

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Dobrynin And Rogers Meet To Set Stage For Projected Bilateral Talks Next Month

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA)—Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin met today with Secretary of State Rogers at the latter's request in a prelude to projected bilateral negotiations between Mr. Dobrynin and Joseph Sisco, United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. The Dobrynin-Rogers meeting was put back from this morning because of Mr. Rogers' consultations at the White House. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey said today's discussion "may provide a basis for determining the utility of restarting the bilateral talks between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., which had reached what we called an extended pause towards the end of the year (1969)." Sources said their meeting was an immediate follow-up to Secretary Rogers' announcement Monday that the sale of more warplanes to Israel was being held in abeyance. "The bilateral talks were suspended last December after Moscow rejected the latest U.S. initiatives. Mr. Rogers said Monday that there were no signs at the moment that the Russians have budged from their position.

Secretary Rogers invited Ambassador Dobrynin to today's confab, but only after the Russians had approached the Nixon Administration seeking a Two Power talk resumption. The implication, according to sources, was that the Kremlin had decided to be flexible. This belief was strengthened by Mr. McCloskey's disclosure today that Dobrynin and Rogers had met on March 11 for a half-hour discussion of Middle East problems. But said he did not consider himself "at liberty" to reveal the specific subjects tackled. It was reliably learned that the recent Soviet shipment of SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles to Egypt was not one of them. Mr. Rogers' agenda for Mr. Dobrynin this afternoon was the four points he listed at his Monday press conference. Under the four points, the U.S. would "encourage" both the Arabs and the Israelis to "adhere fully" to the United Nations cease-fires; call on them to "re-appraise positions which have become roadblocks to peace"; urge them to assist the negotiation mission of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, and "engage the other major suppliers to the Middle East in early arms limitation talks."

Mr. McCloskey recalled that last October the U.S. wrote the Kremlin insisting that the bilateral talks were suffering from Soviet inflexibility. Last December, the Soviet reply was described by the White House as "retrogressive," and there were subsequent letters by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin on January 31 and by President Nixon on February 5. It is believed by some observers that Mr. Nixon's decision against immediate new weaponry to Israel has led the Soviets to be more amenable to bilateral meetings, this despite "no new Soviet proposals," which was an American condition for Two Power negotiation resumption. (Official quarters in Jerusalem expressed doubt today that anything useful will come of the U.S.-Soviet bi-lateral talks on the Mideast which are expected to be resumed in Washington next month. The consensus here is that the Americans and Russians are as far apart as they were last December. They say that the basic American aim is to bring the Arabs and Israelis together eventually to negotiate details of a peace agreement. But, according to the Israelis, the Soviets are not interested in peace and continue to insist on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Israeli circles believe the Russian position has hardened since December.) (In New York, the Four Power meeting on the Middle East scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed until next Tuesday at the request of Lord Caradon, the British representative. It was announced today. Lord Caradon gave a speaking engagement as the reason for his request. Observers here said the four powers thought it advisable to defer their further talks in light of the meeting in Washington today between Mr. Rogers and Ambassador Dobrynin.)

## Sisco Gives Assurances The U.S. Will Not Abandon Or Jeopardize Security Of Israel

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)—A high ranking State Department official has declared that the United States "won't abandon or jeopardize the security of Israel" and stressed that American policy in the Middle East still insists on a "binding contractual peace treaty and formal establishment of peace." Dov Zakin, member of Israel's Knesset and political secretary of the Mapam faction disclosed today that these assurances were given to him by Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco at a meeting in Washington this week. Mr. Zakin is visiting the U.S. as a guest of the "Friends of Givat Hariva." He said he conferred for three hours with State Department officials including an hour each with Mr. Sisco and Undersecretary of State Roger Davies, on the Middle East.

He said that Mr. Sisco explained in detail the American decision to hold in abeyance Israel's request for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets, a decision that the Israeli MK strongly criticized. "He told me in strong, unequivocal terms that America has no aim or inclination whatsoever to endanger Israel's security," Mr. Zakin said. "He declared in no uncertain terms that the situation in the Middle East, including the balance of power between Israel and the Arabs, will remain under America's 'scrutinizing eye' and the United States will not abandon us." Mr. Zakin said that Mr. Sisco added that "America is continuing to study the matter of the Phantoms and that all arrangements have been made to carry out immediate steps, as far as supplies are concerned, with the first appearance or even first symptoms of an upset in the balance of power."

The Israeli said he gained the impression that from now on "all discussions of arms supplies will be conducted outside of the public limelight and strictly through government channels where 'backbiting' (substance) can be talked without publicity." He attributed the Nixon Administration's negative decision at this time to a "leak" in the number of Phantom Israel was seeking and to a "slip of the tongue" by President Nixon when he announced a 30-day deadline for the decision. Mr. Zaklin said his impression was that the U.S. does not expect anything from resumed bilateral talks with the Soviet Union on the Mideast. "Washington does not expect any peace gestures," he said.

