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Nixon Said To Support Israel's Need For Security Need and Rogers' Mideast Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16(JTA)--President Richard M. Nixon has reportedly indicated to Republican Congressional leaders that he appreciates Israel's security needs and desire for a real peace while supporting Secretary of State William P. Rogers' statement of American Middle East policy made here a week ago. Mr. Rogers called for Israeli withdrawal from virtually all occupied Arab territory in return for a binding commitment to peace by the Arabs.

Mr. Nixon reportedly stated his views at a routine meeting of top Republican lawmakers on various legislative matters. The meeting was attended by a number of Senators who strongly support Israel, among them Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and Charles M. Mathias of Maryland. Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott, a long time advocate of Israel's cause, recently insisted that Israel must not withdraw from the occupied territories without a real peace settlement.

One source said President Nixon conceded that Israel had some valid arguments against the Four Power approach to the Middle East conflict. But he was said to have stressed, nevertheless, that the U.S. wants to avoid a confrontation with the Soviet Union and is anxious to establish better relations with the Arab states. It was believed too that the President feared an unilateral polarization in which the U.S. would find itself allied with Israel. There was no information available on the President's thinking related to Israel's request for additional jet planes, other arms and financial assistance.

Eban Slated To Meet With Rogers, Hold Talk With Sen. Scott

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16(JTA)-- Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban was scheduled to meet today with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. He met earlier with the Senate Republican Leader, Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, and several other Government and Congressional figures. Mr. Eban is believed to have outlined Israel's position on Secretary Rogers' statement of U.S. Middle East policy of Dec. 9.

Sen. Charles Goodell, a New York Republican, warned today that the U.S. should not collaborate with Big Power efforts to "impose a settlement" on Israel. He said the Middle East conflict must be settled by the parties directly concerned and held that "any solution imposed from the outside would be artificial and would not stand the test of time." Sen. Goodell said that an appropriate role for the U.S. was to help bring the disputing parties to the conference table.

Israel Reportedly Will Warn Lebanon It Will Not Tolerate Guerrilla Activities

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16(JTA)--Informed sources said today that Israel is about to warn the Lebanese Government through third parties that it will not tolerate the increased activities of guerrilla bands along Israel's northern border. Israel holds the Beirut authorities responsible for the guerrilla forays which they permit, the sources said.

They noted that Premier Golda Meir, in her Knesset speech yesterday, referred to the Cairo agreement whereby the Lebanese Government ceded control of large parts of Lebanon's southern region to the guerrillas. For a time it appeared that the Lebanese Army was restraining the commandos, but lately they have not interfered with them. Two settlers in the Israeli town of Metullah were killed in a guerrilla attack last Saturday. Lebanese Army units subsequently took positions on the southern slopes of Mount Hermon, not to restrain the guerrillas but apparently to fight off an expected retaliatory attack by Israel.

The sources said that Israel intends to make it clear to the Beirut authorities that they assume a grave responsibility when they permit the border situation to deteriorate.

Swiss Prosecutor Demands 2-Year Prison Term For El Al Guard Who Killed Arab

WINTERTHUR, Switzerland, Dec. 16(JTA)--The cantonal prosecutor today demanded a two year prison term for the El Al security guard, Mordechai Rachamim, and 12 years at hard labor for three Arab terrorists on trial here in connection with the attack on an Israeli airliner at Zurich Airport last Feb. 18. Mr. Rachamim's defense counsel will sum up his case on Wednesday.

The Prosecutor, Dr. Oscar Birch, rejected Mr. Rachamim's plea that he fatally shot a fourth Arab terrorist, Abdel Muhsen, in self-defense and demanded that the nine-man jury and three judges find him guilty of "premeditated homicide while under the influence of passion." He urged the court to find all three Arabs guilty of premeditated murder in the attack which cost the life of a young Israeli pilot trainee, Yoram Peress.

The prosecutor contended that Mr. Rachamim could not possibly have acted in self-defense because all police and other witnesses testified that the Arab was unarmed at the time he was shot. Dr. Birch stressed the gravity of the attack on the El Al plane and its consequences.

The case against Mr. Rachamim rested on the testimony of cantonal police officers who contradicted the defendant's testimony that the terrorist was brandishing a weapon. Dr. Hans Meiser, who until last week was Mr. Rachamim's chief defense lawyer, claimed that the officers' testimony was at variance with statements they made during the pre-trial investigation. He accused the police and the court of lack of impartiality in the case. Mr. Meiser was subsequently fired by Mr. Rachamim who said he was opposed to the attorney's court room tactics.

Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies Names Solender Executive Vice President

NEW YORK, Dec.16(JTA)-- The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York announced today the appointment of Sanford Solender as its new executive vice president. George H. Heyman, Jr., president of the Federation, said that Mr. Solender will take office on April 1, 1970.

He will become the sixth professional director of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies since it was founded 53 years ago. Mr. Solender has been executive vice president of the National Jewish Welfare Board since 1960. Mr. Heyman noted that he has had a distinguished career as a social welfare leader, educator, writer and social scientist. Mr. Solender has served as president of the National Conference on social welfare and in 1961 was chairman of an ad hoc committee appointed by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Abraham Ribicoff to study the Federal Government's social welfare program. Three years later he served on the national Advisory Council on Public Welfare authorized by Congress.

Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Veteran Labor Leader, Named New Histadrut Head

TEL AVIV, Dec.16(JTA)--Yitzhak Ben Aharon, a veteran labor leader of the Achdut Avodah faction of the Labor Party, was elected secretary general of Histadrut today by a 103-24 vote, succeeding Aharon Becker. Mr. Ben Aharon is considered to be the man responsible for initiating the merger of Achdut Avodah, Rafi and Mapai to form Israel's united Labor Party.

He had the support of the Labor Alignment, the Independent Liberals, the Moshe Sneh faction of the Communist Party and the Religious Workers Party. He was opposed by Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) and the Haolam Hazeh faction. The Ben Gurion list and the Moscow-oriented wing of the Communist Party abstained. Mr. Ben Aharon pledged that he would fight for the rightful demands of the working man and considered himself the representative of all workers.

Israeli Jets Attack Egyptian Military Targets Along Northern Suez Canal Sector

TEL AVIV, Dec.16(JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military targets in the northern sector of the Suez Canal zone today. A military spokesman said all planes returned safely. Two Israeli soldiers were slightly injured in the Golan Heights yesterday when they touched off mines planted by guerrillas from across the border.

An Israeli military spokesman denied a report in the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram today of heavy artillery duels all along the Suez Canal during the past 24 hours. The newspaper said direct hits were scored by Egyptian gunners and claimed that the fighting was "highly exhausting for Israel." The Israeli spokesman said there was no major fighting along the waterway during the past 24 hours. He said the last Egyptian attack occurred on Dec. 14 when commandos killed one Israeli soldier in an ambush, wounded a second and kidnapped an Israeli officer.

Al Ahram also claimed that Israeli forces have suffered 100 dead or wounded in fighting in the past 24 hours. Israeli circles said that this and other "extravagant" claims by Al Ahram and other Egyptian newspapers were intended to build up Egypt's stature at the forthcoming Arab summit conference at Rabat. They called the Egyptian claims "papyrus victories."

Dayan Tells Knesset 516 Buildings Owned By Arabs Razed Since June 1967

JERUSALEM, Dec.16(JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed in the Knesset today that Israeli authorities demolished 516 buildings owned by Arabs in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem between June, 1967 and Dec. 1, 1969. Gen. Dayan said the demolitions were carried out for security reasons and were authorized by him as Defense Minister on the recommendations of General Headquarters.

Gen. Dayan said the demolitions had a deterrent effect on the population regarding aiding terrorists and saboteurs. He made the disclosure in reply to a question by Yosef Tamir, a Knesset member representing the Free Center faction, an opposition party. In reply to another question, he said that to the best of his knowledge there was no truth to reports that the heads of the Arab states have created a special fund to compensate householders for the destruction of their property by Israel.

Gen. Dayan said houses were confiscated and demolished, or in a few cases in Jerusalem shut down, under 1945 British Mandatory emergency regulations. The regulations were promulgated by the British in Palestine as a counter-terrorist measure and were retained by Israel after 1948. Gen. Dayan submitted a numerical break-down of the buildings demolished as follows: In 1967, 51 in the West Bank, 59 in the Gaza Strip and five in Jerusalem; in 1968, 59, 69 and five; in 1969, 155, 99 and 14.

Eviction Notices Served On 45 Arab Families At Kfar Etzion

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16(JTA)--Eviction notices were served today on 45 Arab families living in the Kfar Etzion area near Hebron to take effect immediately after the current fruit-picking season. The order was originally issued last June for "overriding security reasons" but was postponed at the request of the Arab elders of Hebron.

The order amounts to the requisition of 300 acres of land occupied by five Arab clans. Part of the property originally belonged to Jewish settlers of the Kfar Etzion bloc from whom it was seized by the Jordanian Arab Legion during the 1948 war. The land was subsequently parcelled out among the Arabs. It was recaptured by Israel during the 1967 war. The Arab farmers reportedly refused offers of compensation.

