

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 460 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Tuesday, March 24, 1970

No. 56

Rogers: No Jets Now To Israel But U.S. Will Give Israel \$100 Million In Economic Aid

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA)—Secretary of State William P. Rogers today formally announced that the United States has rejected Israel's request for additional aircraft but that the U.S. will "make renewed efforts in diplomatic channels" to "engage the other major suppliers to the Middle East in early arms limitation talks." Prior to the news conference at which Mr. Rogers spelled out this country's policy, he told Congressional leaders that the Nixon administration will provide \$100 million in economic aid as "aid of a kind Israel needs to bolster its economic and military stance." This economic aid, he said, will come from military funds. Mr. Rogers' noon press conference had been impatiently awaited by Israel since President Nixon declared on January 30 that he would announce within 30 days the administration's decision whether or not to authorize Israel to purchase additional Phantom and Skyhawk jets it had requested. Mr. Nixon blunted Mr. Rogers' announcement by hinting Saturday that Israel would not, at this time, get the jets.

(In Jerusalem Foreign Minister Abba Eban made public Israel's official reply to Mr. Rogers. It strongly urged the United States to make an urgent reappraisal of the existing and anticipated balance of forces in the Middle East and declared that "the absence of a positive response by the United States at this stage has aroused our disappointment and concern.")

In his prepared statement, Mr. Rogers stated that "In our judgment, Israel's air capacity is sufficient to meet its needs for the time being. Consequently, the President has decided to hold in abeyance for now a decision with respect to Israel's request for additional aircraft." Mr. Rogers advanced four proposals aimed, he said, at reducing hostilities "and thus enhance the prospects for peace" in the Middle East. The four proposals, which Mr. Rogers asserted the U.S. will make with renewed efforts, were to "encourage both sides to adhere fully to the UN ceasefire resolutions; call upon the parties to the conflict to reappraise positions which have become roadblocks to peace; urge all concerned to support proposals which would help Ambassador Jarring launch a process of negotiations among the parties under his auspices; and engage the other major suppliers to the Middle East in early arms limitation talks."

U.S. Policy On Jets Is 'Interim Decision'; Mideast Military Balance Will Be Watched

Referring to the proposed economic aid, Mr. Rogers said the United States will respond "affirmatively" to certain of Israel's short term financial requests "while studying further its longer range needs." He said there will be an expanded PL-480 program for purchase of surplus food, primarily feed grains and wheat "under favorable credit arrangements." Mr. Rogers added "We will also extend credit to help cover the balance due on past military contracts." Focusing on the Soviet Union's supply of SAM-3 missiles and additional Soviet personnel to Egypt, Mr. Rogers declared: "The situation bears and will receive close and careful scrutiny by us as well as continuous review and evaluation." Mr. Rogers declared that "if steps are taken which might upset the current balance or if in our judgment political developments warrant, the President will not hesitate to reconsider this matter." The Secretary of State stressed that "restraint will be required on the part of other major suppliers to the Middle East. No nation can pursue a policy of seeking unilateral advantage in the area if peace is to be achieved." He reiterated the statement made by President Nixon at his press conference Saturday, that the United States decision on aircraft to Israel was an "interim decision."

Continuing, Mr. Rogers said that the United States will continue to keep close watch on the military balance in the Mideast. "The United States will be in a position to provide additional as well as replacement aircraft promptly if the situation requires it," he affirmed. "To this end, the United States will remain in close consultation with those concerned." Mr. Rogers told the news conference that the decisions which the administration has taken regarding Israel's requests for additional planes and its warning that it will maintain a close watch on the situation "are taken with the strong conviction that ultimate security for all concerned lies in peace. They are taken in the belief that the current trend of events must be reversed if the situation is to be stabilized and if progress toward peace is to begin." In replies to questions by newsmen, Mr. Rogers stated that the decision on the jets "was made with the same care the U.S. would appraise its own security." He told newsmen that the agreement to sell Libya eight F-3 low-altitude planes was made a year ago, prior to the change in that country's government and would now be reconsidered. Replying to Israel's comment that it would channel future military aid requests secretly to avoid additional embarrassment in case of turndowns, Mr. Rogers said "Secrecy is not a very productive policy to follow in our system of government." This remark drew the only laughter at the press conference.