### Nixon's Jet Decision Seen As 'Wise' By Some; Economic Aid Viewed As Insufficient

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA)--Diplomats, congressmen, the press and analysts of the Middle East scene here and abroad continued today to evaluate the rationale behind and the consequences of Secretary of State William P. Rogers' announcement Monday that the United States would hold in abeyance the sale of jets to Israel but provide \$100 million in economic aid. The Washington Post, which thought the Nixon decision was a "wise" one, said it disappointed Israel only in the short term sense that it will not get more jets at this time. "Fundamentally, however, the administration addressed the issue of whether Washington should continue to ensure that Israel maintains enough of a military advantage to deter full scale war. On this crucial question the answer was yes," the Post commented in an editorial today.

The Christian Science Monitor's Washington correspondent, William C. Selover, commented that "Chances of success are regarded here as doubtful." According to Mr. Selover, the Administration sought to demonstrate that the United States is prepared to take the first step toward a limitation of arms supplies to the Mideast. "The effort is pointedly directed at the Soviet Union and France which continue to sell weapons to the Arabs," he wrote. "Whether or not they read the signals from Washington is a matter of conjecture here."

The Christian Science Monitor editorially hailed the Nixon decision as "perhaps the single most startling attempt to deescalate the Middle Eastern arms race since the June, 1967 war." The editorial conceded that "one cannot foresee the result of this action." It could discourage the Israelis to the point where they might turn to new preemptive action or encourage the Arabs "to the point of gross recklessness." Senator J.W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas who is the chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Rep. George D. Aiken, Republican of Vermont, who is a leading member of the Committee, both expressed agreement with the administration abeyance policy. Rep. Daniel Burton, Republican of New York, said in a letter to President Nixon he doubts that the situation in the Middle East could be "cooled by limiting Israel's ability to defend itself." Burton said the issue was "clearly one of impressing the Arabs that the U.S. will continue to insist upon face to face negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis over boundaries. But that before this can be an actual fact, the Arab countries must accept the existence of Israel."

### Arab Hostility To U.S. Financial Mideast Interests Seen As Factor In Decision

A United Nations spokesman said Secretary General U Thant had no comments either on Rogers' announcement, the meeting today between Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Mr. Rogers in Washington, or on the scheduled bilateral talks in April between Mr. Dobrynin and United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco. The Financial Times of London stated editorially that "Mounting hostility toward American financial and commercial interests in the Mideast" was doubtless a factor that influenced the Nixon Administration decision. "The fact is that with complete identification between 'Zionism' and 'U.S. imperialism' in the radical Arab mind, life is becoming increasingly uncomfortable for American business, even in the more conservative backwaters," the paper said.

The Daily Sketch, a Conservative newspaper, noted that President Nixon risked losing the "Jewish vote" in a Congressional election year by denying Israel the war planes it requested. "To stabilize the Arab-Israeli conflict before it erupts again into full-scale war, he braves the American arms lobby, the most powerful in Washington...The American wheeler-dealer has become a world statesman." The Scotsman, an Edinburgh daily, took the view that Israel should be thankful for the \$100 million in economic aid offered by the U.S. "At the present time, Israel is much more vulnerable financially than militarily," the paper said. "She would be in a perilous condition without foreign charity. So Israelis need not feel that they have been betrayed by their closest ally. In any case, a client state--for without American weaponry and partial protection Israel would be unlikely to remain a state for very long--cannot expect to have all its requests granted."

Another view on the economic aid program, however, termed the \$100 million far short of what Israel requested to help it out of its present serious financial difficulties. According to the Washington Post correspondent from Jerusalem, Yuval Elizur, Israel's aid application was reported to have been for a \$1 billion loan to be extended in five \$200 million installments. This was the request made by Premier Golda Meir when she visited President Nixon last September. "It was explained that with the war costing Israel \$1 million a day, only massive assistance would enable the nation to overcome the present crisis without endangering future economic growth," Mr. Elizur wrote.

### Eban Said To Be Coming To Canada; Visit To Provide Basis For Talks On Common Concerns

OTTAWA, March 25 (JTA)--Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today in the House of Commons that Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban has accepted his invitation to visit Canada and plans to be here in the middle of May. Following upon the visit by Mr. Sharp last November to Israel, Mr. Eban's visit here will, according to Mr. Sharp, provide an opportunity to review issues of concern common to both countries as well as "bilateral relations."

