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Israeli Government Reject New American-Proposals For Settlement of The Mideast Crisis

JERUSALEM, Dec. 22(JTA)--The Israeli Government today flatly rejected the latest American initiatives for a Middle East peace settlement, declaring that if they were ever to be put into effect, "the security and welfare of Israel would be in very grave danger."

The statement, issued by the Cabinet after an emergency session, was phrased in blunt language that left little doubt about Israel's anger and apprehension over plans recently proposed by the United States that would have Israel withdraw entirely from the Sinai Peninsula and from virtually all of the occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

"Israel will not be a victim of power politics or inter-power politics and will reject any attempt to impose upon her a forced solution," the Cabinet said.

The American plan for a solution of the Israeli-Egyptian aspects of the Middle East conflict were submitted privately to the Soviet Union last Oct. 28. They were disclosed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in a speech in Washington Dec. 9. Detailed American proposals for an Israeli-Jordanian solution, including a plan to repatriate some Palestinian refugees, was presented by the U.S. last Thursday to the three other major powers--Soviet Union, Britain and France--meeting in New York. The plan reportedly reiterated Secretary Rogers' Dec. 9 recommendation that a unified Jerusalem be governed jointly by Israel and Jordan.

The Israeli Cabinet rejected the proposals as "an infringement on Israeli sovereignty insofar as they concern the settlement of Arab refugees in Israel and the status of Jerusalem." The Cabinet statement charged that the U.S. proposals "ignore the fact that secure and agreed frontiers must be part of peace treaties arrived at through direct negotiations" and warned that they would be "interpreted by the aggressive Arab rulers as an effort to appease them at the expense of Israel."

Today's Cabinet session was called by Premier Golda Meir to consider what has been described here as a "crisis of confidence" in Israel's relations with the U.S. Reporting to his colleagues was Foreign Minister Abba Eban who returned Sunday night from a visit to the United States and Britain. Mr. Eban conferred at length last week with Secretary Rogers in Washington. Also participating was Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, who was summoned home for the meeting.

Gen. Rabin was recalled after he reported to the Prime Minister the contents of the latest American plans which the State Department communicated to him only after they had been presented to the Big Four. Foreign Minister Eban charged on his return yesterday that the American plan was withheld from him during his two and a half hour meeting with Secretary Rogers only two days before it was submitted to the Four Powers. Mr. Eban said, "Israel will oppose with all its strength every effort to fix restrictive conditions prior to negotiations." He said every such effort "must be seen as a blow to peace."

That feeling was reflected in today's Cabinet statement which called the "disquieting initiatives" by the U.S. "a serious blow to the prospects of reaching a peace settlement." The Cabinet held that the proposals "contain no real obligation on the part of the Arab states to put an end to the warlike operations of the terror and sabotage organizations."

The statement recalled that "in 1967, Israel stood alone in the face of immense forces that sought her destruction. Since then she has not stopped proposing to the Arab states that they should enter peace negotiations. The Arab governments on their part have not stopped refusing to make peace. They continue in their aggression and announce their preparations for a new all-out war."

The statement continued, "in all the years of her existence, Israel has adhered to a policy of peace with her neighbors. At the end of the Six-Day War, the Cabinet reiterated Israel's willingness to conclude a lasting peace with the Arab states arrived at through direct negotiations free of prior conditions on which each side would be free to table any proposals. This policy is in conformity with the law of nations and the international rules governing a transition from war to peace. The Government of Israel will continue to bear the responsibility for the security, the welfare and the rights of the Israeli nation in its land."

State Department Declines To Say Why Eban Was Not Told Of Plan On Jordan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22(JTA)--A State Department spokesman declined today to explain why the Department had not informed Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel during last week's meetings of the new United States proposals for a Jordanian-Israeli settlement. Spokesman Robert McCloskey was asked why the Department had not taken up the new plans with Israel when Mr. Eban met Secretary of State William P. Rogers last week. He said, "I have nothing further to say about that."

Mr. McCloskey meanwhile disclosed that the Department believes U.S. relations with the Arab states are improving. He announced that Mauretania, a Moslem nation had just asked to resume diplomatic relations with Washington.

Mr. McCloskey was questioned about tensions that might have existed in the Eban-Rogers meeting last week. He replied that the meeting was officially described as "cordial" but added that this description still allows for differences of views."

The spokesman declined to state whether there had been an erosion of U.S.-Israeli relations. He said that to answer that question would require him to speak also for the Israeli Government. As for Washington, he said, "the U.S. has presented fair and balanced proposals on the general problems of the Middle East." He said that the state Department felt that it was not unusual that efforts "to become even-handed" would cause "criticism from one side or the other." He suggested that the U.S. was not partisan as between Israel and the Arabs and had "no special axe to grind in the Middle East."

