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Mrs. Meir Says U.S., Israel Differ On Big Power Talks, Sees No Peace Progress

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir told a nationwide television audience today that Israel disagreed with the United States over the U.S.-Soviet and Big Four talks aimed at a Middle East peace settlement. She also said that she sees no progress toward peace much to her "sorrow" but that she was convinced that "my grandchildren will live in an era of peace."

The Premier said that a strong Israel was "the best guarantee for peace" and the "best incentive" because the Arabs "would not have to make peace with a weak Israel that can be thrown into the sea." Mrs. Meir spoke on the National Broadcasting Co. television program, "Meet The Press," her first nationwide television appearance since she arrived here on a state visit last week.

The Israeli leader replied negatively when asked if her Government was willing to submit a map as an "asking price" for peace negotiations with the Arabs. "Maps we will draw during negotiations," she said. "Before we have partners there is no point in drawing maps among ourselves." Asked to explain how Israel could say that "everything was negotiable" when it has annexed East Jerusalem and established settlements in the Golan Heights, Mrs. Meir said, "The Arabs may bring up the question of Jerusalem" but that does not mean "that we don't have ideas where we will be after a settlement." She added that Israel did not ask anybody "to agree to anything before we sit down."

On the question of Palestinian refugees, the Premier said that Israel as a state has "no formal obligations" toward Arab refugees. She said the 1948 Arab-Israeli war was "100 percent the responsibility of the Arab states" which were responsible for the displacement of the refugees. She noted that Israel has accommodated over one million refugees, among them about 300,000 stateless Jews from European camps and 700,000 Jews from Moslem countries. She contrasted what Israel had done to absorb refugees with what "the Arab states have done with their brothers." Mrs. Meir said, however, that Israel was prepared to do "its share" to alleviate the refugee problem. She said Israel has re-admitted 50,000 refugees and was willing to pay compensation to the rest.

She claimed that Russia did not want peace and was an enemy of Israel and bore major responsibility for the June, 1967 war. "We would rather sit with(President)Nasser than with (Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A.) Gromyko speaking for him," Mrs. Meir said. She said that the proper role of the U.S. and the USSR might be to limit their negotiations to a search for "ways and means" to bring the two parties together and that this might be "very valuable."

In reply to a question, Mrs. Meir angrily dismissed the contention by a Knesset member, Uri Avneri, that Israel would have to be "de-Zionized" before peace with the Arabs could be achieved. Mr. Avneri, a Tel Aviv editor, comprises the one-man Haolam Hazeh faction in the Israeli Parliament noted for its unorthodox views. Mrs. Meir snapped that Mr. Avneri "is active in de-Zionizing Israel while men are dying every day." She claimed that no Israeli attached any importance to his position.

Nixon Speaks Of 'Better Understanding' But Does Not Mention Jets

President Richard M. Nixon, terminating two days of intensive discussion with Mrs. Meir, said Friday that the American Government had no new decisions to announce regarding the Middle East but that "we have a better understanding" of how to proceed toward a solution of the outstanding issues.

In an appearance with Mrs. Meir before the press, Mr. Nixon made no mention of Israel's expressed desire to obtain additional Phantom jets and financial assistance to help meet defense needs. The President heaped praise upon Mrs. Meir but said he was not announcing any new decisions. (Israel has received about $1,160,300,000 in all kinds of aid in the past 20 years. JTA reported incorrectly last Thursday that the figure was $25 billion.)

Mr. Nixon stressed that the "very extensive private talks" had produced understanding but no new decisions. He said that some progress toward a solution of the complex Middle East problem "could" come from the meetings but that he used the word "could" because he wanted to be "very realistic" and conscious of the complex issues involved.

The President disclosed that he discussed a wide range of world problems with Mrs. Meir and "even the problem of youth." He commended her understanding and said he found her counsel valuable. Mr. Nixon said that he discussed with Mrs. Meir all matters speculated upon in the press. This apparently included a front page story in a leading Washington evening newspaper, the Star, which said that the President "is pushing Premier Golda Meir to declare publicly that Israel will withdraw from occupied Arab lands as part of a negotiated peace with the Arab states." This reported Nixon approach was portrayed as a move to gain momentum for Big Power peace efforts now under way at the United Nations.

Mr. Nixon made clear that he did not expect the Arab-Israeli dispute to be susceptible to "instant diplomacy" because it was based upon long existing differences. But he thought that ways must try to be found to promote peace and better understanding.