### Tekoa Sees Lebanon Whitewashes Agression In Denying Responsibility For Border Terror

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 25 (JTA)--The Israeli Government charged today that the March 18 Lebanese letter to the Security Council president denying responsibility for terrorist attacks on Israel from Lebanese soil was "an unabashed attempt to whitewash aggression." In a letter to the Council president, Dr. Joaquin Vallejo Arbalaz of Colombia, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoa declared that "instead of recognizing Lebanon's obligations as a member of the United Nations, the Lebanese Government serves notice that it supports continued warfare against Israel, and in particular warfare by terrorists." The Israeli delegate stated that "under general international law and the United Nations charter, the Government of Lebanon bears full responsibility for armed attacks carried out from its territory against Israel, whether by regular or by irregular forces." This responsibility, he said, "is particularly grave in view of the fact that the aggressive operations by irregular forces stationed on Lebanese territory are being conducted on the basis of official agreements concluded between these forces and the Government of Lebanon."

The Israeli document rejected as "especially baseless" the Lebanese argument that continuation of terrorist attacks was inevitable because of Lebanon's internal problems. "Considerations of internal politics," Mr. Tekoa wrote, cannot absolve Beirut of its international obligations. Mr. Tekoa recalled the March 8 statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban announcing Israel's readiness to sign a peace treaty immediately on the basis of existing boundaries, and said the offer had been rejected. "Even in the absence of a readiness for peace with Israel," Mr. Tekoa noted, "it is incumbent upon Lebanon to abide by its obligations under the ceasefire accepted by it July 31, 1967."

### British Government Repossesses Two Chieftain Tanks It Lent Israel For Testing

LONDON, March 25 (JTA)--The British Government has repossessed the two mighty Chieftain tanks it lent Israel for testing in the desert. The tanks, the heaviest and most powerful in the British armory, have been extensively modified by the Israelis in the light of their experience with them in the desert and under conditions resembling those of actual combat. Israel has been eager to buy the British tanks to offset the heavy Soviet armor with which the Egyptian Army is equipped, but the British Foreign Office has refused to approve the sale. Its argument has been that to sell the tanks to Israel could upset the military balance in the Middle East. The Foreign Office is still considering the possibility of permitting sale of the leviathans to Libya. Commenting on the disclosure that the two tanks had been reclaimed from Israel, observers said today that the action was a political gesture intended to emphasize Britain's sincerity in maintaining an embargo on the sale of arms to the Middle East area of hostilities.

### Jewish Communities In Australia Asked To Boycott Soviet Artists And Sportsmen

SYDNEY, March 25 (JTA)--As part of a general appeal to the Jewish community to avoid performances by artists and sportsmen from the Soviet Union and other countries practicing Jewish repression, The New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies has called for a boycott of the upcoming appearances of the Georgian (USSR) State Dance Company and the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra. The action is also endorsed by the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies.

### Non-Communist Marxists Condemn Israel's Security Policy And Arab Terrorists

PARIS, March 25 (JTA)--Some 150 non-Communist Marxists, organized in the Palestine Israeli Committee, concluded yesterday a three-day conference by asking both sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict to recognize the existence and the rights of the other. The conference condemned Israel for its security policy and, at the same time, denounced the Arab terrorist organizations for "their refusal to see in Israel a nationality and a state" and recognizing it only as a religious entity. The conference, held in the suburb of Choisy-Le-Roi, had the backing of Jean-Paul Sartre. A message from the existentialist leader read to the conference, expressed his solidarity with its work and declared that he adhered to the committee because "it has adopted a neutral attitude and works for the development of socialist forces in both camps." Most of the delegates to the conference were non-Communist Marxists who were sharply critical of Israel's current policies but who did not deny the right of Israel to exist.

### Israel's Plan For International Financing Of Underdeveloped Countries Given To Nixon

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--A plan for the international financing of underdeveloped countries, devised six years ago by David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, has been recommended to President Richard M. Nixon by a select research committee comprised of leading American bankers and financiers, it has been learned. The group, headed by Rudolf A. Peterson, president of the Bank of America, was appointed by President Nixon last September and reported to him on March 4. Mr. Horowitz presented his plan at the first conference of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) in Geneva in 1964. It would require each developed country to set aside a fixed proportion of its national income for long term, low interest loans to developing countries. The use of the funds would be left largely up to the governments of the developing countries with no political interference in their affairs. Its effect would be to afford underdeveloped countries easy access to the international capital market. President Nixon's committee recommended application of the Horowitz plan by the U.S.

### Venezuelan Government Restoring 138-Year-Old Jewish Cemetery In Coro

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 25 (JTA)--The Venezuelan Government is restoring the 138-year-old Jewish cemetery at Coro as part of a project to preserve historical landmarks. The technical work will be supervised by the Minister of Public Works, Jose Curiel, a Jewish engineer whose ancestor, Jochebed Hanah Curiel, was one of the first persons buried in the cemetery. The Jewish community in Coro is descended from Jews who came there from the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao in the early part of the 19th century. The cemetery was opened in 1832.

