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Rogers Defends American Proposals For Mideast Peace; Denies 'Appeasement'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23(JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers today vigorously defended America's latest proposals for a Middle East settlement and indicated displeasure with Israel's assessment of them as tantamount to "appeasement" of the Arabs.

Mr. Rogers devoted much of his first major news conference in four months to the Middle East crisis. He said he could understand Israel's concern but added that Americans must conduct their policy in the best interests of the United States. He said the U.S. recommendations, which would have Israel withdraw from almost all of the occupied Arab territories in return for a binding peace commitment from the Arabs, was "fair" and "entirely consistent" with the United Nations Security Council's resolution of Nov. 22, 1967 which provided the "frame work" for peace. He rejected the notion that the U.S. was seeking to impose a settlement in the region and said that final negotiations would be left to the Israelis and Arabs.

In reply to a question, Mr. Rogers said "there is no linkage" between Israel's dispute with the U.S. over withdrawal from the occupied territories and Israel's pending request for more arms and economic aid from the U.S. He said Israel's request was being given careful consideration "with the knowledge that the U.S. has an obligation to support the sovereignty of Israel and its future security." Asked if the U.S. might limit arms shipments to Israel under existing contracts--apparently Phantom jets---in view of Israel's attitude toward Washington's latest proposals, Mr. Rogers said:"we have had no discussion on that at all."

Referring to Israeli charges of "appeasement", he said that was an "unfortunate word" because it suggested that the Arabs were "enemies of the U.S. and we are appeasing them." He observed that the U.S. has had friendly relations with the Arabs for many years."

Won't Explain Failure To Brief Eban On Jordanian Proposals

Asked why he had failed to disclose America's latest proposals with regard to the Israel-Jordanian aspects of the Middle East dispute during his two-and-a-half hour talk with Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban here a week ago, Mr. Rogers replied that he didn't want to enter into a discussion of that. He indicated that all parties are being kept advised of U.S. thinking.

He said he left open the details of the proposed Jerusalem settlement so that Jordan and Israel could make arrangements on that city's future status. Mr. Rogers insisted that any Mideast solution must take into account the Arab refugees. He said, however, that the U.S. had no intention of dealing directly or indirectly with Arab guerrilla groups.

Mr. Rogers enumerated what he described as foreign policy achievements by the Nixon Administration during the past year. He said he regretted that the Middle East was the "single exception."

Knesset Will Hold Debate Monday On Cabinet Stand On U.S. Proposals

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23(JTA)--Premier Golda Meir will make a statement to the Knesset next Monday on American policy toward Israel. A debate will follow. Her statement is expected to be along the lines of yesterday's Cabinet communique which flatly rejected the latest United States proposals for a settlement between Israel and Egypt and Jordan.

(In New York, the United Nations ambassadors of the Four Powers met this afternoon in their 21st meeting on the Middle East. Today's meeting was at the home of Ambassador Armand Berard of France.)

(At Rabat, a showdown between "moderate" and extremist elements in the Arab summit conference resulted in a demonstrative walkout from the conference by President Nasser of Egypt in apparent protest against the refusal of the oil-rich states to promise the funds he demanded. Mr. Nasser returned to the evening session of the conference which was boycotted in turn by the Iraqi and Syrian delegates.)

Mrs. Meir granted an interview to the New York Times correspondent, James Feron, yesterday, following an emergency session of the Cabinet devoted to the latest U.S. initiatives in the Middle East conflict. Highlights of the interview, broadcast by the Israeli radio today, pictured Mrs. Meir as bitter over what she regarded as a serious erosion of U.S. support for Israel amounting almost to appeasement of the Arabs.

The Prime Minister's office said today that the broadcast gave an incorrect impression that Mrs. Meir had complained that the Nixon Administration was consulting Israel less than the administration of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. "The Prime Minister made no such comment nor did she draw any comparison whatever between the administrations," a communique said. Mr. Feron confirmed that the remark attributed to Mrs. Meir was actually his commentary. He wrote: "Mrs. Meir spoke of the stream of proposals that have been presented to the major powers by Washington. Under President

Johnson, Israel apparently was consulted beforehand; now it appears that some were submitted as late as 11 weeks after they were presented to the big powers."