Mrs. Meir replied that she reported to Israel that she found Nixon a friend who understood Israel's difficulties. She said that she believed that efforts for peace must be pursued "not only for Israel but also for the tens of millions of Arabs and others in the various countries." She said that she told Mr. Nixon that "the people of both of our countries" are dedicated to real peace," not "something that is makeshift." Her vision of peace encompassed the rest of the world as well as the Middle East, she declared. Mrs. Meir said she wanted to express her "extreme appreciation" for the time spent with the President. She said she was pleased that she could go home and report that Mr. Nixon cared about her country. Israeli officials later characterized the Meir-Nixon talks as successful and useful.

Mrs. Meir Says 'No Pressure Whatsoever' For Withdrawal Had Been Applied

Mrs. Meir said in a Friday address before the National Press Club that "no pressure whatsoever" had been exerted upon Israel to withdraw from occupied territories. She addressed the club before her final meeting with the President. Mrs. Meir proclaimed that "we won't budge one inch before there is a peace settlement."

Asked if she obtained additional military jet aircraft from Mr. Nixon, she said that "there has been a policy followed by the U.S. Government of sensitivity to the balance of power in the Middle East. This is the policy that is being followed now, and I have reason to believe that it will be followed also in the future." She said she would not make a secret of the fact that the meetings had been very friendly and pleasant. She said, however, that there was some "disagreement even between very friendly governments."

Mrs. Meir stressed that Israel sought peace and "we are prepared to enter negotiations" if the Arabs send a delegation to meet face to face with Israelis. If the Arabs will accept Israel's existence, peace is possible, she said. In that case, "everything(apparently including boundaries) is open for discussion." Israel requires borders that are secure, recognized, and agreed upon, she said.

Mrs. Meir said Israel would not settle for less than a real peace negotiated directly by her Arab neighbors and signed by them. "Arab leaders will have to face the responsibility of telling their people that the time has come for peace with Israel," she said. In that event negotiations can be joined with no preconditions, she said.

On the question of internationalization of Jerusalem, Mrs. Meir said that when Jerusalem was shelled by the Jordanian Arab Legion during the 1948 Independence War of the nations., the nations of the world "did not lift a finger." She said Jordan has expelled the Jews from Jerusalem, destroyed ancient synagogues, barred Jewish worshippers from the Wailing Wall, and otherwise violated the norms of civilized behavior.

Mrs. Meir made clear that Israel would insist upon strict respect for the United Nations cease-fire agreement of 1967. She said that if there is shooting, there will be shooting on both sides of the lines. Israel is obligated to use all means at its disposal to force strict respect for the cease-fire, she said.

Given Reception, Attends Bar Mitzvah, Meets Dignitaries

Vice president Spiro T. Agnew and the ambassadors of many nations were among guests at a reception Friday tendered in honor of Mrs. Meir by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. The Rumanian, German, French, West German, French, British and other envoys came to honor Mrs. Meir. Mrs. Meir met Saturday with veteran statesman W. Averell Harriman and had lunch Sunday with former vice president Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mrs. Meir Saturday attended the Bar Mitzvah of the son of an Israeli diplomat and told the boy that she hoped for peace so that he would not have to fight the Arabs. Speaking from the pulpit at Adas Israel Synagogue, Mrs. Meir responded to Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz's Sukkot sermon. He had charged that the Arabs lusted for the "Sukkah," represented by the modern State of Israel. The Bar Mitzvah was that of Gideon Argov, son of Shlomo Argov, minister and second ranking official of the Israeli Embassy here. Gen. Rabin and others were called to the Torah.

Mrs. Meir commented on the rabbi's remarks on the "relevance" of the holiday to the current status of Israel. She said that what many non-Jews did not like about Jews was that the Jewish people "do not bow." She said that the Nazis destroyed the bodies of Jews but never killed their faith. Jews went to the gas chambers chanting "we believe," she noted. Jews may still have to pay in the future for their faith and spirit of independence, she said. But they would nevertheless "stand up straight." Mrs. Meir said very movingly to 13-year-old Gideon that Israel had lost many youths and that he knew the younger brothers of some who would not come back. She told the boy, "I hope that you won't have to go and fight."

Mrs. Meir was guest of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the Capitol building. Sen. Stuart Symington, Missouri Democrat, acted as chairman in the absence of Sen. J.W. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat. Sen. Symington said the committee was pleased to have her and to learn her thoughts. She said that she was happy to meet with "old and good friends" on the committee. Later, members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee called on her at Blair house where she stayed during the official part of her visit.

Israelis Have No Comment On Report That Stolen Mirage III Plans Were Bought

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli officials had no comment today over charges that an engineer employed by one of Switzerland's largest manufacturing firms sold Israel secret plans for an improved version of the French Mirage jet fighter plane. The charges were made in Berne on Friday by Federal Attorney Hans Walder against 43-year-old Alfred Frauenknecht, a technical department head at the Sulzer Engineering Co. in Winterthur. Sulzer manufactures jet engines of the Mirage III "S" planes under a license from the French firm of Marcel Dassault.

