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Rogers Terms Big Four Talks 'Vital Instrument', Regrets Israel's Opposition

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- Secretary of State William P. Rogers, speaking at a press conference today, criticized Israel for opposing talks at the United Nations by the United States, USSR, France and Britain in pursuit of a Middle Eastern peace settlement. The Secretary said the United States Government "regrets the fact that Israel is so firmly opposed" to the talks now in progress. He said that the United States "has made it perfectly clear that we do not intend, and will not seek, to impose" a solution. But he depicted the talks as a vital instrumentality for easing tensions and finding a solution.

Mr. Rogers stated that no matter what formula the Four Powers eventually adopt, the United States will continue to believe that there must eventually be some direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. Although he rejected an imposed peace, the Secretary made clear that if the Big Four did produce a formula, world public opinion would make it difficult for any government in the Middle East to turn it down.

(The Four Power procedure was sharply criticized in Jerusalem yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Both expressed concern that proposals would emerge that might compromise Israel's security and both affirmed Israel's refusal to accept any Big Power proposals that might have this effect.)

(Information received by the Foreign Ministry indicated that no controversial issues have come up thus far in the Big Four meetings at the United Nations in New York. Only matters on which there was general agreement were discussed at the Four Power meeting last week: the need for settlement of the Middle East conflict, the continuation of the Jarring peace-seeking mission and the advisability of some steps to break the present deadlock.)

(The representatives of the Four Powers, resuming their full-scale meetings at the United Nations tomorrow, are expected to begin digging deeper into the outstanding issues.)

Secretary Draws Distinction Between Imposed Peace And 'Recommended' Peace

Mr. Rogers was questioned during his press conference about the difference between an imposed peace and a "recommended" peace. He said that "there are lots of ways to influence people" without forcing them to comply. He pointed out that the international community exercises influences so powerful that Middle Eastern governments cannot ignore them.

The Secretary said that direct Arab-Israeli negotiations might be necessary "somewhere down the road". He said, however, that the Big Four talks were important and useful in helping the parties reconcile differences. He voiced regret that Israel was opposed to the Big Four efforts.

Defending the concept of "guarantees" in a Big Four solution, Mr. Rogers said that just because they did not work in the past was no reason that a new version might not operate effectively in the future. The United States, however, has no precise idea on guarantees and is looking to the United Nations for a determination of the form guarantees would take, he said. He voiced assurance that such guarantees would prove "more satisfactory and more lasting than previous ones."

Once there is agreement that all Middle Eastern governments have a right to live in peace, guarantees are less important, he pointed out. The Secretary said that "the most important factor" was the willingness of the parties to the dispute to declare an intention to live in peace and to recognize each other's sovereignty.

The statements by Mr. Rogers at his first formal press conference, made clear that the United States is proceeding to place great stock in the Big Four undertaking at the United Nations. His remarks made it apparent that a gap is widening in Israeli-American understanding on the peace issue.

Hussein, Due Today, Is Expected To Urge Nixon To Press For Israeli Withdrawal

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan, who arrives here tomorrow as the official guest of President Richard M. Nixon for talks at the White House, will welcome the Big Four initiative to find a solution to the Middle East crisis but will categorically reject the surrender of any Arab territory to Israel in Jerusalem or elsewhere, informed sources said here today.

According to these sources, the Jordanian ruler is expected to oppose not only the continued Israeli occupation of the parts of Jerusalem seized from Jordan in the June, 1967 war but any plan that would give Jordan certain rights in Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. The sources said that in his talks with Mr. Nixon, King Hussein would portray Israel as rigid and obstructive and will try to persuade the President to press for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories under United Nations aegis in keeping with the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. King Hussein is scheduled to address the National Press Club here, an occasion which he is expected to use to expound Jordan's position in the Middle East crisis.

Allon, Dayan, Hit Big 4 Role, Reject 'Solution' Affecting Israel's Security

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA) -- Two of Israel's top government leaders yesterday criticized the Four Power talks on the Middle East now underway in New York, declared that Israel had no choice but to establish and protect secure borders with its neighbors, and reiterated Israel's refusal to accept any Big Power proposals for a solution that might jeopardize its national existence. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon delivered his remarks in an address to the graduating class at Haifa's Realschule, one of the country's oldest high schools. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan spoke at the annual conference of the National Union of Students at the village of Shefayim. Each expressed Israel's concern that the Big Four talks would result in proposals that would compromise Israel's security because of the two powers--France and the Soviet Union--are openly pro-Arab.