2 Soviet Newspapers Dispute Critics Of Russia's Treatment of Jewish Citizens

LONDON, Dec. 16(JTA)--The two leading Soviet newspapers have taken issue with critics of Russia's treatment of its Jewish citizens. Grigori Plotkin, writing in the Communist Party organ Pravda, claimed that anti-Semitism was eliminated in the Soviet Union 52 years ago in the October revolution. Izvestia, the Government newspaper, said that Soviet policy permitted Jews to re-unite with relatives abroad although it virtually ruled out emigration by other Jews or Soviet citizens generally.

The articles in both newspapers replied to charges made by Israel and by Jews in other countries that the Kremlin deliberately suppresses Jewish cultural and religious life in the USSR in violation of the Soviet Constitution.

"In principle, Soviet law decides the question of the exit of those wishing to emigrate with maximum democracy," the Pravda article said. "When some Soviet Jews wish to leave the USSR and join their relatives abroad, including Israel, they have received permission," the paper said. It acknowledged that the process of emigration to Israel has been "complicated" since Moscow broke off diplomatic relations with Israel during the Six-Day War. An applicant for emigration must submit a certified letter from a close relative in Israel inviting him. If the exit permit is granted, the immigrant must obtain the necessary documents from the Netherlands Embassy which has handled Israeli affairs in Moscow since June, 1967.

Izvestia accused Israel of not really being interested in re-uniting families but in bringing in Jews for the labor force and "cannon fodder." The article was signed by L. Berenshtein, a historian, and M. Fridel, a journalist, both Jewish type names. They claimed that Soviet Jews "more decisively than the Jews of America and Western Europe reject the Zionist nonsense and answer it with deep contempt."

The Pravda article claimed that "Zionist leaders" wanted a "Jewish problem" to exist in the Soviet Union for their own purposes. The writer said that any manifestation of anti-Semitism in the USSR was punishable by Soviet law.

Time Bomb Fails To Explode, Discovered In West Berlin Office Of El Al Airlines

BONN, Dec. 16(JTA)--A time bomb that failed to explode was found Friday in the West Berlin office of El Al, Israel's national airline. Police said the device contained a kilogram and a half of explosives. Mayor Klaus Schutz of West Berlin called the attempted bombing an abhorrent act and hoped those responsible would be caught and punished. Political circles here said the bomb could have been planted by Arab terrorists or West German radicals. A bomb was found last month in the cloakroom of the Jewish Community Center in West Berlin.

Response Is Favorable To Vatican Statement On Catholic-Jewish Relations

NEW YORK, Dec. 16(JTA)-- Jewish religious and lay leaders who have responded so far to the Vatican-approved statement on Catholic-Jewish relations have hailed the document as one of major importance with far-reaching consequences for future inter-faith relations.

A spokesman for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, said the statement was "a further indication of the seriousness with which Roman Catholicism has entered into its modern phase of understanding in relation to the contemporary Jew and historical Judaism."

Dr. Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the rabbinical training institution of Conservative Judaism, welcomed the document as a way to help "eradicate misconceptions through continuous dialogue, great understanding and generosity."

The statement, which proposes unprecedented steps to improve Catholic attitudes toward the Jewish people, Judaism and Israel, was made public last Wednesday by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore. The occasion was a program held at Loyola College in Baltimore under the sponsorship of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League and various Christian institutions. Harold Schiff, the ADL's director of research and evaluation, said it would serve to overcome the "ghetto mentality" of many Jewish and Catholic laymen and move them in the direction their leaders are taking.

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress, said his organization welcomed "this expression of fellowship and reciprocal regard among the faith communities." He said one of the important aspects of the document was its recognition of "the indispensable role of the land of Israel in Jewish life."

Last week the Synagogue Council of America, the representative organization of the lay and rabbinic branches of American Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism, promised to give the document "the most careful and respectful study." They said however that a statement of such importance "should not elicit a quick and easy response."

Rabbi Brickner, director of the national committee on interfaith activities of the Reform movement remarked that "one might wish that the official statements of both American and world Protestantism were as forthright in their recognition of the place which Jews and Judaism occupy in their own Protestant theology and practical ethic."

International Football Federation Demands Moroccan Assurances It Will Play Israel

LONDON, Dec. 16(JTA)--The International Federation of Football Associations has demanded assurances from Morocco that it would play against Israel if the teams of both countries reach the quarter finals in the world cup series to be played in Mexico City. A spokesman for the Moroccan Embassy here said his Government would not make a decision unless the situation arises in Mexico. The Football Association has refused to grant Morocco an "escape clause" and insists on an unconditional promise to play Israel before Jan. 9, the day when the opponents will be drawn.

