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Report Big Two Reach Common Ground On Approach To Mideast Peace Settlement

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The United States and Soviet Union have reached common ground on an approach to a Mideast peace settlement, a high level Government official said yesterday.

It was asserted authoritatively that both sides agree on a need for a package plan dealing with all elements of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. Both super-powers agree that the package must be contained in a contractual agreement, including Arab and Israeli signatures, which must be accepted by the contending parties, deposited, understood and made public before any element of it goes into operation. On the issue of Arab refugees, it would become operative over a period of years.

The Big Four -- U.S., Soviet Union, France and Great Britain -- will resume their recessed talks probably in mid-October. In the meantime the Big Two will seek preliminary agreement on the package, along with the assistance of UN Mideast peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the official said.

Areas on which the Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko do not agree is the substance of the package and the proper method of going about negotiating it.

The New York Times reported that some diplomats hope to gather the Arabs and Israel at the UN or elsewhere and send in independent mediators to shuttle between them with ideas and encouragement. Dr. Jarring is seen as playing a key role in such an effort. He would possibly hold separate conferences with each side in order to try to persuade them to narrow their differences enough to hold final discussions in the same room to sign a peace treaty much as the Rhodes talks in 1949 led to armistices.

U.S. diplomats, the Times reported, said Mr. Gromyko was more constructive and less dogmatic in private than in public statements. A similar discrepancy between the Arabs' public hostility and private attitudes toward the U.S. was reported.

An Israeli diplomatic source dismissed the reported package plan as "so much chit-chat" and without "concrete substance." He termed it a kind of "vague progress report" but noted that if indeed there is yet unseen substance, "we will know in a very short while." In the meantime, an illusion of Big Two progress must be kept up, the source said.

French Foreign Minister Says Big 4 Is Only Route To Settlement

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Foreign Minister of France took a hard-line stance on the Big Four today as the sole means of bringing peace to the Middle East. Maurice Schumann, whose country under former President Charles de Gaulle, authored the concept of the Big Four, told the General Assembly that the quartet must pursue peace "unrelentingly."

"To thwart or to contest" its efforts, he said, "would be to assume the heavy responsibility of placing an obstacle before the only method that can lead to a general, equitable and lasting settlement." Mr. Schumann told the 126-nation assembly during general debate that a settlement "will have to include measures of an international nature making it possible to insure the preservation and the protection of all the Holy Places as well as their free access by all."

Establishment of a "just and lasting peace" that would take into account all the parties' "legitimate interest" would "appear beyond our reach if we were not determined to overcome sadness and apprehension," Mr. Schumann said. The concerted consultations of the Big Four, which France proposed last January, has "made it possible to examine in detail the different aspects of the conflict and the possibilities for settlement consistent with the spirit of the Charter and UN resolutions," the diplomat said.

Premier Golda Meir Arrives In Philadelphia; Given Warm Welcome, Tight Security

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir arrived at International Airport this afternoon and was given a warm welcome from Pennsylvania officialdom and the Jewish community. She arrived against a background of what was believed to be the heaviest security precautions ever taken at the airport here, reports JTA Washington correspondent Milton Friedman.

As a United States Marine Corps helicopter hovered overhead, police with dogs combed nearby woods, boats equipped with machineguns cruised in a river near the airport, and heavy patrols of police screened the route and building tops between the airport and Independence Hall downtown.

While the security arrangements gave a grim tone to Mrs. Meir's arrival, it did not inhibit the joy of the welcoming crowd. The security was iron-clad because of Arab terrorist depredations in Europe in recent months, especially at airports.

The Premier appeared especially impressed by the thousands of Jewish children who gathered at the airport and welcomed her with Hebrew songs. Mrs. Meir said at the airport, "I would not

wish myself something more exciting and more meaningful than to come to Philadelphia as the first stop of this visit at the invitation of your President. This great city is meaningful not only to your nation but to the world. I come from the Eternal City of Peace, Jerusalem; I bring greetings to the City of Brotherly Love where independence was declared not only for the people of the United States but for all humanity! "May you and we and all mankind have peace and brotherly love," she said.

The welcoming group was led by Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond Shafer, Mayor James Tate, Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, and a large delegation of Israeli and Jewish personages.