'Deep Feeling Of Injustice' Manifest At Cabinet Meeting

In her interview with the Times, Mrs. Meir quoted from successive U.S. formulations on boundaries and on the Arab refugee question which showed a gradual edging away by the Administration from previous positions supporting Israel. Mr. Feron reported that Mrs. Meir told him that at yesterday's Cabinet meeting "there was a deep feeling of injustice. After all that's happened, we're asked to go in to something like this, to start all over again as though it was 1948."

She said the U.S. had submitted 10 or 15 proposals since 1967 while the Russians made only one and have stood by it. "I don't think its Washington's intention, but each new proposal encourages the Arabs to increase their military activity across the border. Things are going good for them. They just have to shoot more. How can this lead to peace?" Mrs. Meir asked.

American diplomats here are insisting that there has been no change in the basic policy supporting Israel that the United States has followed since the June, 1967 war. Such assurances are coming from U.S. sources here and abroad, apparently to mollify Israeli bitterness over the latest Middle East peace proposals to emanate from Washington.

The Americans are also giving assurances that the Nixon Administration is earnestly considering Israel's requests for U.S. military equipment and economic aid. They say that the "balanced" approach enunciated by Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Dec. 9 was necessary to strengthen the hand of moderate Arabs at the Rabat Arab summit conference.

Cardinal Cushing Hits Administration For Changing Policy On Israel

BOSTON, Dec. 23(JTA)--Richard Cardinal Cushing, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, criticized the Nixon Administration today for changing its policy toward Israel. The Cardinal warned that United States efforts to seek a Middle East settlement in collaboration with Russia, Britain and France, "may end in clamor for Israel." He called for "face-to-face negotiations" between Israel and the Arabs as the only effective way to achieve real peace.

Cardinal Cushing said, "Proposals made in Washington within the past few days seem to me to reflect a departure from a previous well-established determination on the part of the United States to insist on direct negotiation between Israel and the Arab states." He added, "Efforts by our Government and the governments of the Soviet Union, England and France to impose peace terms may end in clamor for Israel, which needs so desperately to be secure, to be free, to help remake the lives of thousands driven out of Europe by harsh repression."

Cardinal Cushing urged the Nixon Administration "to cling fast to the policy rooted in the realization that lasting peace in the Middle East is achievable only by face-to-face negotiations between the Arab states and Israel."

Congressmen Ask Nixon To Clarify Position On Mideast Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23(JTA)--Rep. Bertram L. Podell, New York Democrat told the House of Representatives today that he had asked President Nixon whether he should regard expressions by Secretary of State Rogers "or your own words as the official guideline to our Middle East policy." Mr. Podell quoted at length from Mr. Nixon's commitments on Israel and asked the President to advise Congress if he had changed his mind. He said the notion was spreading that "our government is willing to use its great influence on Israel to force a withdrawal similar to the 1957 rollback."

Rep. Joshua Eilberg, Pennsylvania Democrat, said that he had asked Sen. Hugh Scott, the Republican Minority leader, to use his "enormous prestige to convince President Nixon to provide support for Israel."

Re. Eilberg said he had told the Pennsylvania senator that he was concerned that the Nixon Administration "may so badly erode Israel's position at the conference table and on the battlefield that once again her security will be seriously compromised."

(In New York, Jacob Stein, president of the United Synagogue of America, called for an emergency conference of all major American Jewish organizations to deal with the latest developments in American policy towards Israel and the Middle East. The proposal was made in a message to Dr. William Wexler, newly elected president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.)

In Montevideo, the Zionist Organization of Uruguay endorsed proposals for convocation of an urgent meeting of world Jewish leaders in Israel to consider the country's present situation and express their solidarity with the Jewish State.)

Israelis To Pay Heavier Direct And Indirect Taxes In 1970

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23(JTA)--Across-the-board increases in the direct and indirect taxes paid by Israelis are included in the 1970 budget now in the final stages of preparation by the Finance Ministry, informed sources said today.

Expected to rise are municipal taxes, automobile and television license fees and the sales taxes on tobacco, liquor and virtually every category of consumer goods. The budget will go into effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Israeli Commandos Carry Out Raid 100 Miles Behind Suez Front

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23(JTA)--Israeli commandos staged a hit-and-run mortar attack on a major Egyptian naval base about 100 miles south of the Suez Canal last night, a military spokesman announced today. No details of the action were given but all of the raiders were reported to have returned safely to their base.