Hillel Directors Told Jewish Students Experience New Liberality In Sexual Relations

GROSSINGER, N.Y., Dec.15(JTA)--Jewish students, like all students on American university campuses, are actively experiencing a new liberality in sexual relations and feeling less guilt for it. They are pairing off in pre-marital living arrangements in gradually increasing number, and are more frequently than ever before marrying persons of other faiths. This was revealed in a profile of the Jewish college student emerging in a workshop conferences here today during the national conference of the Hillel directors of 100 American and Canadian universities and colleges.

Directors reported during sessions today that pre-marital pregnancies were increasing. A workshop was also told that while the use of the hallucinatory drug LSD was down, the use of marijuana was a daily fact for many students.

Rabbi Robert P. Jacobs, Hillel director at Washington University in St. Louis, who opened the workshop discussion on counselling problems, stressed that Jewish student problems were the same as those of other students on the campus.

"The counselling experiences that Hillel directors have point up the truth of this," Rabbi Jacobs declared. "If other counsellors (of other faiths) have students anxious about the use of drugs, of sex involvement from first sex experience to abortion, we do too."

Analyzing the Jewish student today, Rabbi Jacobs declared that he was under pressure to be, "for the first time, an authentic self." The student, he said, enters "a wide open permissive society which accepts testing of self, which tolerates wide-ranging eccentricity of verbalization, of peer-group vocabulary, of multiforms of dress and gives whole-hearted support to contrast with the adult world." In this setting, he said, "words pour out, physical experimentation is demanded and the results are great pleasure, great exhaustion, great new learnings and great depression."

Rabbi Jacobs noted that without memories of the past, without the experience of the Hitler era, without strong Jewish heritage, the Jewish students have "few emotions as Jews and are riper for new emotions. They have their own peer groups, and it is the culture of youth rather than the culture of their people" which dominates their lives. The students, he said, "identify with Woodstock's masses and the 'Great Mobe(Mobilization)of November' rather than with the Jewish people here or elsewhere."

Rabbi Joseph Schachter, Hillel director at the University of Illinois, reported a falling off in the number of counselling cases on pre-marital sex because, he said, "students now get their information from their own leadership. The guilt that used to exist no longer exists." However, he pointed out, "when they get into trouble, they can't be bailed out by their life style and that's when they come to us or to the social agencies for help."

University Of Chicago Director Reports Intermarriage Increase

Rabbi Daniel Leifer, associate director of Hillel at the University of Chicago, reported an increase in the intermarriage rate, with students seeking advice and counsel in only a small percentage of the cases. "It's the small percentage who will come and to whom conversion becomes an option," he said, "I explore the possibilities with them. As someone who is committed to the survival of the Jewish people, I am disappointed when there is a loss--if that is what intermarriage means."

But, he added, "I am committed to helping them if there is an honest wish to convert. I am concerned that if there is conversion involved, it is out of honest conviction and not because of guilt, for the sake of parents, for the possible effect of mixed marriage on children. I am prepared to talk to students about mixed marriage and about conversion, and if there is an honest choice, I will help the conversion."

In a parallel workshop session, Dr. Alfred Jospe, director of program and resources of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, challenged the validity of some experimental worship services practiced by Jewish students on a number of American college campuses. He charged that the radical restructuring of the worship experience, as practiced by many student groups, rejected the standard faith of Judaism and represented a "potential sectarianism" which seems to be "concerned only with itself and the quest for its own satisfactions." He warned that there was "a very real danger of discontinuity which may ultimately involve complete sectarianism."

Advocates of the new forms of experimental worship, Dr. Jospe said, argue that they do not reject the standard faith of Judaism but merely the forms in which it is expressed. They claim, he asserted, that the students seek new expressions for their sense of love and place new emphasis on the sense of community.

He noted the "strong emphasis on the role of the mystical," the tendency to turn to Eastern religious traditions and forms of expression and a new emphasis on the role of symbolism. Some observers, Dr. Jospe reported, described the Woodstock Festival as an example of "a new religious culture." He pointed to "the use of incense, bright costumes, loud music, convulsive dancing, hugging and other forms of physical stimulus, as well as the use of candles, hymns and similar liturgical elements."

He questioned whether what these media seek to express could be defined as religious ideas and said that while they might involve faith, "not all kinds of faith are 'religious' in the established sense of the word." He added that "the problem is that speaking of God may not yet be speaking to Him--and listening to one's own voice and emotions may be precisely that."

Dr. Jospe specifically excluded from his comments creative services which followed basically the standardized traditional Minhagim (service patterns) and original services prepared for special occasions and holidays, or liturgical changes, but expressed caution about religious services or forms of supposed worship "in which participants speak only of themselves and describe their private emotions."