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Mrs. Meir Willing To Accept Accord With Arabs Similar To Soviet-Japanese Pact

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said yesterday that she was prepared to accept something less than a formal peace treaty with the Arab states to end the Middle East conflict. She said in a radio interview that "personally" she would be willing to accept the same kind of accord that governed relations between the Soviet Union and Japan after World War II--a document outlining trade and diplomatic relations "until a final peace treaty is signed." Ambassadors were exchanged between Russia and Japan soon after that accord was reached. Mrs. Meir stressed that this was a personal view. Observers here noted that the concept was broached to the Cabinet almost two years ago by Foreign Minister Abba Eban and was opposed by Herut leader Menachem Begin. The Premier indicated that there was no decision in the government as yet on this or other specific proposals. The Arab states were considered unlikely to accept an interim settlement along the lines of the Soviet-Japanese formula because it would contradict their 1967 Khartoum stand of no peace, no negotiation and no recognition of Israel.

Mrs. Meir said that no one who has met with President Gamal Abdel Nasser recently has come away with the impression that Egypt is ready to make peace with Israel. She said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco who spent four days in Cairo this month, brought no message to Israel that Nasser wanted peace. Regarding Israel's stand, she denied that other countries might get the impression that Israel wants peace while retaining all of the occupied Arab territories. "As long as the government has not reached any decision over the territories there can be no impression," she maintained. Mrs. Meir also rejected the suggestion that the government use the word "withdrawal" in official statements on the future of the territories in order to negate the image of rigidity. That suggestion was made last week by the newspaper Haaretz. Mrs. Meir said she would use any words, "If only I could believe there was some magic word we could use to solve our problems without getting us into more difficult problems."

Quaker Study Attacks U.S. Zionists For Hard-Line Pro-Israel Government Stance

WASHINGTON, April 26 (JTA)--The American Friends Service Committee, in a 20,000 word study on the Middle East situation, has attacked American Jewish organizations for consistently following a hard-line pro-Israel government approach toward the Mideast crisis and warned that this attitude is likely to result in an anti-Semitic backlash and create a conflict among religious groups in the United States. The nine-member commission of American, British and Canadian Quakers, which released their initial analysis today following two years of travels through the United Arab Republic, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon, concluded that Israel must take the initiative toward peace by committing itself to pulling out of the occupied territories and that the Arabs must then "recognize Israel's territorial integrity within agreed-upon boundaries."

The study, to be issued next month as a book entitled "Search for Peace In The Middle East" contended that "it is impossible to be both pro-Jewish and pro-Arab." It observed, "We believe that to ignore or deny the essential rights of one group will lead to the ultimate destruction of the rights of the other." The study calls the UN Security Council's 1967 cease-fire resolution "the most practical and acceptable basis for achieving a peaceful settlement"; recommends emergency UN peace-keeping forces in a demilitarized buffer zone "removable only by a Security Council vote"; calls for a UN conference of all Mideast arms suppliers; and contends that the Big Four should push for peace talks "through suitable intermediaries" because direct negotiations are not possible."

Dr. Wexler: Report's Assertion Of Jewish Influence In U. S. Is 'Patent Falseness'

In their study, the Quakers criticized American Zionist leaders for "a tendency...to identify themselves with the more hard-line elements inside the Israeli Cabinet...and to ignore the dissident elements in and out of the Israeli government that are searching for more creative ways to solve the Middle East problems." Answering this charge and the warning of an anti-Semitic backlash, Dr. William Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared: "After reading the report, with its innuendoes of anti-Semitism, backlash and the threat of interfaith disharmony, I can only say that with such Friends who needs anti-Semites?" Dr. Wexler said he agreed with only one statement in the report, that which "concedes that American Jews, as free citizens, have the right to use the instruments of a free society to register our convictions and desires. We cannot agree with the Quaker assertion of great Jewish influence in the United States. Its patent falseness is attested to by the American government's policy in the Middle East. Jews, as all other Americans, are primarily interested in peace everywhere including the Middle East. We represent no one but ourselves - neither the American government nor the Israeli government nor those who disagree with the Israeli government. We are concerned with the long term fate of Israel."

