization plan protection and guarantees "in every manner and form, in personnel and subject matter, against elements which are anti-Semitic or racial, either directly or indirectly." The stipulation was contained in letters to the Governor and legislators from New York City and suburban communities from David Zucker, president of the United Synagogue's New York region. Mr. Zucker declared that "we feel that anti-Semitic and racial instruction or materials have no place in the New York City school system." He urged that all school personnel be selected on the basis of merit, not such criteria as race, creed, color or national origin.

The endorsement of school decentralization represented a reversal of position by at least one organization that joined in it. The Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress had urged the State Legislature last month to defer action on decentralization for at least a year. But in a separate statement yesterday, the AJCongress group called for a decentralized city school system of 20 to 30 local school districts. It said the boundaries should be drawn to achieve "maximum integration" and added, "Nothing we sponsor derogates from the protection guaranteed to teachers and supervisors, by law and contract, against arbitrary or discriminatory selection assignment, transfer or dismissal."

In addition to the United Synagogue and the AJCongress, the groups endorsing decentralization were: New York chapter, American Jewish Committee; New York Jewish Labor Committee; New York Federation of Reform Rabbis; Labor Zionist Movement; National Council of Jewish Women; New York region, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and the New York region of the Workmen's Circle.

N.Y. Whites More Anti-Semitic Than Blacks, Rights Commissioner Says

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA)--Anti-Semitism in the white community of New York City is much stronger than is black anti-Semitism, the Human Rights Commissioner told a meeting of Reform leaders yesterday. Simeon Golar, speaking on "Improving Black-Jewish Relationships in New York City," told rabbinic, lay and educational leaders that the troubled Jewish community here has over-reacted to black extremism. Addressing some 150 people at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Mr. Golar called upon the white middle class, including Jews, not to flee the city but to remain and "help in the civil rights struggle."

In a related development, Dr. Bernard Mandelbaum, Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) president, today was sworn in as a member of the 15-member Human Rights Commission.

Responding to a question, Mr. Golar denied that responsible Negro leaders have been silent on the black anti-Semitism issue. He said that a number, including Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, had spoken out "forcefully" against it. "The trouble is that the extremists have gotten disproportionate space and time in the press and on television," he said. Virtually all the anti-Semitic epithets in the racial crisis have come from "black extremists and nuts who have no following whatever until they get an airing on TV and in the press," he declared.

Albert Vorspan, director of social action programs of the UAHC, also told the meeting of New York area leaders that "there are many grounds for measured confidence that we have turned the corner in the so-called black-Jewish confrontation and that the temperature may be receding to a less feverish level." He said evidence of this change was:

"The greater restraint by the press and TV which unwittingly contributed earlier to the escalation of hysteria on all sides; the deepening of a frank discussion and joint action programs between rabbis and black ministers throughout the city; statements in the latest United Federation of Teachers weekly playing down anti-Semitism in the controversial Ocean Hill-Brownsville experimental school district; the increased awareness of community leaders that anti-Semitism and racism poison the wells of this city and must be condemned." Also, "a growing sense of restraint by some Jewish leaders who recognize the danger of over-reaction and of promoting hysteria and vigilantism by private and self-appointed Jewish groups; the awareness that we cannot solve the city's problems by obsession with ugly symptoms alone but only by confronting the root problems which spawn rage and hatred; and on the part of public officials, a demonstration of more sensitive understanding of the sensibilities and concerns of all groups in the pursuit of an open, just and decent community."