Eban Cautions Rogers' Announcement Disappointing; Cites Danger Of Expanding Conflict

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA)—Israel asked the United States today "to make an urgent reappraisal of the actual and expected balance of forces" in the Middle East and, in effect, to reconsider its decision, announced by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Washington this morning, not to provide Israel with the additional Phantom and Skyhawk jets it requested last September. Israel's official reply to Secretary Rogers' announcement was made public by Foreign Minister Abba Eban in a television and radio appearance shortly after it was conveyed to the U.S. State Department by

Israel's Ambassador in Washington, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Eban said, "The Government of Israel expects the close watch (on the Mideast military balance) indicated by the President to result soon in practical steps to prevent the increase of the dangerous imbalance and to supply Israel with the aircraft so necessary and vital for her security."

Mr. Eban said that "Israel's ability to withstand and repel attack is the only concrete factor capable of deterring the Arab states and especially the United Arab Republic, from renewing the war in full scale and fury. If these governments imagine that our air strength will lag behind the re-enforcement of the Arab states in aircraft, the chance of avoiding an expanding conflict will seriously diminish." The Israeli Foreign Minister said that this view was presented to the U.S. last September when Israel asked the U.S. Government to enable it to buy a number of additional aircraft for delivery in 1971-72.

"We were convinced that the consequent dangers could only be effectively met by making Israel stronger and by ensuring that there be no illusion that Israel could be successfully attacked," Mr. Eban said. "Accordingly, Israel awaited the United States response in a mood of deep suspense. The absence of a positive response by the United States at this stage has aroused our disappointment and concern. Israel's vital needs for self defense are not met in the statement (by Secretary Rogers) published today." Mr. Eban said that the lack of a positive response was also liable to be interpreted by Soviet Russia "as an assurance that its continued support of the aggressive Egyptian design may go forward without impediment."

Israel Welcomes U.S. Economic Aid And Continuing Friendship Between Two Countries

The Israeli Foreign Minister stated that "in recent days it has become established beyond all doubt that something of serious consequence has taken place. The Soviet Union has introduced into Egypt a missile system of the SAM-3 category, accompanied by a substantial number of Soviet personnel designed for its activation. The purpose of this missile system is to serve the Egyptians as an umbrella, under whose shelter they plan to intensify their continued attacks across the ceasefire lines. This weapons system represents a new political and military dimension which all those concerned for the balance of forces and the promotion of stability in our region must take into serious account." Mr. Eban said, "We believe that this development greatly strengthens the urgency of a response to our security request."

He said Israel has taken note of President Nixon's March 22 statement, repeated by Secretary Rogers today that the decision on Israel's request for more aircraft was an "interim decision." He said, "We also note their remarks about the evidence of new SAM-3 missiles and Soviet military personnel which the Soviet Union introduced into Egypt. We also note the assurance by the President and the Secretary of State that this situation bears and will receive close and careful scrutiny by the U.S. Government as well as continuous review and evaluation." Continuing, Mr. Eban stated, "In this context, we attach importance to the fact that the U.S. Government has no intention of jeopardizing Israel's security."

Mr. Eban said further that in light of the recent developments, Israel also "ascribed great importance" to Secretary Rogers' indication that President Nixon has instructed that a close watch be kept on the military balance in the Mideast and that the U.S. would provide additional as well as replacement aircraft promptly if the situation requires it. Mr. Eban said the Israeli Government appreciated the U.S. Government's decision to respond "in significant measure" to Israel's requests for economic aid, submitted concurrently with its request for more aircraft last September. "The friendship between Israel and the U.S. has deep roots in the consciousness of both nations," Mr. Eban said. "This came to cogent expression during the meetings between President Nixon and Prime Minister Golda Meir last September and in many subsequent contacts and discussions. We believe that Israel and the U.S. have many common values and a long record of friendship."