The Jewish school children carried signs that drew the amused attention of officials. They said: "We dig Golda -- Get the Jets." "Golda--As Good as Gold, the Weapons as Good as Sold," "Good Luck in Washington," "Israel for Us," and "Shalom Golda." A Philadelphia high school band played nearby with majorettes dancing go-go steps to military marches.

Mrs. Yitzhak Rabin, the Ambassador's wife, kissed and embraced Mrs. Meir and presented a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Israelis in the United States. Two pretty young Hebrew school girls presented Mrs. Meir with a Bible and she embraced both. The visitors stood as "Hatikvah" and the "Star-Spangled Banner" were played.

Mrs. Meir will leave Philadelphia Thursday morning by a Marine Corps helicopter which will fly directly to the White House lawn where she will be received by President Nixon in an official state ceremony. She will then open discussions with the President.

Mrs. Meir's meeting with Nixon and other U.S. Government leaders will be the first between an Israeli Premier and a U.S. President since the late Levi Eshkol met with President Lyndon B. Johnson at the latter's Texas ranch in January, 1968.

Sources in Israel said that Mrs. Meir will ask for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets, Hawk ground-to-air missiles and U.S. financial assistance to pay for them when she meets President Nixon.

She was expected to base her arms requests on the need to maintain a military balance in the Middle East which now quantitatively favors the Arabs. But Israel cannot afford to pay cash for the 85 additional Skyhawks and 20 Phantoms it reportedly wants because of a \$150 million drop in the country's foreign currency reserves in the last four months. Israel has \$200 million tied up in France for 50 Mirage jets which the French Government refuses to deliver and has paid another \$200 million to the U.S. for 50 Phantoms, the first of which were delivered this month. Israel has received about \$25 billion in U.S. aid in the past 20 years, most of it in development loans at increasingly more difficult terms.

The Israeli sources said Mrs. Meir would also discuss Israel-Jordan relations with Mr. Nixon. Israel's permission for Jordan to repair the damaged East Ghor irrigation canal this week was seen as a gesture toward the U.S. which originally financed the Jordanian project. The canal was damaged by Israeli jets in July.

Riad Says Egypt Might OK Rhodes Formula, Without Israeli 'Expansionism'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad hinted today that his country might agree to an eventual direct meeting with Israel along the lines of the negotiations on the island of Rhodes where the 1949 armistice agreements were worked out between Israel and the Arab states.

Mr. Riad spoke to newsmen after emerging from an 80-minute meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Asked if Egypt would accept a meeting with Israel on the Rhodes formula, he said a peace settlement could be concluded in that way "if the Israelis make it clear that they are renouncing expansionism." The 1949 armistice was worked out by UN mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche. The Arabs and Israelis remained in separate rooms throughout most of the negotiations but met at the final stage to sign the armistice agreements.

Responsibility For Mosque Fire Laid By Committee On Moslem Religious Authority

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Responsibility for the Aug. 21 El Aksa mosque fire was laid squarely on the Waqf, the Moslem religious authority in East Jerusalem, which was charged with gross negligence in the report of a special investigating committee published today. The committee, headed by Israeli Supreme Court Justice Joel Sussman, included two Arabs -- Mayor Mussa Kteili of Nazareth, who is a Christian, and Mohammed Nimr Al Hawari, a district court judge who is Moslem.

The committee found that the fire was caused by a premeditated act of arson. But it held that the Waqf, which is responsible for the maintenance and security of Moslem Holy Places, failed in its duties on several counts. The committee's report was presented to the Prime Minister yesterday. It recommended a thorough revision of security procedures in the Temple Mount area where the El Aksa mosque is located.

The committee report did not refer to the suspected arsonist by name since he is awaiting trial. Israeli police arrested an Australian national, Michael Denis William Rohen, within 24 hours after the fire. Mr. Rohen, reportedly a member of a fundamentalist Christian sect, confessed to setting the fire. His trial will be public.

Foreign Affairs Committee OKs Amendment For \$40 Million In Desalting Assistance

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted today and incorporated into the Foreign Aid Bill for the new fiscal year an amendment to provide \$40 million designated for desalination in Israel in keeping with United States commitments under the Johnson Administration.

The amendment was offered by Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal, New York Democrat. The legislation became necessary when it was learned that the Nixon Administration had dropped from the budget an item inserted by the outgoing Johnson Administration earmarking the same amount for desalination in Israel. The program would provide both electrical power and water in keeping with the feasibility studies carried out jointly by American and Israeli experts.

