

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI Fifty Second Year

Thursday, December 11, 1969

No. 234

Israelis Express Shock And Dismay Over Secretary Rogers' Policy Speech

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israeli officials withheld comment today on Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Middle speech last night. They said they would have to study the full text of the address before commenting. But its impact here was such that Premier Golda Meir called an extraordinary session of the cabinet for this evening.

An official communique said the meeting was called preliminary to Foreign Minister Abba Eban's departure for talks in the U.S. and "in view of the latest statement made by the American Secretary of State." (A detailed report of the Rogers speech appears on Page 3.)

Unofficial reaction here indicated shock and dismay. Some sources contended that Mr. Rogers' statement of America's Mideast policy proved that the U.S. continuously yielded to Soviet Russia which has never yielded on a single point. They said that step-by-step, the American policy moved closer to the proposals by Moscow.

Israeli circles appeared especially distressed by Mr. Rogers' reference to points which, in Israel's view, should be subjects of direct negotiations with the Arabs. They said the U.S. has always maintained that it wants to help bring the two parties together so that they could settle the details of borders and the occupied areas. But now that America has made public its plan for Israeli withdrawal, it appears to be turning away from its previous policy, they said. They viewed Mr. Rogers' speech as "another retreat" in the American global position vis-a-vis the Russians.

See Israeli Bargaining Position Being Undermined In Advance of Talks

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, expressed doubts in Washington today that President Nixon subscribed to the pronouncements on a new Mideast policy by Secretary of State Rogers and other State Dept. officials. He said it was "difficult to believe that solemn commitments on a real peace in the Middle East" were being abandoned. The Rogers statement, he said, contained "implications of a possible erosion of the U.S. position" and implications that "the Israeli bargaining position is being undermined prior to any Rhodes-type talks that may be held.

Jacques Torczner, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said that the approach by Secretary of State Rogers in effect bartered away legitimate United States interests. He said that "each concession by Israel suggested by the United States in advance of direct negotiations among the involved parties, the Arab states and Israel, can only serve to undermine the security and the position of Israel and entrap the nations of the Middle East deeper in the snares set by the Soviet Union."

(Replying to questions today in connection with the Rogers speech, State Department spokesman Karl Bartsch said that the United States Government would welcome resumption of diplomatic relations with all Arab states. He said, however, that since it was the Arab states which severed diplomatic relations with Washington, it would be "more appropriate for them to come to us.")

Kosygin Says Soviet Union Fully Supports Arab Guerrilla Movements

LONDON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Premier Alexei Kosygin declared today that the Soviet Union fully supported the Arab guerrilla and National Liberation fronts. He spoke at a luncheon honoring a high level Egyptian delegation. The delegation is visiting Moscow to seek more military assistance against Israel.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, said today that the Egyptian delegation was in Moscow "for a friendly official visit at the invitation of the Communist Party Central Committee". It gave no details of how long the talks may last or what might be discussed. Also in Moscow is a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Organization which represents several Palestinian guerrilla groups. Sources here said the Soviet invitation to the guerrilla leaders indicated that the Kremlin might be throwing its weight behind the Palestine resistance movement. In the past, the Soviets have mildly criticized the tactics of Palestinian guerrillas through their official press organs. The Guardian said today that the Soviet Union has realized that the guerrillas command so much popular support in the Arab world that it can no longer afford to ignore them.

Anti-Israel Resolution Carried by Minority Vote In General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. Dec. 10 (JTA)--The United Nations General Assembly by a vote in which opponents and abstainers far outnumbered supporters today adopted an Arab-Communist bloc resolution that placed blame for the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees on Israel's "denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights". The resolution called for Security Council action to enforce General Assembly and Security Council resolutions dealing with the refugee problem and the territories occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War.

The Assembly, with Israel abstaining, also adopted an American resolution describing the refugee situation as continuing to be a matter of serious concern and warning of the "critical financial position" of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. It adopted unanimously a Scandinavian-sponsored resolution calling for continuation by UNRWA of "humanitarian assistance" to the refugees.