Mr. Allon described the Four Powers as in actuality two Big Powers and two formerly Big Powers. He said France was using the Mideast talks as a forum to regain lost prestige and asked whether France was a bigger or more influential power than Italy. He said Israel had no quarrel with efforts by the powers to solve all of the world's major problems provided they did not attempt to revive the "exclusive Big Four club" which, at the Yalta conference, divided the world into spheres of influence "for which the world is still paying a high price." He observed that the Mideast was "no longer a vacuum but a region populated by independent sovereign states" not subject to the will of outside powers.

Mr. Allon said Israel had no choice but to establish secure borders by founding settlements in the occupied areas it considered essential to its security. He predicted that such borders would in time be agreed upon and recognized by the Arabs.

'Powder Keg' Concept Of Mideast Is 'Pure Fiction', Dayan Asserts

Gen. Dayan said Israel had no reason to fear Big Four talks because it was strong enough to turn down "proposals whose acceptance would be suicidal." He said Israel was "in the comfortable position of not having to call on the Big Powers to save us" whereas the Arabs want the Big Four "to achieve for them what they themselves were unable to achieve." He said the Arabs were depending on the Big Powers to force Israel to retreat without a peace settlement. The return of Israel to the pre-June, 1967 borders coupled with the return of the Arab refugees of 1948 would amount to national suicide for Israel, he declared.

Gen. Dayan vigorously denied the contention by President Richard M. Nixon and other world leaders that the Mideast was a "powder keg" about to explode. He said that view was "pure fiction" even though Egypt was trying to present it as a fact by touching off incidents along the Suez Canal. He said the canal fighting in recent weeks was "strictly a local affair" and observed that Egypt was not likely to start a war it knew it could not win.

Gen. Dayan reiterated his call for action by Israel to establish "facts" in the occupied territories. He urged the establishment of new settlements and proposed the introduction of Israeli law and Israeli currency into the West Bank territories where Jordanian law still applied. He said such steps would create jobs, improve the standard of living and integrate the West Bank with Israel's economy. But he said Israel should bar the Arab population of the West Bank from moving into Israel or acquiring Israeli citizenship.

Army Budget Chief Says Israel Is Spending \$2 Million A Day on Defense

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA) -- The budget chief of Israel's Defense Ministry disclosed today that the country was spending \$2 million a day, seven days a week, for defense needs. Gen. Jacob Hefetz, in a broadcast over the Army radio network, also disclosed that Israeli gunners fired \$1.7 million worth of shells in four days of artillery duels with Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal two weeks ago.

Gen. Hefetz said the bulk of the defense budget this year will go to the Air Force to pay for 50 Phantom jet fighter-bombers, Skyhawk jets and Hawk missiles, all purchased from the United States. But, he added, large sums would also be allocated to the Navy, artillery and other military branches. According to Gen. Hefetz, Israel's defense budget this year is two-and-a-half times greater than that of the year preceding the Six-Day War.

A settler of Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley was wounded today in a bazooka attack from across the Jordanian border. An Israeli patrol was also attacked in the vicinity of neighboring Kfar Ruppin, a military spokesman reported. Israeli forces returned the fire in both cases. A hand grenade thrown at an Israeli refrigerated truck as it passed through Gaza yesterday exploded behind the vehicle and caused no casualties or damage. A military spokesman said several suspects have been detained.

Golda Meir Says Arab And Jewish Mothers Offer Same Prayer For Peace

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Golda Meir addressed Arab women as mother-to-mother here yesterday. Mrs. Meir spoke at the seventh convention of Hashomer Hatzair, a labor Zionist youth movement, affiliated with Mapam. She said she believed that Arab mothers, in their isolated villages across the borders, have the same prayer as Israeli mothers: "peace for their children and the entire region."

Mrs. Meir told her audience of some 5,000 youth representatives from Israeli cities, towns and kibbutzim that she hoped hundreds of thousands of Jewish youngsters, now behind the Iron Curtain in Soviet Russia, would one day be able to join in the building of Israel. The Hashomer Hatzair conference will last three days and will deal with problems of Zionism, socialism and Mapam's place in the world socialist movement.

West German Officers To Run For Parliament As Candidates Of Neo-Nazi NPD

BONN, April 7(JTA) -- The nomination yesterday of seven West German military officers, and the anticipated candidacy of some non-commissioned officers, to run for Parliament on the slate of the extreme right-wing, neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) in next September's national elections has embarrassed the West German Defense Ministry. There are also repercussions in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it was learned today. The NPD, headed by a former Nazi Party member, Adolf von Thadden, has a paid membership of about 27,000 which is said to include fewer than 1,000 active professional soldiers, but the party is making a strong bid for support among the military. According to one Defense Ministry official the NPD represents an "ugly problem" because of its attempts to feed on dissatisfaction in the armed services.