According to Mr. Walder, Mr. Frauenknecht admitted after his arrest that he sold 20 crates full of secret plans, records and tooling instructions to Israel for $200,000. The alleged transfer of the plans began in the fall of 1968, well after former President Charles de Gaulle imposed an embargo on 50 Mirage V jets that Israel purchased in France. The crates were reportedly passed to Israeli agents in West Germany through an unidentified relative of Mr. Frauenknecht who was not an employe of Sulzer. Israeli officials in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv have refused to comment on the alleged affair which Mr. Walder described as "the biggest espionage affair in Switzerland since World War II."

Swiss Government officials said one of Frauenknecht's responsibilities was to destroy plans after they were microfilmed. They claimed that instead, he burned waste paper and concealed the original blueprints, models and some engine parts in crates which were smuggled across the Rhine into West Germany by barge during the night. Official sources in Berne said the engineer claimed he was motivated by sympathy for Israel.

A spokesman at the Sulzer works said he earned a "comfortable" salary but did not disclose the sum. The relative who allegedly helped Mr. Frauenknecht was also arrested. The latter was said to have made his first contact with Israeli agents in the spring of 1968.

According to reports from Geneva, Mr. Frauenknecht will be charged with betraying military secrets. He is said to have given Israel detailed plans for the type of machines needed to produce the Mirage III "S" engine parts. Swiss authorities were expected to take a very hard line in the case because of embarrassment. The pro-Arab lobby in Switzerland has already begun to exploit the alleged crime, but Swiss newspapers so far have reported the facts without comment.

Switzerland, a neutral country in both world wars, has often been described as a hotbed of international espionage and the Swiss generally take a cool, sophisticated view of such alleged affairs. Switzerland is the headquarters of several major international Jewish organizations and reportedly makes a handsome annual profit out of financial dealings with Israel and Jewish institutions.

The French-built Mirage IV has been up to now the major operational aircraft of the Israeli Air Force. The embargoed Mirage V for which Israel paid $200 million is an improved version built to Israeli specifications. It is expected that their place will be taken by the U.S.-built F-4 Phantom jets which are now being delivered. In addition, since the French embargo, Israel has opened its own jet engine factory near Jerusalem in partnership with the French-owned Turbomeca company of Paris. Israel also purchased an American jet engine company which is being relocated near Lydda Airport. Both factories reportedly produce only civilian aircraft engines.

Indian Parliament Member Vows To Block Establishment Of El Fatah Office In Country

NEW DELHI, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- An Indian Member of Parliament said this weekend that he would do everything in his power to prevent the Indian Government from permitting El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization, from opening a recruiting and propaganda office in India.

Balraj Madhok, who is executive chairman of the Forum of International Affairs, told newsmen that he was deeply disturbed by reports that permission would be granted to a three-member El Fatah mission that has been touring India. He said he would not rest until such permission was rescinded. Mr. Madhok described El Fatah as a commando organization whose main aim was to infiltrate Israel for acts of sabotage and subversion and it was patently wrong to give any quarters to delegates from such an organization. He demanded that the El Fatah visitors be ousted from India immediately. The MP also denounced India's attempted participation in the Moslem summit conference at Rabat, Morocco. He said by no stretch of the imagination could India be described as an Islamic State and had no business attending such a conference. The Indians were however excluded from the parley, apparently at the behest of Pakistan, and the New Delhi Government expressed indignation over the rejection.

(The 25-nation -- Arab and non-Arab -- parley urged the Big Four to intensify efforts to obtain speedy, unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories. The parley, called in the wake of the fire at East Jerusalem's El Aksa Mosque, third holiest shrine of Islam, asked the Big Four to take into account the Moslem attachment to Jerusalem and to restore the pre-1967 status there. The conference's closing communique reiterated in slightly stronger language the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. The communique, which did not mention the fire, was expected to have a moral impact on the Moslem world but little practical effect.)

(In a post-parley news conference, Morocco's King Hassan II harshly criticized extremists among the guerrillas as "wild and harebrained" and said that threats to murder Israelis did not aid the Palestinian, Arab or Moslem cause. Last week, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman chided India for seeking to participate in the Moslem conference at a time when new outbreaks of terror against Moslems were occurring in India. He said, "It is strange that India should try to force her way into Islamic conference where she is not wanted, only in order to prove her anti-Israel zeal.)