### New York Federation Of Reform Synagogues Urges Repeal Of New York Abortion Law

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--The New York Federation of Reform Synagogues has urged repeal of New York State's abortion laws. The announcement, by Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, director of the Federation, said "Woman has the civil right and basic human right to determine her own reproductive life." The Federation of Reform Synagogues is an agency of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the congregational body of Reform Judaism in the U.S. and Canada.

### AJCommittee Says New Version Of Oberammergau Passion Play Less Overtly Anti-Semitic

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee has compared the script of the 1970 Oberammergau Passion Play with the 1940 script and finds that it is still fundamentally anti-Jewish in content although the new version which opens May 18 will contain fewer overtly anti-Semitic references. AJCommittee president Philip E. Hoffman said the result of the textual analysis has been communicated to West German ecclesiastical and government authorities and will be published shortly in German, French, Spanish and English. The content analysis was conducted by the AJCommittee's interreligious affairs department headed by Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum. The 1940 script was analyzed by Mrs. Judith H. Banki, associate director of the department and the 1970 version by Dr. Gerald S. Strober, a Presbyterian educator who serves as an AJCommittee consultant. While many grossly anti-Jewish words and passages have been removed in revising the pageant for this year's performances, other equally objectionable material has been left in, the analyses found. Moreover, the study found the entire story line and the underlying conceptions of the play unchanged in the new version and clearly incompatible with the policy adopted in 1945 by Vatican Council II in its declaration on non-Christian religions, Mr. Hoffman said.

### Professor Says Nixon's 'even-Handed' Mideast Policy Is Unworkable

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--Dr. Steven L. Spiegel, assistant professor of political science at the University of California at Los Angeles and a member of the 1968 study mission of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East, said that the Nixon Administration's "even-handed" policy was unworkable because "we will never be anti-Israeli enough for the Arabs." Even if the Arab governments were to accept a peace pact with Israel, he continued, it would be undermined by guerrilla opposition. An "even-handed" attitude toward the "two irreconcilable forces" of Israel and the Arabs, he said, "alienates" both and "gives the Russians a false sense of security." Dr. Spiegel spoke at a panel discussion, "Israel Between East and West," sponsored by American Histadrut Cultural Exchange Institute, with Israel Histadrut Associates and American Babonim Association. The other panelist, Dr. Uri Ra'anan, professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University and a Russian expert at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said Israel's victory in the Six-Day War led to the Kremlin's having to suppress numerous pro-Israeli demonstrations in the USSR, and Israel's existence interferes with its attempts to subdue and eliminate Jewish communal life in Russia. Both professors delivered their remarks before Secretary of State William P. Rogers announced that the United States would not sell jets to Israel at this time.

### Rep. Burke Asks Administration To Discontinue Training Arab Military Personnel

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA)--Rep. J. Herbert Burke, Republican of Florida, asked the administration today to discontinue training 406 Arab military personnel at U.S. bases since the State Department feels our country should cool off tensions in the Middle East by not selling further jets to Israel. "The State Department informed me by letter that a total of 317 personnel from Arab countries are being trained under the military assistance program and 88 are being trained under the foreign military sales program. Several of these trainees I know are being trained as pilots," Burke said. The Congressman said the Arab soldiers--16 of them Jordanians--are being trained to handle U.S. military equipment at military bases in this country. "It doesn't make sense for the State Department to recommend against selling further Skyhawks to Israel when at the same time it trains Arab pilots here," Burke said.

### 40 Viennese Jews, Concentration Camp Survivors, Will Tour New York And Washington

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--Forty Viennese Jews who survived Nazi concentration camps arrived at the main office of the Joint Distribution Committee yesterday to thank the rescue organization formally for aid in the years following their liberation a quarter-century ago. Carol Lazar, a Dachau survivor now in his seventies who serves as vice president of Vienna's Jewish community, represented the delegation. He noted that the Austrian Jewish population, which totaled 198,000 before the 1938 Anschluss, was now 12,500. Samuel L. Haber, JDC Executive Vice Chairman, said nonetheless that Vienna can be proud of "a Jewish community rising from the ashes of the holocaust. The 40 Viennese will be on tour in New York and Washington, D.C.

### Leonard Bernstein Invested As Honorary Fellow Of Weizmann Institute Of Science

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA)--Leonard Bernstein, conductor-composer, now Laureate Conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, was invested tonight as an Honorary Fellow of the Weizmann Institute of Science, at a concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra marking the 25th Anniversary of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Responding to the honor bestowed on him, Mr. Bernstein stated: "The Weizmann Institute stands as one of the greatest symbols of Israel's sense of the future--a sense which is perhaps stronger in this country than in any other in the world, in spite of constant threats that surround it. I am deeply honored to be considered a part of that future."