The Moslem-Communist resolution of which Somalia was the chief sponsor, was adopted as a procedural matter and thus did not require a two-thirds majority vote. The United States voted against the resolution.

Resolution Designed To Aggravate Mideast Situation, Tekoah Charges

In a statement following the balloting, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, of Israel bitterly attacked the Somalia resolution. He said its text was "born of belligerence against a state member of the UN." He said it was sponsored by "delegations almost all of which deny Israeli's right to sovereignty or do not recognize Israel." It was a draft, he said, "not motivated as were the other two by a desire to alleviate the plight of refugees. Its purpose was clearly to aggravate and complicate the Middle East conflict."

Mr. Tekoah said the General Assembly action "confirms the generally held view that Israel's rights or interests cannot be secured in discussions and votes by others whether within the General Assembly and Security Council or by the Two Powers or Four Powers. In such discussions, considerations extraneous to the merits of the situation not only tend to frustrate equitable conclusions insuring Israel's rights under the UN Charter, but even to prevent as in the present instance the defeat of proposals regarded by the majority of states as unacceptable and damaging."

He declared that, "for Israel the conclusion is therefore clear--the settlement of the Middle East conflict, the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area, the securing for all nations of their right to live free from aggression and violence will come, not from what others do, but through Israel's efforts to defend its rights and to seek together with its neighbors understanding and agreement."

Mr. Tekoah concluded that "it is not through public and acrimonious debates, it is not through discussions conducted through outside powers, but through patient and temperate dialogue between Israel and the Arab states that peace will be attained in the Middle East."

Israeli Soldier Is Killed In Artillery Exchange With Jordanians

TEL AVIV, Dec.10(JTA)--Israel Air Force jets bombed and strafed Egyptian positions near the southern end of the Suez Canal today. It was the latest in a series of almost daily attacks on Egyptian military targets in the Canal Zone that began Nov.30. An Israeli military spokesman said all aircraft returned safely.

An Israeli soldier was killed and another was wounded near the Mandassah bridge yesterday as Israeli and Jordanian forces exchanged artillery and mortar fire across the Jordan River. Israeli planes blasted targets in Jordan yesterday. An Israeli spokesman said the shooting was started by the Jordanians who fired mortars and artillery at settlements in the Beisan Valley.

Israeli sources denied an Egyptian claim that one of its Russian-built MIGs shot down an Israeli F-4 Phantom jet in an aerial battle across the Suez Canal yesterday. An Israeli spokesman said that no battle took place.

Arab saboteurs blew up an electric nylon carrying high tension wires from Israel to the Gaza Strip. Two Arabs were injured in the blast, one of them a boy. Gaza was linked up with Israel's power grid only a week ago, a move that was protested by Arab officials in Gaza. A search was made for the saboteurs as workers from the Israel Electric Corp. repaired the damage.

Israeli forces blew up three houses in Hebron yesterday that belonged to confessed saboteurs. At the same time, a stern warning was issued to the Arab elders of the town by the Israeli military governor, Lt. Col. Ofer Ben David. He said that Israeli forces would shoot at anyone who fired or threw grenades at them.

Cabinet Completion delayed By Disagreement On Health, Labor Issues

TEL AVIV, Dec.10(JTA)--Eleventh hour efforts were underway today to work out a compromise formula under which Gahal, Israel's second largest political party, would join the broadly based national coalition government that Premier Golda Meir is trying to set up.

Mrs. Meir's mandate ends at midnight Thursday by which time she must inform President Zalman Shazar that she has formed a new government, ask for more time, or resign. It was learned from the President's office that Mrs. Meir has not requested an audience with the President for today or tomorrow. Earlier this week Mrs. Meir appeared to have accomplished her task of establishing a new government that would include Israel's three major political factions and several minor ones. But a last minute snag developed when Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) insisted that it be given a free hand in certain specific matters, namely national health insurance and the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes. Gahal wanted the right to initiate legislation. The Labor Party insisted that no member of the government had the right to originate legislation which must emanate from the government as a whole.