Trans-World Airlines Sends 2 Executives To Damascus To Help Release Israelis

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Trans-World Airlines announced Friday that it will send two of its executives to Damascus to "strengthen its representation" in efforts to secure the release of two Israeli nationals held by Syrian authorities since their TWA airliner was hijacked by Arab commandos on Aug. 29. The executives are Richard W. Wilson, vice president for international operations, and John L. Gaiser, a specialist in Middle East aviation. They will replace Capt. Dean Carter, pilot of the hijacked plane, who has been in Damascus since he was forced at gunpoint to land his Boeing 707 jet there.

A TWA spokesman said that the focus of the hijacking has moved "from one of operational to one of diplomatic concern." The TWA jet was badly damaged by a bomb detonated in its cockpit after its passengers and crew were evacuated. Of the 102 passengers and crew aboard at the time of the hijacking, all were permitted to leave Damascus except for six Israeli citizens. Subsequently, four Israelis, all women, were released. But Syria is still detaining two men, Prof. Shlomo Samueloff, of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, and Sallah Moualem, a travel agency employe.

TWA had announced earlier that Capt. Carter would remain in Damascus until all of the Israeli passengers were released. TWA said Friday that "one or the other" of its two officials would stay in Damasucs until the matter is settled. TWA, along with the U.S. Government and several international organizations,has been involved in behind-the-scenes efforts to secure the release of the Israelis.

Fifty- eight members of the House of Representatives joined 43 Senators over the weekend in urging the United Nations Security Council to investigate the hijacking and Syria's failure to release the Israelis. The members of both houses asked Secretary of State William P. Rogers to bring the matter up before the Council. Their letter to Mr. Rogers termed the hijacking "criminal" and "wanton" and demanded punishment for the persons responsible for it. Israel's Premier, Golda Meir, said in a speech to the National Press Club Friday that she hoped the Syrians "will come to their senses and let these men go home." She called Syrian authorities "accomplices to the crime."

Iilya Rips Will Face Court Oct. 2, Expect Confirmation Of Mental Illness Findings

LONDON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Illya Rips, a Latvian Jewish student who was said to have set himself on fire in Riga last April, will face a court Oct. 2 but only as a formality to confirm medical findings that he is mentally ill, it was reported here today. Charges of anti-Soviet activities against Rips have been dropped, according to a Moscow journalist, Pyotr Petrov, who was quoted by the Sunday Observer. Mr. Petrov said that contrary to previous reports, the youth would not be tried for protesting against Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration.

According to accounts at the time of Rips' reported self-immolation by two Americans who purported to be eye witnesses, the student denounced Soviet treatment of Jews and ran aflame across a Riga square shouting that Jews must be allowed to go to Israel. These sources said Rips was set upon by Soviet sailors who extinguished the fire and then beat him until he was hustled off in a police car. He has reportedly been confined in a prison hospital ever since.

The Observer's correspondent Peter Reddaway said a Moscow underground journal called "A Chronicle of Current Events" claimed that it was now evident that while Rips may have protested against the Soviet treatment of Jews, his main public protest was against the occupation of Czechoslovakia. The journal said that Rips has been classified as mentally abnormal by doctors and will be confined on that pretext because it is difficult to prove any intent on his part to subvert the Soviet system. According to the Latvian criminal code, attempted suicides, particularly attempts carried out in a manner likely to injure other people, must be investigated by a court. The court is expected to confirm the medical findings and Rips is likely to wind up in a psychiatric hospital for "compulsory treatment," the Observer said.

Justice Department Files Suits Charging Housing Bias Against Jews

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The U.S. Justice Department has asked that actions be brought against three large apartment house complexes in the District of Columbia and adjacent Prince Georges County, Maryland, which allegedly discriminate against Negros and Jews. One suit filed in U.S. District Court charged that the residents of Tilden Gardens, a co-operative in a fashionable section of Washington, systematically vetoed applications of Jews and Negros. The second suit, filed in Federal Court in Baltimore, accused the operators of the Oakcrest Towers and Southview Apartments in Maryland of inequitable treatment of Negro applicants and the segregation of Negro tenants.

Charges against Tilden Gardens were brought by Samuel T. Eastman, an official of the District of Columbia government, who is neither Negro nor Jewish. Mr. Eastman said his application to purchase an apartment was vetoed because he replied in the affirmative when asked if he would entertain Negro guests.

The Justice Department suit said that all occupants of Tilden Gardens were white, except for two Negro servants, and that none were Jewish except for the wife of one tenant. "Since all of the stockholders are white and substantially non-Jewish," the suit said, "the requirement for the concurrence of stockholders discriminates against Negros and Jews on account of race, color, religion and national origin," a violation of the 1968 Civil Rights Act. The Justice Department charged that the two Maryland apartment buildings required Negro applicants to demonstrate higher financial and other qualifications than whites and assigned Negro tenants to certain areas of the complex.