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Rafael Meets Washington Officials, As Nixon Confirms Forthcoming Visit By Mrs. Meir

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA) -- Gideon Rafael, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, met here this weekend with White House and State Department officials for an exchange of views on the current Mideast situation following the Soviet reply to United States peace proposals. His discussions precede the forthcoming visit to Washington of Israel Premier Golda Meir.

The content of the talks were not disclosed. They were described as an exchange of views on current topics. Mr. Rafael met with Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's top advisor on foreign affairs. A number of State Department officials, including Undersecretary of State Elliot Richardson and Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, tendered a dinner in his honor. The diplomat also met with Richard Palmer, Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, and discussed United Nations matters.

Mrs. Meir's long rumored visit to Washington was confirmed by President Nixon at his press conference on Thursday. He said he had met with King Hussein and added, "I am hoping to meet sometime within the next month with the Prime Minister of Israel." He added that the U.S. intends to have "bilateral talks, multilateral talks, and whatever talks are possible" in order to find a Mideast solution. No date was announced for the Meir visit. But Presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that she had accepted an invitation and would probably come in July.

The President was asked to comment on developments in the Mideast since his remarks five months ago that the Arab-Israeli situation was explosive and needed "de-fusing." He said he saw very little "de-fusing" since then but thought that things might be somewhat better because of the Big Four talks. He also thought that some measure of agreement might be obtained from all parties, including Russia.

But prospects of Soviet agreement to U.S. peace proposals appeared dim. Administration officials conceded "disappointment" over the Soviet response to a U.S. statement of principles submitted May 26. The Soviet reply was received by Secretary of State William P. Rogers last Tuesday following Cairo consultations between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko and President Gamal Abdel Nasser. State Department officials characterized the Soviet response as a carefully worded "holding operation." They gathered that Russia wanted neither to break off international attempts to find a solution to the conflict nor to indicate any significant narrowing of the gap between Israel and the Arab states. (Israel has still not been given a text of the Soviet document given to Secretary Rogers, well-informed Jerusalem sources said. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet today that there was no indication of progress in the Big Four talks.)

Neither the Soviet note nor the U.S. proposals have been made public. But the U.S. was believed to have asked Russia and its Arab allies to accept four points: Peace should be restored through a single "package" accord, not in phases; the accord must be "contractual" among the parties concerned and not imposed from outside; future frontiers must be agreed upon by the parties themselves and not defined by the Big Powers; frontiers should "not reflect the weight of conquest."

Cairo reports last week indicated that President Nasser categorically rejected these terms. The Soviet response to Washington reportedly conveyed his objections with little indication that a way around them could be found. Nevertheless, according to State Department officials, it was clear that both Moscow and Cairo want to keep the Big Four talks going.

(The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported last week that Mr. Gromyko had given President Nasser the "final say" on whether the Soviet Union should continue taking part in bilateral talks between the Soviet Ambassador to the U.S., Anatoly F. Dobrynin, and Mr. Sisco. They have been going on concurrently with the Big Four talks in New York and are regarded by observers to be the more consequential of the two. According to Al Ahram, Col. Nasser approved continued discussions with the understanding that Egypt would never yield on three points--no direct talks with Israel, no territorial concessions and no settlement of the Palestine refugee problem without the refugees' consent.)

Israeli Commandos Raid Egyptian Naval Radar Station, Kill 15, Destroy Equipment

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Israeli commandos raided an Egyptian naval radar station on the west bank of the Gulf of Suez early today killing 15 Egyptians and smashing the radar, a signaling installation, a searchlight and generator. All the Israelis returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

Four Israeli soldiers were wounded last night in a clash with a band of Egyptian commandos who crossed to the Israel-held east bank of the Suez Canal. A military spokesman said the Egyptians retreated leaving behind two anti-vehicle mines which were dismantled. The target of the Israeli raid was the radar station near Ras Adabiya, about six miles south of Port Suez, manned by Egyptian naval personnel. The raid was launched following a day-long shelling by Egyptian artillery across the Suez Canal which was described as one of the heaviest since the June, 1967 war. An Israeli spokesman said

the raid was in reprisal for repeated Egyptian violations of the cease-fire. He said that Egyptian gunners shelled Israeli positions from the Bitter Lake to Qantara in the north and from Ismailia to Port Tewfik at the southern end of the canal. They twice ignored cease-fire calls from United Nations observers, he said. Egyptian Radio claimed that Israeli forces started the shooting yesterday with a rocket barrage aimed at Port Suez and later fired on Port Tewfik and two residential suburbs, Arbeen and Ganavin. The Egyptians claimed to have shot down three Israeli spotter planes.