Some 50 officers and non-commissioned officers work actively for the NPD. The highest ranking officer among them is Capt. Ernst Thomsen, a naval aviator who was Assistant Chief of Staff of NATO's Baltic Approaches Command in Kiel. He announced a week ago that he would be the NPD candidate in the nearby election district of Schleswig-Eckernforde. The Defense Ministry announced that Capt. Thomsen has been withdrawn from his NATO post as of April 1 and assigned to a desk job at a land base in Bensberg. He was supposed to have remained with NATO until October. Military sources here said Capt. Thomsen had become an outspoken critic of NATO and of the West German military forces since he joined the NPD.

Other military men who have agreed to become NPD candidates were identified by the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine last week as an army major, three captains and two sergeants. An NPD spokesman said last week that Capt. Thomsen joined the party last December and was asked to stand for election because, "we believe in an active military policy and that must be made with people who are up-to-date like Capt. Thomsen, who knows from his NATO duty what is wrong in the services."

(The Daily Telegraph said in London today that the embarrassment caused by military officers running as NPD candidates might strengthen support in West German Government circles for an appeal to the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to ban the NPD as anti-democratic. Such a step is strongly advocated by Interior Minister Ernst Benda whose ministry recently concluded an exhaustive investigation of the NPD. But up to now political observers saw little chance that such action would be taken.)

Expert On Russian Jewry Disputes Montreal Rabbi's Report On Situation

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- An expert on the subject of Soviet Jewry has branded as "misinformation" statements made by Rabbi Isaac L. Hechtman of Montreal about the circumstances of the Soviet Jewish community. Dr. Moshe Decter of New York, who heads an organization known as Jewish Minorities Research, said that statements made by Rabbi Hechtman, executive director of the Vaad Hair, Jewish Community Council of Montreal, "can only confuse and mislead the Jewish community and the general public, and can lead to a neutralization and paralysis of action and protest--which are the only known way of moving the Soviet authorities even slightly."

Dr. Decter, scholar and author on the subject of Eastern European Jewry was replying to statements Rabbi Hechtman made to the press in Montreal following his return last month from Moscow where he visited Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin a short time after Rabbi Levin's 75th birthday celebration. Rabbi Hechtman has claimed he was misquoted but subsequently reiterated at least some of those assertions at a public meeting in Montreal.

A prime source of his information, Rabbi Hechtman said, was Michail Kundicof, who he identified as chief adviser on religious affairs to the Soviet Council of Ministers. Dr. Decter said that in the Government hierarchy there is "no such position or title," but there is a Ministry for the Affairs of Religious cults."

Rabbi Hechtman has denied that he said Mr. Kundicof told him that the Soviet Government would print 40,000 to 50,000 additional copies of Jewish prayerbooks and Hebrew calendars. The rabbi had said that 10,000 calendars had been sold out in a day. On this point, Dr. Decter said "it is preposterous to contemplate any promise of additional prayerbooks when the recent edition of 10,000 is far from exhausted." Moreover, says Dr. Decter, "no one on the outside really knows how many calendars are in circulation."

Rabbi Hechtman denied that he said he had seen 20,000 Jews outside the Moscow synagogue on Purim, claiming he was not in the city at the time. He did not however deny saying that he had been given information that 20,000 were present. And, says Dr. Decter, a creditable American on-the-scene observer reported there were no more than 30 Jews singing and dancing outside the synagogue.

Dr. Decter challenged the rabbi to verify his assertion that the Soviet Government has made sufficient flour available to Jewish bakeries for the production of Passover matzoh, noting that the rabbi's figure on matzoh baked in Moscow--90 tons--coincided with information circulated by Novosti, the Soviet news and propaganda agency.

JTA reported Rabbi Hechtman as saying that there were 80 to 100 Jewish weddings and a like number of Bar Mitzvahs held annually in Moscow. The rabbi affirms his statement about weddings but denies that he said anything about Bar Mitzvahs "since (they) do not take place in Moscow." A total of four such events in any week, says Dr. Decter is about as many "as is found in many substantial synagogues." He quotes Rabbi Levin of Moscow as having said that there were no such events in the synagogue because "our young people aren't interested."

Citing Rabbi Hechtman's statement that there are three mohalim in Moscow, Dr. Decter said that

there may "indeed be such trained people there, but circumcisions are prohibited. Why does Rabbi Hechtman imply that the mohalim are permitted to perform their functions?" Disputing Rabbi Hechtman's statement that there are seven or eight students in the Moscow yeshiva, Dr. Decter pointed out that Rabbi Arthur Schneider of New York would not, if this were the case, have taken recent action to have one Russian boy be given permission to study in Budapest for the Russian rabbinate.