Jewish Groups Express Regrets At Decision To Withhold Sale Of Jets To Israel

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)—The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations expressed "disappointment" today with the U.S. Government's decision to hold in abeyance Israel's request for more jet warplanes. The group's view was stated in a telegram to Secretary of State William P. Rogers who announced the Nixon Administration's decision at a press conference in Washington earlier in the day. The telegram, signed by Jacob Stein, acting chairman of the Presidents Conference, stated that the aircraft requested by Israel were "urgently and critically needed for her defense and survival." It said, "In our view, this interim decision will not serve American interests in the Middle East or advance the cause of peace and stability in that troubled area. We earnestly hope that the continuing review of Israel's requests for jet aircraft will be made in light of the deepening Soviet commitment to the Arab states."

The American Jewish Committee said it "regrets" the Nixon Administration's decision to postpone action on Israel's request for more jet aircraft, but AJC Committee president Philip E. Hoffman said in a statement released here that his organization was nevertheless "encouraged" by "much of what is contained in (Secretary of State) Rogers' statement and by President Nixon's words at his press conference Saturday." Mr. Hoffman said, "We are particularly heartened by the clear and unequivocal reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to Israel's independence, security and economic viability." He noted that commitment "is given concrete expression by Mr. Rogers' announcement that the U.S. will provide substantial economic aid to Israel." Mr. Hoffman added that Secretary Rogers' announcement was re-assuring because it indicated that the U.S. will provide Israel with additional and replacement aircraft should the Mideast arms balance deteriorate.

12 Nations Condemn Israel's Occupied Territory Policy; WJC Congress Stopped From Talking

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 23 (JTA)--The United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution today condemning Israel for alleged human rights violations in the occupied territories, although less than 40 percent of the 32-nation membership voted for it. The resolution was backed by 12 nations, including the Arab and Communist countries, India, Iran, Turkey and Mauritania. Israel and two African members--Tanzania and Senegal--refused to vote. The members representing Western (including the United States), Latin American and African countries--abstained. Before the vote by the Commission was taken the representative of the World Jewish Congress, which has consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council, was stopped by the UAR delegate when he tried to present to the Commission evidence relating to the character of Israel's administration of the territories occupied after the Six-Day War. Max Melamet said his organization had not hesitated to be critical of certain actions of the Israel Government but unlike some of the critics on the Commission had not focused exclusively on possible crimes or isolated excesses but had endeavored to see the picture in its entirety.

Mr. Melamet said the Israeli occupation had to be judged by comparison with other occupations and not by the criteria of peace time. He referred to the fact that in spite of the sense of outrage caused by the nature of some of the terrorist bombings, the death sentence had not been imposed in a single case. He said that not only had material benefits been brought to the Arabs in the occupied territories, but they also enjoyed freedom of expression. He cited the example of Al Kuds, an Arabic paper published in Jerusalem which had a wide circulation and which was very critical of the Israeli Government. It was at this point that the UAR delegate said that a non-governmental organization had no right to speak on the nature of Israel's occupation but should confine itself to the subject of violation of human rights in the occupied territories. Morocco supported the UAR and said that the World Jewish Congress was defending Israel which was represented by its own delegation.

Mr. Melamet replied that if he were not to be permitted to present evidence he had collected which he thought was relevant and of interest to the Commission to show that all wrong was not on one side and all right on the other, he would abide by the opinion of the Commission. He concluded by saying that his organization was "convinced that sooner or later, and we earnestly hope it will be sooner rather than later, Jews and Arabs in the Middle East will have to accept that the history that joined their destinies demands that reciprocal destruction must yield to reciprocal recognition and peaceful cooperation...we do not believe that the cause of peace is advanced by addressing oneself to the vexed problem of the Middle East as if the Arab states were completely without responsibility for the strife in that area and it were only from Israel that conciliation and accommodation must come."