In other fighting, four Arab saboteurs were killed and a fifth was wounded and captured in a battle in the Jezreel Valley near Mount Tabor deep inside Israel. The clash occurred last Wednesday but was announced only today. An Israeli spokesman also announced the deaths of one Israeli soldier and two Arab guerrillas in a running battle Thursday near Sdom on the south shore of the Dead Sea. The Israeli patrol surprised a band of saboteurs trying to plant explosives near tractors. Israeli jets today pounded Jordanian artillery positions in the northern Jordan Valley after fire had been directed at Beisan Valley settlements. The planes returned safely after a 45-minute bombardment, a military spokesman said.

Lebanon Said To Be First Arab State To Get Rid Of Commando Groups

LONDON, June 22 (JTA) -- A high Lebanese official confirmed in Beirut yesterday that Arab commandos were withdrawing from Lebanese soil. According to various estimates, the commandos number 1,500-3,000, mostly members of the Saiqah, a guerrilla group sponsored by the Syrian Baathist Party, and of El Fatah, the largest Palestinian guerrilla organization.

Withdrawal of the commandos, whose presence and activities on Lebanese soil led to the bloody rioting and the downfall of Premier Rashid Karami's Government in Beirut on April 25, was first reported last week by Pierre Gemayel, a leader of the right-wing Phalangist Party. He said the withdrawal began about 18 days ago and was continuing. About half the commandos were said to have left so far.

The Lebanese Government crisis was precipitated by popular support of the guerrillas and Government attempts to curtail their raids on Israel from Lebanese territory. Lebanese authorities feared reprisal raids by Israel and possible Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon if the raids did not cease. Lebanese students, Palestinian refugees and others had demanded a free hand for the commandos who were concentrated on the slopes of Mount Hermon, just north of the Israel border. Observers here said the departure of all the commandos would constitute a diplomatic victory for Lebanon, which has still been unable to form a new Government. They said Lebanon would be the first Arab state that managed to get rid of guerrillas based on its soil. According to Mr. Gemayel, El Fatah leaders were instrumental in getting the Saiqah guerrillas to withdraw. The two groups have been bitter rivals. El Fatah contends that the Syrian-backed group was politically motivated.

Tekoah Hits Thant Initiative On Committee To Probe Condition Of Occupied Arab's Areas

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 22 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant has been accused by Israel of using "dubious means" that were illegal and "unwarranted" toward a "dubious end" in offering an initiative for a United Nations-sponsored inquiry into the condition of Arabs in occupied territories.

Mr. Thant had circulated suggestions among all 126 UN members in May on how to resolve the unprecedented problem of finding three members for a committee to conduct the probe. Emilio Arenales, president of the last General Assembly, died in April before he could get three countries to form the committee.

Last week, Mr. Thant said that a majority of the member states--67--agreed to his suggestion that the 17 Assembly vice presidents confer to pick one of their number to name the committee. They will meet tomorrow. Yosef Tekoah, Israel's UN Ambassador, replied that the whole proposed procedure was "without a legal basis at any of its stages." Israel opposed the resolution to establish the committee last winter and said there can be no investigation of the Arabs' condition unless the status of Jews in Arab lands is similarly probed.

Cabinet Denounces Bombing Of Street Leading To Western Wall, 6 Persons Injured

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet today denounced Friday's bombing of a street leading to the Western Wall in Old Jerusalem as security officials planned measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. Six persons, including an Arab man and an Arab child, were injured when three 10-pound bombs exploded in rapid succession in the 16-foot-wide Share el Wad (Street of the Valley). The bombs detonated at 7:15 p.m. local time. Only an hour earlier the street was thronged with Orthodox Jews making their way to the Wall for evening prayers.

A statement issued by the Cabinet described the bombing as "a dastardly act carried out by saboteurs against women and children who come in the thousands to pray on the Sabbath at the holiest place to the Jewish nation." Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Defense Minister, accompanied by senior military officials visited the area yesterday to plan security measures.

Israeli sources said none of the injured persons was seriously hurt. Two American tourists, girls in their early 20s, were treated for shock. They were identified as Andrea Blatt of Pacific Palisades, Cal. and Marie Frolich of Los Angeles. There were about 2,000 Jews praying at the Wall when the bombs went off in the nearby street. Police cleared the area as ambulances removed the injured. A short while later security officials declared the area safe and the worshippers returned. A search was launched for the terrorists. Thirty-six Arabs were arrested in the vicinity. Nine were released yesterday and the rest remained in custody.

Mrs. Meir Tells Human Needs Parley 'Israel Will Hold Out'; \$350-\$400 Million Goal Set

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir told the closing session of the International Conference On Human Needs in Israel that "as long as the Jewish people is on our side, we will hold out too." The conference was attended by 204 delegates from the United States and 23 other countries. She also told the Jewish leaders that Israel could not resign itself to a condition of "something between peace and war--peace in the morning and war in the evening, or peace in the north and war in the south."