The Minister of Interior, Moshe Shapiro of the National Religious Party, has been acting as an intermediary between Labor and the Gahal leadership. Gahal appeared to be amenable to a compromise that would give it a free hand to vote in the Knesset on legislation initiated by an opposition party. But the offer was complicated by a condition that would have Gahal waive its "free hand" in the event that the Prime Minister requested government parties to refrain from supporting a special bill in parliament.

Gahal has taken a determined stand on the issue of compulsory labor arbitration. The country has been plagued by strikes and slow downs during the past year, especially in ports and hospitals. Gahal wants "preliminary compulsory mediation and agreed arbitration" in most labor disputes but compulsory arbitration where a dispute threatens essential national services.

Gahal leaders Menachem Beigin and Joseph Saphir were to meet today with Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro in a further attempt to work out an acceptable compromise. The cabinet is meeting in extraordinary session tonight on urgent foreign policy matters. But it was hoped that a solution to the coalition problem would be forthcoming tomorrow.

Rachamim Dismisses Counsel In Disagreement Over Defense Tactics

WINTERTHUR, Dec.10(JTA)--Mordechai Rachamim, the El Al security guard on trial for manslaughter, startled the court today by firing his chief defense attorney, Dr. Hans Meiser. Mr. Rachamim is charged with fatally shooting one of four Arab terrorists during an attack on an Israeli airliner at Zurich airport last Feb.18.

State Department Says Rogers Speech Was Aimed At Improving U.S.--Arab Relations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--High ranking State Department officials said today that Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Middle East speech was aimed frankly at improving America's relations with the Arab states. They noted that it was the Government's hope to limit anticipated anti-American statements at the forthcoming Arab summit conference at Rabat, Morocco by convincing the Arabs that the United States was pursuing a policy of impartiality and "balance" in its efforts to resolve the Mideast crisis.

State Department officials said it was felt that the American position had been "distorted in a number of instances." They said that the U.S. Government had suffered because of "private diplomacy" and that it was now thought desirable to "go on the record." Mr. Rogers' speech, delivered before the Galaxy Conference on Adult Education in New York yesterday made public what had been hitherto private American proposals to the Soviet Union to break the Middle East deadlock. Mr. Rogers disclosed that the proposals were made on Oct. 28 but Moscow has not responded to date.

The Secretary of State's address was the most comprehensive statement of U.S. Middle East policy yet made by a spokesman for the Nixon Administration. State Department officials said they were anticipating a reply to the Oct. 28 proposals which pertained mainly to an American plan for Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula accompanied by an agreement between Israel and Egypt through negotiations along the lines of the 1949 armistice agreements negotiated at Rhodes.

Mr. Rogers said, "We will not shrink from advocating necessary compromises, even though they may be and probably will be unpalatable to both sides." He noted that the American proposals "have been conveyed to the interested parties through diplomatic channels."

The Secretary of State disclosed that the U.S. is now "ready to pursue the Jordanian aspects of a settlement" and announced new proposals on Jerusalem and the Arab refugee problem. "There can be no lasting peace without a just settlement of the problem of those Palestinians whom the wars of 1948 and 1967 made homeless," he said. Mr. Rogers warned that the refugee problem "will become increasingly serious" because of a "new consciousness among the young Palestinians who have grown up since 1948."

Secretary Of State Says Jerusalem Should Be Unified, Open To All

On the future status of Jerusalem, the Secretary of State declared, "We believe Jerusalem should be a unified city within which there would no longer be restrictions on the movement of persons and goods. There should be open access to the unified city for persons of all faiths and nationalities. Arrangements for the administration of the unified city should take into account the interests of all its inhabitants and of the Jewish, Islamic and Christian communities. And there should be roles for both Israel and Jordan in the civic, economic and religious life of the city."