Reports Say Dr. Jarring May Soon Return To Moscow; Talks With Big Four Completed

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 23 (JTA)--Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special envoy for the Middle East, has completed nearly two weeks of consultations here on the possibility of resuming his peace-seeking mission in the Middle East without finding any basis for renewed action or any change in the situation that offered any hopes that a renewed effort at this time, would be productive. Informed sources here said that Dr. Jarring had exhausted about all the possibilities and had explored every possible avenue without receiving any encouragement that a renewal of his efforts to bring the Arabs and Israelis together for negotiations would have any chances of success. He was consequently described as ready to return to his ambassadorial functions as Swedish envoy to Moscow. A United Nations spokesman said Monday that Dr. Jarring was continuing his consultations here and had no present plans for leaving New York. But Dr. Jarring's meeting last Friday with Ambassador Charles W. Yost of the United States completed his round of talks with the Four Powers and made it clear to him that there had not been and was not likely to be soon any Four Power agreement on new "guidelines" for his mission.

Soviet Union Reported Ready To Resume Bilateral Talks On The Middle East

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA)--Informed sources confirmed reports here today that the Soviet Union has agreed to resume bilateral talks on the Middle East. They are expected to begin in April between Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. The sources said the Soviets had agreed "in principle" to the new talks because of the failure of the Four Power deliberations conducted in New York between the UN representatives of the United States, Russia, Britain and France. They said the White House was also believed to feel that the Four Power talks had reached an impasse. But it was reliably reported that the Soviets had approached the U.S. regarding resumption of the Two-Power approach. President Nixon has stated in the past that the U.S. was tired of making proposals that the Soviets constantly rebuffed and that the next move was Moscow's. It was noted that the Soviet-American meetings will not replace the Big Four talks at the UN but further meetings of the latter might be deferred when the bi-lateral discussions get under way.

Two Israeli Civilians Killed and 11 Injured, Five Seriously, in Mine Incident

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA)--Two Israeli civilians were killed and 11 injured this morning in a mine incident on a Sinai road junction. The two civilians were identified as Zadok Salman, 40, and Claude Levi, 33, of Beersheba, both of them fathers of three children. Levi was killed when a road grader he was operating hit a mine near the Bir Hasanah road junction. A short time later a pick-up truck hit another mine in the same area killing Salman and injuring 11 other occupants of the truck, five of them seriously. Israel Air Force jets attacked an Egyptian radar station at Baltim in the Nile Delta today and returned safely to base. A military spokesman said the radar station was attacked by Israeli bombers about six weeks ago but was repaired by the Egyptians necessitating a second attack.

Tekoa Calls UN Performance In Mideast Disappointing And Ineffective

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoa, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, said in a broadcast this morning that the UN's record of achievement in the Middle East was "disappointing," that it has projected a pro-Arab "parliamentary imbalance" instead of a "balanced consensus," and that it has "not even been able to censure the murder of Israelis" or enforce its own ceasefires. Mr. Tekoa, who has criticized the world organization and Secretary General U Thant in the past, declared that of the "countless resolutions" on the Mideast in the General Assembly, "almost all are pro-Arab," because members with that attitude outnumber Israel by "40 or 50" to "only one," and that five of the current 18 members of the decision-making Security Council were anti-Israel. The UN's record, he charged, has fallen short of its "lofty ideals."