Mr. McCloskey said he had "no substantive disagreement" with the substance of published reports that the U.S. had proposed a new plan for settling Israel-Jordanian difficulties. The details of that plan appeared today in The New York Times.

Correspondents accused the spokesman of failing to announce the meeting of Secretary Rogers and a delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. They suggested that they were kept unaware of the meeting which was not listed on the officially announced calendar. It was hinted that the Department sought to minimize publicity regarding the Jewish representations.

Mr. McCloskey, when questioned, confirmed that the Jewish leaders had seen the Secretary. He was also questioned about a meeting at the White House in which American business interests and oil companies had urged that Israel be pressured to withdraw from occupied territories because, they said, U.S. investments in Moslem states were jeopardized. He stated that the White House had confirmed that the meeting had taken place and indicated that similar contacts had been made by the same interests with the State Department.

Rabbi Schacter Reports On Presidents' Conference Session With Rogers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22(JTA)--Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today following a meeting of the group with Secretary of State William P. Rogers that "profound concern" about American policy statements on the Middle East had been expressed to the Secretary. The statement read as follows: "A delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met at length today with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. They conveyed the deep concerns and apprehensions of the American Jewish community over the recent U.S. proposals in the Middle East.

"The presidents conveyed their fear that these developments will strengthen Arab intransigence and Soviet designs, and lead to an imposed settlement between the parties." This heretofore, has not been the stated policy of our Government.

"The discussion was frank and useful. In concluding the discussion, the delegation expressed its continuing profound concern over recent American policy statements as contributing neither to the long term interests of the U.S. nor to the security of Israel or the cause of peace in the Middle East."

New 12-Point Plan On Peace With Jordan Is Told By 'Times'

NEW YORK, Dec. 22(JTA)--A reported 12-point American proposal spelling out the details of a settlement between Israel and Jordan was disclosed by The New York Times. The proposal was submitted to the Four Powers (U.S., Soviet Union, Britain and France) at a meeting on the Mideast crisis here last Thursday, according to Times reporter Peter Grose.

According to the Times report, the proposal goes beyond any previous U.S. representations in that it contains a detailed plan for a solution of the Palestinian refugee problem. Under the plan, the refugee would be given the choice of repatriation to Israel or resettlement in Arab countries with compensation from Israel.

Mr. Grose reported that "it would be up to Israeli and Jordanian negotiators to agree on the number of refugees to be permitted repatriation annually, but the American paper specifies that the first refugee should arrive in Israel no more than three months after conclusion of a settlement."

Mr. Grose said that in the American view, the proposal would give Israel a virtual veto over the number of Arab refugees to be admitted but Israeli analysts have denounced the plan on grounds that it would commit Israel to the principle of individual choice by each refugee even before the negotiations began.

The U.S. plan calls for the conclusion of a final and reciprocally binding agreement between Israel and Jordan to be reached under the auspices of United Nations peace envoy Gunnar V. Jarring following the procedure used by the Israelis and Arabs at the 1949 Rhodes armistice talks.

According to Mr. Grose, the two parties would work out a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from substantially all of the West Bank occupied by Israel in the June, 1967 Six-Day war and "each country would accept the obligations of a state of peace between them, including the prohibition of any acts of violence from its territory against the other."

Under the American Plan, Israel and Jordan would agree to permanent frontiers "approximating" the 1949 armistice demarcation line but allowing for "alterations based on practical security requirements and administrative or economic convenience." The proposal relating to Jerusalem repeated almost to the word, Secretary Rogers' Dec. 9 reference to the city, according to Mr. Grose. The plan calls for a unified city in which Israel and Jordan would share in the civic and economic responsibilities of city government. Other sections of the proposal would have Israel and Jordan work out an arrangement for the Gaza Strip in line with a parallel accord between Israel and Egypt, and security

arrangements for the West Bank including the delineation of demilitarized zones. Jordan would affirm that the Straits of Tīrar and Gulf of Aqaba are international waterways open to the shipping of all nations including Israel.

The American proposal notes that an Israeli-Jordanian settlement would take effect only with a simultaneous accord between Israel and Egypt, "a point stressed by U.S. officials to rebut Arab charges that the plan seeks to divide the Arabs," Mr. Grose wrote.

Thant Predicts Big Four Will Enable Jarring To Resume Mission Soon

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 22(JTA)--Secretary General U Thant predicted today that the four Big Powers will have reached sufficient agreement on a Middle East solution by mid-January to permit Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring to resume his mission to bring about peace between Israel and the Arab states.