On the question of Israel's withdrawal from most of the territories it occupied during the June, 1967 War, Mr. Rogers said that it would not preclude what he described as "insubstantial" boundary rectifications agreed to by Israel and the Arab states in negotiations between them. He stressed, however, that "our policy is and will continue to be a balanced one.. To call for Israeli withdrawal as envisaged in the United Nations (Nov.22,1967) resolution without achieving agreement on peace would be partisan toward the Arabs." He said, "To call on the Arabs to accept peace without Israeli withdrawal would be partisan toward Israel. Therefore our policy is to encourage the Arabs to accept a permanent peace based on a binding agreement and to urge the Israelis to withdraw from occupied territory when their integrity is assured as envisaged by the Security Council resolution."

State Department officials would not amplify Mr. Rogers' reference to "insubstantial" border rectifications. However, he said that "in the context of peace and agreement on specific security safeguards" Israeli forces would be required to withdraw from Egyptian territory "to the international border between Israel and Egypt which has been in existence for over a half century."

Mr. Rogers noted that "the boundaries from which the 1967 war began were established in the 1949 armistice agreements." He observed, however, that they were armistice lines, not final political borders and that all rights, claims and positions of the parties were reserved in an ultimate peace settlement. Mr. Rogers said the Security Council resolution "neither endorses nor precludes these armistice lines as the definitive political boundaries."

Mr. Rogers said the U.S. believed that "the conditions and obligations of peace must be defined. For example, navigation rights in the Suez Canal and in the Straits of Tiran must be spelled out. A peace agreement between the parties must be based on clear and stated intentions and a willingness to bring about basic changes in the attitudes and conditions which are characteristic of the Middle East today."

Tracing the bilateral (U.S.-USSR) and Four Power (U.S. USSR, Britain and France) discussions on the Middle East, Mr. Rogers said, "We knew that nations not directly involved could not make a durable peace for the peoples and governments involved. Peace rests with the parties to the conflict. The efforts of major powers can help; they can provide a catalyst; they can stimulate the parties to talk; they can help define a realistic framework or agreement; but an agreement among other powers cannot be a substitute for agreement among the parties themselves."

Mr. Rogers said that in recent meetings with the Soviet Union "new formulas" were discussed. These involved a commitment by Egypt and Israel to maintain peace with the obligation to prevent hostile acts originating from their respective territories; a negotiating process involving the so-called Rhodes formula; in the context of peace and agreement on security safeguards, "withdrawal of Israeli troops from Egyptian territory would be required." Mr. Rogers told his audience that there is no area of the world today that is more important than the Middle East "because it could easily again be the source of another serious conflagration." State Department officials pointed out that the increased activities of the Palestine guerrilla movements made the situation "more difficult" and the Government felt it wise to press for an early solution.

UJA Three-Day Annual Conference Opens In New York City Tomorrow

NEW YORK, Dec.10(JTA)--More than 3,000 delegates from all over the United States will attend the three day annual national conference of the United Jewish Appeal. It will open here Friday, Dec. 12, and run through Sunday, Dec.14. Among the national and international figures participating will be Abba Eban Foreign Minister of Israel; Edward Ginsberg, general chairman of the UJA; Max M. Fisher, chairman of the United Israel Appeal; Leon Dulzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency; and Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

On Friday, the conference will be devoted to five separate and concurrent seminars on immigration and resettlement in Israel; absorption in Israel; Eastern Europe; North Africa and Asia; and education. The highlight of the Saturday sessions will be "The Righteous Among the Nations," a special program honoring four non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from torture and death at Nazi hands in occupied Europe during World War II. The program will be presented by the UJA Women's Division as part of its 25th anniversary program.