Report Sharp Increase In Polish Emigration; 3,000 Reported To Have Left In Summer

LONDON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A sharp rise in the departures of Jews from Poland occurred this summer with 3,000 Jews leaving since the start of the summer, it was reported yesterday from Warsaw.

The report said that the total of Jews who have left Poland since the 1967 War in the Middle East has now jumped to around 8,000. Jews were said to be presently leaving at the rate of 300 a week and presumably are those who obtained exit papers before the Sept. 1 deadline for such exits announced last summer by the Communist regime.

See Small Breach In Wall Of Hostility Between Israel, Communist Bloc States

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The official wall of hostility that has existed between Israel and most Communist bloc countries of Eastern Europe since the June, 1967 Six-Day War apparently has some breaches in areas far removed from politics. Although all of the Communist governments, except Rumania's, severed diplomatic relations with Israel two years ago, there has been some trade and some contacts, especially in the field of science.

One sign of the thaw was evident when Prof. Aharon Katzir, head of the polymerics department at the Weizmann Institute of Science, left today to attend an international meeting of scientists taking place in Erowan, the capital of Soviet Armenia. A consignment of flowers from Czechoslovakia arrived in Israel yesterday for display at an international floral exhibition that opens in Ramat Gan. Flowers from Poland were still expected.

Czech Communist Charges Israeli Shares In Plotting To 'Take Over Party, Country'

LONDON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- A Czech Communist official has charged that a "secretary of the Israel Embassy in Prague" is involved in an alleged conspiracy by Communist reformers to "take over the leadership of the party and the country with the aid of psychological and physical terror."

According to Jan Piller, secretary of the Communist Party Bureau, the Israeli, identified as Zucker, was often seen in the company of reformist leaders headed by the former Czech minister, Dr. Frantisek Kriegel. Mr. Piller contended on a Prague radio broadcast that the alleged conspirators had been meeting since last spring. There has been no Israeli Embassy in Prague since June, 1967 when Czechoslovakia severed diplomatic relations with Israel.

Prague radio expressed disappointment that President Richard M. Nixon said nothing about Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly last week. According to Prague, that proved "American support for Israeli aggression." In general, according to Prague radio, the President "did not come up with a fundamentally new stand but some of his formulations indicated a shift in attitudes."

Avneri Begins Series Of Articles In French Weekly Regarded As Pro-Arab

PARIS, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The first of a series of articles by an Israeli Knesset member who describes himself as a patriot opposed to Zionism was published yesterday in the leftist weekly "Nouvel Observateur." The article, by Uri Avneri, a Tel Aviv editor who comprises the one-man Haolam Hazeh faction in Parliament, drew unfavorable comment from pro-Israel circles here. The first installment of the series dealt only with Mr. Avneri's early career and contained no controversial material. But future installments will explain why he opposes Zionism and will outline his personal "peace plan." Opponents of Mr. Avneri's views noted that "Nouvel Observateur" has taken a strong anti-Israel, pro-Arab line and has been a sounding board for pro-Arab and pro-Soviet propagandists.

Tapline Oil Flowing Smoothly Following Repairs In Golan Heights Area

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli officials reported that oil is flowing efficiently in the American-owned Tapline from Saudi Arabia to Lebanon after extensive repairs were made on the saboteur-damaged pipeline. They said that the American company had not only made the repairs but also set up extensive security procedures to ensure that the line would not again be easily reached by saboteurs. The firm also prepared measures to use immediately, if there was another break in the line, to prevent a repetition of a flow into Israeli water sources. About 25 miles of the pipeline is located in the Israeli-held Golan Heights.

Berebichez Takes Over As President Of Mexico's General Zionist Organization

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Isidore A. Berebichez, secretary-general of the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico, has taken office as president of the General Zionist Organization of Mexico. He succeeds Tzemach Portnoy who is leaving Mexico to settle with his family in Israel.

RCA Charged With Bias Against Hassidic Job-Seeker; Co-op Fined For Barring Jew

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The City Human Rights Commission announced yesterday that a Hassidic Jew from Brooklyn had probably been discriminated against by the RCA Global Communications Corp. when it refused to hire him allegedly because he is a Sabbath observer. Commission chairman Simeon Golar said that probable cause had been found in the complaint by Solomon Roth that he would have been hired as an electronics technician trainee if he had not insisted on time off on week-ends to observe the Sabbath. If the company is found guilty of discrimination, the commission can order that the complainant be hired and possibly could exact compensatory damages for outrage and humiliation suffered, Mr. Golar said.