Mr. Thant told newsmen at a press conference that he "had a feeling" that this would be the case. Dr. Jarring was named as the United Nations special peace envoy to the Middle East in early 1968 under terms of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution. He suspended his mission last spring while the Four Powers sought to reach a general area of agreement on a Middle East settlement which would serve as a guideline for Dr. Jarring. The U.S. and Soviet Russia pursued the same goal in bilateral talks which paralleled the Four Power deliberations. Dr. Jarring has since resumed his post as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow.

Scotland Yard Says Pair Taken Into Custody In Arabs Plot To Kidnap Prominent Jews

LONDON, Dec. 22(JTA)--Scotland Yard disclosed today that two persons have been taken into custody in connection with an alleged plot of Arab terrorists to kidnap two prominent Anglo-Jewish millionaires and their families and hold them for ransom. A Scotland Yard spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the two persons have been remanded--meaning they were refused bail--pending an investigation. He said no further comment could be made under the circumstances but that police were taking "necessary steps" without waiting for court proceedings.

Details of the alleged plot were published today in the Evening News. According to the paper, the victims were to be Charles Clore, 65, chairman of the multi-million dollar Sears Group, and of Selfridges, a leading London department store, and a director of several other companies; and Lord Seiff of Brompton, 80, president of the Marks and Spencer Stores, a vice president of the World Jewish Congress and an honorary president of the British Zionist Federation. Both men have been major contributors to the Joint Palestine Appeal, the British fund-raising campaign for Israel.

The Evening News said that they and their families were to have been drugged and flown out of the country to El Fatah hideouts in the Middle East. Huge sums were to be demanded in ransom to finance El Fatah operations along with the release of all Arab terrorists held in Israel and other countries as the price for their lives, the News claimed.

The Evening News also claimed to have information that Arab terrorist organizations were recruiting British subjects, among them mercenaries who fought in the Congo, to destroy Israeli commercial airliners on British airfields and blow up Israeli ships in British ports.

Swiss Court Acquits Rachamim, Imposes 12-Year Sentences On Arabs For Attacking Plane

WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND, Dec. 22(JTA)--A Swiss court today imposed 12-year prison sentences on three Arab terrorists found guilty of the fatal attack on an El Al airliner at Zurich airport last Feb. 18 but acquitted an El Al security guard who gunned down a fourth Arab in the melee.

The president of the cantonal court, Judge Hans Gut, declared 29-year-old Mordechai Rachamim not guilty of charges of homicide under stress of passion and infringement of Swiss territory while acting as a foreign agent. The court expressed regret over the inconvenience caused Mr. Rachamim by his five weeks of detention during the preliminary investigation of the airport attack. He was subsequently freed on bail and returned to Switzerland a month ago for the trial.

The three Arabs received the maximum sentence allowed by Swiss law--12 years at hard labor. They were found guilty on five of six counts including premeditated murder, the use of explosives for criminal purposes, causing grievous bodily harm, illegal possession of arms and infringement of Swiss territorial neutrality.

The sentences were pronounced on Muhammed Abu El Heiga 24, Amina Dabhor 22, and Ibrahim Tewfik Yousof, 24. They were deprived of all civic rights for three years and were forbidden to enter Switzerland for 15 years after their sentences are completed. The trio was acquitted on the charge of having caused material damage to the Israeli Airliner. An Israeli pilot-trainee, Yoram Peress, was fatally wounded in the attack.

The outcome of the trial represented only a partial victory for the prosecuting attorney, Dr. Oscar Birch. The court accepted his recommendations with regard to sentencing the Arabs but rejected his demand that Mr. Rachamim be given a two year sentence for shooting the Arab terrorist, Abdel Muhsen. Mr. Rachamim's lawyer, George Brunshvig, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterward that the was "delighted" with the verdict. "It reached my best expectations," he said. The Israeli State Attorney, Dr. Gabriel Bach, who attended the trial as an observer and adviser to Mr. Rachamim's lawyer, said "the verdict demonstrated the court's refusal to accept the Arab claim that this was a military action and treated the attack on an unarmed civilian plane as purely a criminal act." Mr. Rachamim appeared unmoved when the verdict was read and translated to him in Hebrew. He told his attorney that he never had any doubts of the outcome of the case. He was scheduled to return to Israel today.