Mr. Tekoa was heard in an interview recorded recently in Israel by Arnold Forster, general counsel to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and broadcast today on WMCA Radio. The ambassador, who previously represented Israel in Brazil and in the Soviet Union, asserted that a Mideast solution must result from Arab-Israeli negotiations, because "no war in the world" has ever been settled without direct talks between or among the parties involved. The attempt of the Big Four to impose a settlement, he charged, was "circumventing, delaying and undermining" the search for peace. But Mr. Tekoa did not recommend that the UN be replaced. Though it needs "a change of attitude" by hostile members to be effective in matters of warfare, he commented, it "continues to be useful" in economic, social and legal areas.

Civic, Labor And Church Leaders Urge U. S. Reaffirmation Of Direct Israel-Arab Talks

DETROIT, March 23 (JTA)--Outstanding Michigan civic, labor and church leaders have signed a declaration urging President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers to "remove any doubt about our government's current position by reaffirming America's original policy of support of direct negotiations" between Israel and the Arab states for settlement of their conflict. The declaration also took the position that the only role of the Big Powers was to encourage direct negotiations. Among those signing the statement were Walter Reuther, president of the United Mine Workers; Rt. Rev. Walter J. Schoenherr, Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese; Bishop Dwight E. Leder of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church; August Scholle, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO, and James Wattle, president of the Michigan NAACP. The declaration was circulated by the Jewish Community Council of Detroit, assisted by the Jewish Labor Committee.

Members Of Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry Counter Soviet Photo Exhibit

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)--About 30 representatives of the Students Struggle for Soviet Jewry put up a pictorial display outside the Gallery of Modern Art on Columbus Circle yesterday to "counter" a Soviet photographic exhibit being held inside. The display consisted of photographs, posters and documents on the alleged repression of Jews in the USSR. According to Glim Richter, a spokesman for the group, its purpose was to present what the Soviet exhibit omitted--Moscow's current campaign against Israel and its denial of basic rights to Soviet Jews. Mr. Richter said the counter-exhibit would follow the Soviet exhibit to Chicago, San Francisco, San Antonio and New Orleans. He said it also would be staged again in New York as long as the Soviet display remained here. He said some persons emerging from the Soviet exhibit were hostile but no incidents occurred. Police were on hand but did not interfere with the street-corner activity.

JDL Stages Sit-In At Office Of President Of Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)--Members of the Jewish Defense League staged a sit-in in the office of the president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York this morning to support demands that the Federation allocate more funds for Jewish education, provide funds to finance the league's "safety patrols," assist institutions threatened by violence and arrange for "popular" election of Federation officials. Later the sit-in was strengthened by pickets outside the building. A Federation spokesman said the organization would not be pressured into negotiating with the league. He pointed out that the Federation now allocates in excess of \$1.5 million for Jewish education and that there were channels provided for applications to Federation for support. He said that the Federation rejected the demand for funds for the league's "safety patrols" taking the position that security was the function of the civic authorities. The Federation had no immediate plans to have the demonstrators ejected from its offices.

Jerusalem Is One Of Three Foreign Cities That Will Show Film On Dr. King

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)--Jerusalem is one of three foreign cities--the others are Amsterdam and Copenhagen--that have arranged, at their request, local showings of the motion picture documentary "King: A Filmed Record, Montgomery to Memphis" coincident with the once-only theatrical showing in the United States next Tuesday night. The almost-three-hour production details the life, work and death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose assassination in 1968 was a cause for widespread mourning in Israel and other foreign countries. All income from the showings will go to aid civil rights causes. The film was produced by Ely Landau, among whose previous work is "The Pawnbroker" (1965), starring Rod Taylor as a Jewish victim of the Nazi terror.

60-Page Guide To Israel Published By American Section Of Jewish Agency

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA)--A 60-page Guide to Israel Programs, listing 76 summer, six-month and year-around programs in Israel open to Americans, has been published by the American section of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The third such compilation, and described as the most comprehensive of its kind, the guide was designed "as a service to individuals and organizations--particularly in the fields of youth education--to provide in one directory a large number of the available programs for visiting and studying Israel," according to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American section.