The target of the attack was Safaga, a naval base on the Gulf of Suez surrounded by army camps and other military installations. The spokesman said that fires were seen in the target area indicating direct hits. The attack was the second Israeli penetration of Egyptian territory within a week. Earlier Israeli commandos struck an Egyptian Army camp behind the Suez Canal lines.

Cairo claimed today that the attack on Safaga was an air raid and that the Israeli planes were driven off by Egyptian anti-aircraft fire and jet fighters. But a subsequent Egyptian broadcast said the Israelis were evacuated by air, a tacit admission that a force had landed.

An Israeli soldier was killed in an exchange of fire with Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal yesterday. He was identified as Pvt. Nissum Yaacob.

Rocket Attacks Made On Settlements From Lebanon, Jordan

A Katyusha rocket, fired from Lebanese territory, exploded in a school in Kiryat Shemona early today before classes began. The school was empty at the time and no casualties were reported. Another rocket exploded in a deserted street, shattering glass, but caused no casualties or other damage.

Two Katyusha rockets were fired from Jordanian territory today at Afikim and Samakh on the south shore of Lake Tiberias. No casualties or damage was reported. A bazooka shell fired from Lebanon at Kibbutz Misgav Am yesterday caused no casualties or damage.

Israeli jets attacked Jordanian military positions and guerrilla emplacements opposite the Beisan Valley yesterday. All planes returned safely.

London Press Gives Further Details On Arab Plot To Kidnap British Jews

LONDON, Dec. 23(JTA)--Further details of an alleged plot by Arab terrorists to kidnap two Anglo-Jewish millionaires who are major supporters of Israel appeared in the British press today. The plot was exposed by a British detective who infiltrated a pro-Arab organization. According to the Daily Mirror, the Foreign Office has the names of two Arab diplomats who were allegedly the local contacts of the kidnapers and were to have supplied them with funds.

The Evening News reported yesterday that the intended victims were Charles Clore, 65 and Lord Seiff, of Brimpton, 80, and their families who were to have been drugged and flown to an El Fatah hide-out in the Middle East where they would be held for ransom. The Mirror reported that the kidnap plans were discovered in the course of four police raids in and around London. The paper said detectives found a list of 11 other Jews earmarked for kidnapping and papers listing the day-to-day movements of some of them. The Mirror quoted a detective who led the raids as saying that the El Fatah plans "may sound far-fetched, but every detail had been analyzed, checked and carefully worked out."

Scotland Yard officials declined to say today whether there was any connection between the arrest of Capt. Trefor Owens Williams, 40, in Bracknell, on charges of planning to blow up an airliner of another country and charges made by Paul Rose, M.P., that an Arab organization was recruiting British nationals to sabotage El Al airliners at Heathrow Airport, London.

According to the prosecutor's office, Williams made a full confession of involvement in an espionage plot. A quantity of explosives was in his possession. He was held without bail on charges that could carry 14 years imprisonment.

Allon Says \$280 Million needed For Immigrant Housing In Next Fiscal Year

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23(JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon said yesterday that \$280 million was needed for immigrant housing during the coming fiscal year which begins April 1, 1970. He said \$161 million would be spent for that purpose during the current fiscal year.

Mr. Allon referred to immigrant housing needs in an address on the occasion of his leave-taking from the Absorption Ministry. He served as Minister of Immigrant Absorption in the old government and was appointed Minister of Education in the new. He welcomed Shimon Peres who will be in charge of the Absorption Ministry on a caretaker basis. The portfolio has been reserved for the Mapam Party, a partner in the Labor Alignment, which has joined the government but refuses to accept a ministerial assignment.

Israel Admits 39 American Negroes Who Want To Settle There As Jews

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23(JTA)--Israeli officials decided today to admit 39 American Negroes--15 of them children--who arrived here unexpectedly yesterday declaring themselves Jews seeking to settle in Israel as immigrants. They have been given temporary visas for a three-month stay in the country pending the issuance of permanent residents permits.

The group, originally from Chicago, came here from Liberia where they had set up a communal type settlement. They told Israeli officials that they were made to feel unwanted in the African country and decided to go to Israel "where we belong."

Whether the group will be granted immigrant status and the privileges that go with it remains to be seen. One possible obstacle is Israel's chief Rabbinate which decrees who is and who is not a Jew. The rabbinate insists that Jewishness is determinable only by the Orthodox criteria which claims that a Jew is a person born of a Jewish mother or converted in accordance with Orthodox rites. Meanwhile the Jewish Agency has arranged for part of the group to settle temporarily in Dimona, in the Negev. Others may be settled near Nazerath and Arad. The new arrivals who are without funds, were invited to spend the night in the homes of local residents.