Members of UJA Israel Mission, Led By Joseph Shane, Call For Increased Contributions

TSL AVIV, Dec. 22(JTA)--Members of the fourth United Jewish Appeal study mission of the current campaign wound up a hectic week-long tour of Israel yesterday convinced that their principal message to American Jewry is that there must be increased contributions to meet Israel's "urgent" needs. The group members, headed by Joseph D. Shane of Los Angeles, honorary national chairman of the UJA, set the ball rolling by increasing their own pledges by 300 percent.

The study mission spent a week of almost non-stop travel which took them from the Golan Heights to the Sinai Peninsula and from Israel's sea coast to the Jordan River. Mr. Shane told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the message they are taking home with them is one of "almost incredible accomplishment by a nation facing a serious security situation combined with political hazards from friendly nations."

Mr. Shane, a tennis enthusiast, sponsors the Joseph D. Shane trophy awarded annually to the outstanding Israeli tennis player. He is behind a project to build 40 new tennis courts in Israel and around stadium in Ramat Gan. An international committee of tennis stars is administering a special fund to build the courts and to train promising Israeli players abroad.

Chavez Thanks AJCongress For Support; Rabbi Lelyveld Awaits Reponse From Laird

NEW YORK, Dec. 22(JTA)--Cesar Chavez, leader of the California grape pickers, thanked the American Jewish Congress today for its support of their two-year-old strike to demand recognition of their union by the growers. Mr. Chavez wrote to Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, AJCongress president, "I have been very pleased by the recent efforts of Jewish organizations such as yourselves. It is a great source of strength to know that you are with us."

In making public the letter, Rabbi Lelyveld noted that the AJCongress has received no reply yet to a letter he sent to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird protesting the Defense Department's policy of increased grape purchases. Rabbi Lelyveld said it was "a policy that plainly favors the grape growers in their present effort to defeat unionization of their employees."

He said the Defense Department's 1969 grape purchases were up nearly four million pounds over its 1968 level, an attempt to offset the grape boycott so that the growers can continue to refuse to negotiate with the workers. Rabbi Lelyveld urged the Defense Department to maintain "true neutrality" in the labor dispute and cut back its grape purchases to pre-boycott levels.

Los Angeles Educator Urges Appointment Of Ethics Counselors In Jewish Schools

NEW YORK, Dec. 21(JTA)--A Los Angeles Jewish educator, decrying the "morality crisis" in contemporary society, has urged the appointment of special counselors to supervise the ethics of students in Jewish schools.

The views of Dr. Zalman F. Ury, head consultant to the Bureau of Jewish Education of the Greater Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council, were presented in "The Musar Movement" (Jewish ethics), a monograph published by Yeshiva University.

Dr. Ury wrote, "The current crisis in morality in our society and the complex international situation seem to warrant special efforts in the area of character education. Jewish schools, elementary and secondary, must begin attaching more importance to character education. To this end, supervisory --mashgiach type--ethics counselors should be appointed." He proposed that the counselors could conduct "moral guidance programs," directing discussions and debates on ethical issues, and serve as a "moral guide and mentor" to individual students.

Detroit Council Sets Up Unit To Deal With Situations Affecting Overseas Jewry

DETROIT, Dec. 22(JTA)--A committee to develop policy and action recommendations for the Jewish Community Council's response to situations affecting overseas Jewish communities, with special focus on the Middle East and Soviet Jewry, has been established by the Council as a standing committee. Judge Lawrence Gubow, Council president, said that Morris Lieberman had been named chairman of the new Committee on International Concerns.

Although the Council has maintained for many years an active interest and programs in those two areas, Judge Gubow said, the Council's executive committee came to the conclusion that "growing challenges" required a more systematic involvement of a broadly-based group to develop program activities.

Mr. Lieberman said that the Council had received "excellent response" from its constituent agencies following its appeal to write to various airline pilots associations in connection with the lengthy detention of the recently-released two Israeli passengers on a TWA airliner hijacked to Damascus.

Map Of Mediterranean World Drawn By Medieval Cartographer Is Acquired By Seminary

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22(JTA)--A map of the Mediterranean world that was created in 1500 by a Jewish cartographer has been acquired by the library of Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform) here. The map, drawn by Judah Abenzara, is the only example in America of the school of medieval Jewish map-makers which reached its peak on the Balearic Island of Majorca in the 14th and 15th Centuries.

Abenzara's only other surviving work, a nautical chart, is preserved in the Vatican Library in Rome. The map acquired by the Hebrew Union covers an area including Asia Minor, Syria, Israel and Egypt. The map was made while Abenzara resided in Alexandria, Egypt. Abenzara later migrated to Safed, in what is now Israel. His early background is uncertain although it is surmised that he came to Alexandria via Spain and Italy. The Italian language is used for the legends on the map.