"Humiliation, outrage and mental anguish" resulting from a discriminatory act was the basis for a \$1,000 fine that the Human Rights Commission imposed yesterday on a cooperative apartment house and its real estate agency which refused to permit a Long Island lawyer to sub-lease an apartment allegedly because he is Jewish.

The complaint by William Meyers, of Roslyn, was brought against the fashionable cooperative at 133 East 80th St. and its managing agents, Brown, Harris, Stevens, Inc. Hearings were held last June by Commissioners Melvin L. Arnold and Gilbert Colgate, Jr., who noted in their findings yesterday that "the evidence indicates that no Jews reside in the subject building" and "the complainant was the only applicant ever rejected." A commission spokesman said the \$1,000 fine was the highest ever levied by the body. It was the first judgment against a cooperative since the city's open housing law was strengthened in 1965.

In the case of the Brooklyn Sabbath observer, the commission noted that when Mr. Roth applied for the position, he offered to work Saturday nights or other nights to make up for the time he took off for religious reasons. He charged that he was told the company could not use him on that basis. Mr. Golar said that the guidelines on religious discrimination adopted by the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission two years ago required employers "to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of employees and prospective employees where such accommodation can be made without undue hardship in the employer's business." Undue hardship must be proven by the employer. Mr. Golar said that the Federal guidelines correspond to the letter and spirit of the city's law against job discrimination on religious grounds.

Jewish Personnel Allowed Time Off For Religious Observance With Pay

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Southfield Civil Service Commission has amended its regulations to allow Jewish personnel to take time off for religious observances without loss of pay. The change was approved after representations by the local Jewish Community Council.

Personnel previously were required to work overtime or lose pay for absences other than on legal holidays. They may now use for religious absences two days paid annual leave for personal purposes.

Black Leader Reads Reparations Demand At Synagogue On Yom Kippur

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Black United Front, a militant Negro organization which is demanding reparations in cash from the religious community, sent representatives to read a policy statement on the steps of Washington's B'nai Israel Synagogue Sunday calling on "the Jewish church to shake off the shackles of white racism and capitalist exploitation that have strangled its Christian vision."

A BUF field chairman, Tony Cox, read a statement calling for a \$10 million contribution to the Black Economic Development Corporation from synagogues. Mr. Cox and 16 other Black activists arrived at the synagogue at 8:05 p.m. when the worshippers had gone home to break their fast after Yom Kippur. The statement was read to the janitor of the synagogue. In the statement, the BUF urged "the Jewish church on this, your Day of high Atonement, to not only stop sanctioning racism but to make amends for its active role in the capitalistic exploitation and economic gerrymandering of the Black community." If the synagogues refuse, the BUF warned, it could lead to "another Middle East crisis in the District of Columbia or another Vietnam in Washington."

Reform Seminary Library Acquires Philip Goodman 7,000 Bookplates Collection

CINCINNATI, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The Philip Goodman Collection comprising over 7,000 bookplates of Jewish interest, has been acquired by the library of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion here. The collection was amassed by Rabbi Goodman over a period of 20 years. Bookplates are valued by historians, sociologists and art historians for the biographical and geneological material they contain.

Ezrat Torah Opens Fourth Housing Project In Israel For Yeshiva Students

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- Ezrat Torah, an American foundation helping yeshiva students, inaugurated its fourth housing project in Israel at ceremonies here yesterday. The project contains 35 flats in the Tel Arza quarter for yeshiva students and their families. An 80 unit project has been built by the foundation in the religious community of Bnei Brak.

Israeli Actor Signed By Vienna Municipal Theater For Pushkin Lead

VIENNA, Sept. 24 (JTA) -- The municipally-owned Theater an der Wein has signed the Israeli actor, Yossi Yadin, to play the principal role in a new musical based on the novel "The Postmaster" by Alexander Pushkin. Mr. Yadin has previously appeared in Vienna as the milkman Tevya in "Fiddler on the Roof" based on stories by Sholem Aleichem. He has also been signed for the title role in the musical "Zorba."