Earlier the delegates adopted a series of resolutions which were not considered formal and binding but rather as expressing a consensus of the conference. Officials said detailed work on elaborating the proposals and findings would continue in working groups and committees. The goal for the coming year was set at raising between \$350 million and \$400 million. A resolution read by Morris L. Levinson of New York said, "We call on the Jewish people to unite in a vast effort to develop Israel's human resources to create a society here which will bring pride to us all, renewing the glory of our past and the promise of our future." Samuel Rothberg of Peoria, Ill., was chairman of the session at which the various recommendations were adopted.

The health workshop, chaired by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson of New York, recommended implementation of a Government 10-year plan to improve Israel's medical services, a project which has been deferred because of the burdens of defense outlays. Jack D. Weiler, New York real estate executive, reporting for the housing workshop, said \$1 billion must be invested over the next five years in construction, noting that 70,000 families need new homes, apart from additional couples marrying each year and the many families living in overcrowded conditions. Michael Sacher of London, summing up for the campaigns workshop, expressed regret that a "chaotic situation" existed in fund-raising. The workshop recommended a special body to coordinate activities.

Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, who, jointly with Mrs. Meir, sponsored the conference, told the delegates that the Agency was in process of being enlarged. He said the conference was evidence of the vitality of the enlargement because an expanded Jewish Agency could be an efficient means toward Jewish unity and aid for Israel.

Dr. Neumann Urges Support For Israel; Comments On Agency, WZO Changes

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- The chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency urged the American Jewish community to fully support Israel in its refusal to accept an imposed Mideast settlement that might emerge from the U.S.-Soviet talks or the Big Four talks now under way in Washington and New York. Dr. Emanuel Neumann made the statement on the eve of his departure for Israel to attend the plenary sessions of the Jewish Agency Executive and meetings of the Zionist Actions Committee. The veteran Zionist leader also said he hoped a possible "collision course" between Israel's vital interests and American policy growing out of the talks can be avoided.

Voicing confidence in Louis A. Pincus' leadership of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Neumann expressed the hope that the Agency and the World Zionist Organization will be reorganized in conformity with Mr. Pincus' recommendations. He said that "it is right that pro-Israel fund-raising leaders and organizations be given representation on the Jewish Agency's governing bodies... They have earned the status of partnership, with a voice in management and the allocation of funds they raise."

The other areas to which the Actions Committee must direct itself, said Dr. Neumann, are the fostering of greater aliyah from America and the improvement of Israel's public relations image in the U.S. "in the face of a massive and well financed pro-Arab public relations drive designed to picture Arab terrorists and marauders as a movement of national liberation struggling against an allegedly oppressive Israel."

JNF Sends 50-Member U.S. Leadership Mission To Israel For Briefings, Inspection Of Work

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- A 50-member national leadership mission of the Jewish National Fund of America left for Israel over the week-end for a series of briefings with JNF and Israeli Government leaders and to inspect JNF land reclamation and afforestation sites. The group will mark July 4 at the JNF's John F. Kennedy memorial outside of Jerusalem.

The Nassau-Suffolk County, N.Y. Council of the JNF announced that it will establish a new community area in Israel to be known as Nachlat Nassau-Suffolk in honor of the Long Island communities. It will be located in northern Israel near the Lebanese border and will be populated by newly arrived immigrants.

President Of Young Israel Calls For Establishment Of 'National Torah Corps'

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 22 (JTA) -- A leader of the National Council of Young Israel thinks that Orthodox Judaism is the answer for alienated youth who are disappointed and disillusioned with modern pragmatic philosophies. Nathan Saperstein, president, proposed the establishment of a "national Torah Corps" made up of rabbis, Orthodox collegians, college professors and yeshiva students "to reach the college student of today in a more direct manner than ever before." Mr. Saperstein addressed 400 delegates at Young Israel's annual convention here. He claimed that young people "have swallowed foreign philosophies and regurgitated them. Therefore, they are now morally hungry and starved for...eternal religious truths" which "speak of the equality of mankind in the role of justice, concern for the oppressed and the sanctity of life."

West German Foreign Ministry Says Some NPD Candidates Were Pre-1933 Nazi Party Members

BONN, June 22 (JTA) -- The West German Interior Ministry says that the right-wing National Democratic Party has listed candidates in 22 election districts for the coming national election who were members of the Nazi Party even before 1933, when Hitler came to power.