The rabbi disputed the report that he had said Jews abroad must help their Soviet brethren by meeting the Communist regime halfway and avoiding public protests and violent demonstrations against it. But on March 29, he told a Montreal public meeting that "a dialogue with communism should start right away" and assailed Jewish "politicians and diplomats" as "bankrupt" for "continuous denunciation of the Soviet Union."

Freiheit Editor Affirms Pro-Israel Stand Despite Communist Attacks

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- The Morning Freiheit, a left-wing Yiddish daily, is at odds with the U.S. Communist Party which has criticized it and another left-wing publication, Jewish Currents, for supporting Israel in a "war of aggression" against the Arabs and for its alleged "obsession with black anti-Semitism." The Freiheit was defended against both charges by its 77-year-old editor, Paul Novick yesterday at the publication's 47th anniversary concert in Town Hall. Mr. Novick, who once faced Federal denaturalization proceedings for alleged Communist affiliations, declared that his paper was "against all slogans and individuals that are anti-Semitic but not against the Negro people." He said the Freiheit's policy was to continue fighting for full equality for Negroes.

He drew an ovation from the 1,400 people at the concert when he said "Israel is here to stay and its existence is in the interest of all progressive nations." Mr. Novick described the Freiheit as not a Communist organ but a newspaper "that fights for all the people in their quest for peace throughout the world." His paper and the magazine Jewish Currents were also accused by the Communist Party of maintaining a "critical and carping attitude toward the Soviet Union." Questioned about Soviet hostility toward Israel, Mr. Novick said only that "Jews occupy high positions in the Soviet Union."

Jewish Welfare Board Urges Government Action To Curb Drug Use By Youth

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board urged the Federal Government today to take a series of steps to control the abuse of drugs which, it said, has become "increasingly prevalent among middle-class youth and adults." The appeal, in the form of a resolution and a position paper on drug abuse, was based on responses the JWB received to a questionnaire it sent to its affiliated Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHA's all over the country last year. Staff members at those agencies reported "a progressive rise in the incidence of drug involvement by teen-agers known to them."

The resolution and position paper were adopted by the JWB's board of directors in a vote by mail. The position paper said: "The National Jewish Welfare Board's concern with the misuse of drugs derives from the Jewish tradition that any abuse of the human body is an immoral act." It noted that since "dependence on drugs can be psychologically and physiologically damaging, the problem is of added significance to Jewish Community Centers serving as agencies of personality development, as well as instruments for the attainment of the physical and mental well-being of American Jews."

The recommendations for government action included: making available information to schools, community centers and other local public and private agencies on the various types of drugs and the effects of their use on body and mind; additional Federal training programs for enforcement of anti-narcotics laws; an increased number of local treatment centers; closer cooperation with other nations to control the use of dangerous drugs; and more uniform state and Federal regulations governing the sale of dangerous drugs.

Pennsylvania Jewish CRC Would Bar State Financial Grants To Parochial Schools

PHILADELPHIA, April 7 (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Relations Council has called on the Pennsylvania State Senate to reject a bill passed by the House of Representatives that would grant state funds to parochial schools. The JCRC contended that the bill, sponsored by Rep. Martin P. Mullen and 51 other House members, violated both the Federal and State Constitutions and would endanger the voluntary structure of parochial schools. It commended Gov. Shafer's announced intention to veto the measure if it reaches his desk.

The JCRC said, "While we are sympathetic to the urgent need for financial support of religiously-controlled schools, we believe that the Constitution requires--and wisdom dictates--that such support be voluntarily contributed by those committed to the support of such institutions, rather than by all citizens compelled by law to provide such support." The JCRC noted that the Jewish community "has long recognized the validity and in fact, the value, of privately-supported, religiously-oriented schools" in "fostering and preserving religious commitment and the pluralistic character of the American society."

Rabbi Brandwein, Head Of Histadrut Religious Services Department, Dead At 66

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Rabbi Yehuda Zvi Brandwein, head of the Kol Yehuda Yeshiva and of the religious services department of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, who died at the age of 66. Rabbi Brandwein, a native of Safed, was the author of several scholarly works but refused to occupy a rabbinical pulpit for pay. He earned his living as a building worker until 1957 when he was named to the Histadrut post which carried no salary. Several months ago he transferred the Kol Yehuda Yeshiva from Tel Aviv to East Jerusalem.