It will honor Father Andre of Belgium, who sheltered scores of Jews from the Gestapo at his vicarage; Herman Graebe, an anti-Nazi German who saved Jews working in his construction company from deportation; Dr. Adelaide Hautval, a French psychiatrist who protected Jews from medical experiments during her incarceration at Auschwitz; and Dr. William Sandberg, of Amsterdam, who distributed thousands of forged identification cards to Jews enabling many of them to escape the Nazi dragnet in occupied Holland.

A Special art exhibit depicting Israel as seen through the eyes of children around the world will be a feature of the United Jewish Appeal's national conference. The exhibit, called, "Children of the World Paint Israel," will be located on the second floor lobby of the New York Hilton. One part of the exhibit will be comprised of paintings and drawings by school children living in the Beisan Valley, scene of nightly terrorist attacks. The second part will be composed of the collection of paintings by children of 12 countries which was shown in the children's wing of the Israel museum of Jerusalem.

JDC Annual Meeting Told 1969 Outlays For 300,000 Needy Jews \$23.3 Million

NEW YORK, Dec.10(JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee expenditures for 1969 on behalf of some 300,000 needy Jews in 27 overseas countries will reach \$23.3 million, Samuel Haber, vice-president of the organization, reported Wednesday to its 55th annual meeting. The meeting approved the JDC report for 1969 and began consideration of the budget for 1970. It re elected Louis Broido as chairman for his fifth one-year term and re elected Jack D. Weiler as chairman of its national council for his fourth one-year term.

Mr. Haber told the 400 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada that one-third of the JDC expenditure went for programs in Israel, with Malben, the health and welfare service for newcomers, accounting for the major share. He said that about 8,000 transmigrants, mainly from Eastern Europe, received food, shelter and medical care through JDC in Austria, France and Italy while awaiting departure to countries of final resettlement. The cost of this program, he said, was about \$1.65 million-four times the amount budgeted at the beginning of the year.

Reporting on plans for 1970, Louis D. Horwitz, JDC director-general of overseas operations, warned that frequently, "history intervenes" to disrupt a carefully prepared budget. He cited three main areas of responsibility for JDC during the coming year: rescue-"to help other Jews from countries where they are in danger and to provide for their care and maintenance until they can resettle elsewhere"; secondly, "help those Jews who must stay behind"; and third, "to help strengthen Jewish communal resources and security in the countries where the refugees go-Western Europe, Scandinavia, above all, Israel, in order to hasten their integration and thereby strengthen the totality of Jewish life."

JDC's role in Jewish rescue and survival, particularly in the critical years following World War II, was described and praised in the principal address at the dinner session of the meeting by Max M. Fisher, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. He noted that at one period JDC was aiding almost a million people at a cost of \$75 million a year, supporting 326 children homes, 63 homes for the aged, and 380 hospitals, clinics and sanatoria.

"Over the years 1914 to the present," he said, "JDC has spent close to 1 billion for Jewish relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation and has helped Jews in more than 80 countries around the world. I think it fair to say that JDC has helped between four and five million individual Jews in its long, magnificent history." The Jewish leader paid warm tribute to the "devoted corps" of JDC workers including Charles Jordan, who lost his life in Czechoslovakia. He said that "JDC's 55 years have produced a small army of men and women whose names deserve to be remembered by Jews everywhere-with love and pride-in the manner in which they have given their energies, their creative powers, their health and sometimes their lives to saving their fellow Jews."

President Nixon, in a message to Mr. Fisher, praised the work of the JDC. The message declared that "When you address the 55th annual meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution, I hope you will convey my warm greetings and admiration for all who participate. I have long valued and appreciated the humanitarian commitment which this fine organization has carried out throughout the world for more than five decades. In reaching out to assist the less fortunate, the homeless and those who seek spiritual comfort and encouragement in their daily lives, its members have enriched a time-honored tradition and earned the gratitude of all men of good will. As I express my congratulations for their enviable record of achievement, I also send my best wishes for their continuing success."