Purdue Sets New Quota System For Admissions From New York, New Jersey

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. Dec. 23 (JTA)--Purdue University has eased a 20-year restriction on the admission of applicants from the metropolitan New York-New Jersey area but has introduced a new quota on admissions to the undergraduate school from the states of New York and New Jersey which does not apply to other states of the Union. The university, a state institution, eased the old ban after Rabbi Gerald Engel, Hillel Foundation director on the campus, and members of the student body had charged that the geographical quota system was actually racist in its operation since a great majority of the applicants from the eastern area were members of minorities, many of them Jewish.

Under the original restriction, admissions from the metropolitan New York-New Jersey area were limited to the children of Purdue graduates. No such limitation was applied to other parts of the country except that out-of-state students were limited to 25 percent of the student enrollment. Under the new arrangement going into effect with the new semester, admissions from New York and New Jersey will be limited to that proportion of the student body which the two states represent.

In a letter to Rabbi Engel, Dr. John W. Hicks, assistant to Purdue president Frederick L. Hovde, denied that the previous system had been intended to discriminate against any minority groups. "To remove the least shadow of doubt, however," he said, the university was modifying the policy.

Beginning with the first semester of 1970, Dr. Hicks announced, "the blanket restrictions on admission of non-alumni related students from the metropolitan New York area will be removed and the director of admissions is authorized to admit a quota of students from the states of New York and New Jersey based upon their academic standing, with preference still extended to sons and daughters of Purdue Alumni as in the past. The quota shall be based upon the approximate percentage of the population of New York and New Jersey to the total population of the nation."

The Purdue admissions authorities apparently are continuing efforts to discourage applicants from New York and New Jersey. While letters of inquiry from other states received an encouraging response and application form, applicants from New York and New Jersey receive letters discouraging their further interest. Applicants from New York are told that only 120 freshmen can be admitted from the state in next September's entering class. New Jersey applicants are told that only 44 can be accepted.

The letters note that preference will be given to sons and daughters of alumni and point out that "since the filing of an application requires a \$20 non-refundable application fee and since the number of non-alumni admissions will be so small, we feel all inquirers must know our limitations before they apply."

Seek Ban On Display Of Religious Symbols On Public Property In Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Two Chicago aldermen have introduced a resolution in the City Council to ban the use of religious symbols on public property. The resolution, sponsored by Leon M. Despres and Jack Sperling, was referred to the committee on economic and cultural development.

It asked the city to reaffirm "its full support of religion" but "not to give governmental support to any particular religion" under the First Amendment to the Constitution on the separation of church and state. The resolution referred to a recent ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court which banned the erection of a cross on public property.

Columbia University Uses Computers To Prepare Ashkenazic 'Language, Cultural Atlas'

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Columbia University is employing computers to prepare a "Language and Cultural Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry," a compendium of the Yiddish language and how it was spoken by Jews of Eastern and Central Europe for a thousand years.

The project is directed by Marvin I. Herzog, associate professor of linguistics and Yiddish studies at Columbia. The atlas will contain hundreds of maps documenting the geographical distribution of variations in use and the meaning of words, pronunciation, idioms and grammatical patterns which existed among Yiddish-speaking Jews until the Nazi era.

Prof. Herzog said, "The concept underlying the Atlas is that language and culture vary in time and space. Our object is to determine the location of the boundaries between variants and to infer from location whatever is possible about the history of the language and its speakers."

JNF Gives Christmas Trees To Christian Residents Of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund has distributed more than 1,000 Christmas trees to members of Jerusalem's Christian community. The pine trees from JNF forests were given away free to foreign diplomats, monasteries, churches and private citizens. This is the eighth year that JNF has been supplying Christmas trees to Jerusalem's Christian residents.

Histadrut Contributes \$5,000 To General Electric Strikers In United States

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Histadrut, the General Labor Federation of Israel, has contributed \$5,000 to the General Electric strikers fund in the United States, it was disclosed today. Histadrut sent the money along with a message stating its support of the strikers' demand for free collective bargaining.

Finance Minister Pleads For Holding Of Line On Wages, Prices

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir warned here that Israel faces an "economic earthquake" next year unless urgent measures are taken. He appealed to industrialists and workers to modify their demands for higher prices and higher wages.