B'nai Zion Leaders Hail Steps To Establish New American Zionist Federation

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 22 (JTA) -- Two leaders of B'nai Zion, American Zionist fraternal organization, today hailed the preliminary steps under way to form a new American Zionist Federation to replace the present American Zionist Council. Raymond M. Patt, re-elected national president for a third term, and Nathaniel S. Rothenberg, general counsel, addressed the group's 60th annual national convention here.

Mr. Rothenberg, who is B'nai Zion representative on the Council and a vice chairman of it, told the convention that the proposed Federation would be established in line with the decision of the last World Zionist Congress. He said, "Such a Federation, while not affecting the autonomy of the various member organizations, will be wider in scope than the present Council and will allocate to the various constituent organizations, by popular vote or otherwise, their seats in the World Zionist Congress."

As part of its 60th anniversary program, B'nai Zion will seek to enlarge its affiliated membership, beginning this fall. During the past year, its membership has increased substantially, according to Herman Z. Quittman, re-elected national secretary, and Maurice Rosenbaum, national membership chairman.

Israel cannot withdraw from the occupied territories it gained in the Six-Day War without a definite peace agreement, Rear Admiral Shlomo Erel, commander of the Israel Navy, told the convention. "If we withdraw without a peace agreement, it will bring the possibility of war in the Mideast much closer," he asserted. "We feel that by holding these territories pending a peace settlement, we have set up a deterrent to possible warfare. In reality, another war does not depend on what we do; rather it depends on Arab feelings. If they feel they can win, then there will be war."

Sorenson Criticizes Nixon's Approach To Mideast Settlement

In sharp criticism of what he termed "dangerous contradictions and parallels in United States foreign policy regarding Vietnam and the Middle East," Theodore C. Sorenson, former advisor to the late President John F. Kennedy, told the convention that "the worst foreign policy mistake of President Richard M. Nixon's first year on his own in the White House may well be his effort to Americanize the pursuit of peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Sorenson said that the failure to realize that "we are neither omnipotent nor omniscient and need not be and cannot be omnipresent--this same misconception that America has an obligation to be directly involved in all trouble spots if we are not to be isolationists--underlies our present mistaken effort to have the Four Powers prepare a Middle East peace package that they have no business preparing." He said he agreed with the Administration that "a renewal of the war in the Middle East could possibly drag in the U.S.," but, he said, the nation's effort to negotiate a settlement for the Mideast against the wishes of Israel could not come before "our obligation to negotiate a settlement for ourselves in Vietnam."

He declared that the U.S. "does have a role to play in the Middle East. We need not stand aloof and watch the status quo deteriorate. We need not rest our hopes for peace on an unstable arms race and a pattern of attack and reprisal. We can be of assistance, not by helping to prepare a Big Four (U.S., Russia, France and Britain) package--for two of the Four are not really 'so big' and their package has more liabilities than assets--but by working primarily with the Soviet Union, the one real power in the area whose interests cannot be excluded, even while we hope to minimize its presence, to help the parties settle this themselves."

Bernard Katzen, who has served as a special consultant to the Republican National Committee, voiced support for the Big Four talks and the U.S.-Soviet bilateral meetings in Washington on the Mideast, but only on the condition "that they will not result in any imposed solution, overt or covert, and that they will lead ultimately to direct peace talks." He voiced confidence that Mr. Nixon, the State Department and Congress "have a full understanding of the Soviet threat in the Mideast."

Reform Rabbis Will Study Means Of Making Synagogue More Relevant To U.S. Jewry

HOUSTON, June 22 (JTA) -- The rabbinic arm of Reform Judaism has launched a two-year study to determine ways to make the synagogue more relevant to American Jews and to "help build a creative American Jewry." The project was announced at the closing session of the 80th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis by Rabbi David Polish, chairman of the CCAR's rabbinic training committee. Rabbi Polish and other speakers at the convention expressed concern that an "archaic" synagogue is unable to meet the religious needs of Jews, especially youth, and does not aid them in resolving social problems.

The CCAR elected Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of Temple Israel, Boston, as its president, succeeding Rabbi Levi Olan of Dallas. Rabbi Polish, of Evanston, Ill., was elected vice president. Rabbi Polish said Judaism was faced "with the same challenge confronting other faiths in the secular age." He said it "is becoming irrelevant to many on an accelerating scale, and the verdict of irrelevance and alienation is being pronounced from within our own institutions."

In a symposium, Rabbi Maurice B. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the congregational arm of Reform Judaism, and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, a past president of the CCAR, said the synagogue was suffering from "the intolerable toll of institutionalism," the "Jewish allergy to formal worship" and "the self-hypnosis of the pulpit." Another speaker, Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform rabbinical seminary, conceded that "our seminary does not in a real sense produce the completely trained rabbi" but added that it was constantly seeking to improve its curriculum.