The Quaker report also proposed that both Arabs and Israel recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination; that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank be at least temporarily internationalized; and that Jerusalem be unified, demilitarized and divided into UN-administered Jewish and Arab boroughs prior to federalization. It stressed the need to include representatives of the Palestinian Arabs in the final negotiations and noted that settlement must also include resettlement and compensation for both Arab and Jewish refugees from each other's nations. Before a settlement can be reached, the report stated, the UN must seek to end the current conflict. The Big Four, it continued, must declare their readiness

"to underwrite a peace settlement agreed upon by Israel, Jordan and Egypt and negotiated in consultation with the Palestinian Arabs," Dr. Wexler assailed this as "pro-Arab propaganda" and declared that "Arab refugees are the victims of Arab warlords who have been using them as political foils. They are not victims of the Israelis." The nine-member commission was delegated by the American Field Service, the humanitarian arm of the Quakers. The report was edited by Landrum R. Bollong, president of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.

Sisco: Mideast Peace Must Include Legitimate Needs Of Refugees And Palestinian Arabs

WASHINGTON, April 26 (JTA)--Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco returned from a two-week "orientation tour" of the Middle East Friday with renewed expressions of concern for peace in that area. Special significance was attached to his remark that the U.S. government had a "keen awareness of the sense of frustration" of the Palestinian Arabs and that there could be "no peace that does not take due account of the legitimate concerns" of the refugees and other Palestinian people. Mr. Sisco made a similar remark before leaving Teheran, Iran after the close of a two-day conference of U.S. chiefs of mission in the Mideast. He said a "just, honorable and durable peace is not possible unless it meets the legitimate concerns of the many people whose lives are touched daily by the so-called Palestinian question." Observers here said these remarks demonstrated a striking new emphasis for an American policy statement on the political strength of the Palestinian refugees.

During a brief stopover in Rome on his way home Mr. Sisco told newsmen that chances for peace between the Arabs and Israelis had not improved. "Realistically, one must realize that the differences between the parties are still substantial," he said. He added that it would be "unrealistic to expect an early solution to this problem." He also thought it unlikely that an agreement could be reached with the Soviet Union to limit the shipment of arms to the region. He said Moscow's response to American approaches on that question had been negative over the past year. Mr. Sisco's Middle East tour took him to Cairo, Tel Aviv and Beirut. He was forced to cancel a scheduled stop-over at Amman, Jordan because of guerrilla-led anti-American riots. He spent only four hours in Lebanon where he was also greeted by anti-American demonstrations. His four-day stop-over in Cairo was regarded as of special significance. It was the first visit by a high ranking American diplomat since Egypt severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. There was speculation that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Cairo and Washington may have come up in their discussions. But Mr. Sisco and Undersecretary of State Elliot L. Richardson who joined him at Teheran, said no attempts were made to reach "any new departures in policy" during the discussions in the Mideast. The polarization of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the growing anti-American sentiment in the Arab world were among the topics taken up at the Teheran meeting.

New Split Emerges In Cabinet Over Issue Of Permanent Jewish Settlement In Hebron

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA)--A new split has emerged in the Cabinet over the issue of permanent Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. Coming on the heels of the Goldmann affair it disclosed sharp controversy within Premier Golda Meir's 22-member "wall-to-wall" coalition that hitherto gave the impression of almost monolithic unity. But the coalition is not in danger of breaking up as long as the Arabs refuse to budge from their refusal to talk peace with Israel, according to observers here. The Hebron issue came to the forefront last month when Deputy Premier Yigal Alon announced a Cabinet decision to build permanent housing for 250 Jewish families adjacent to the all-Arab town. About two dozen Jewish families have been living there for the past two years within the confines of the military government compound. The plan was approved by a Knesset majority on March 25. But certain ministers, notably those of Mapam, had misgivings that such a move was a fait accompli that could deny Israel flexibility in any future peace negotiations with the Arabs. Foreign Minister Abba Eban has favored a more flexible approach. He said on April 7 however that the plans to establish a permanent Jewish settlement in the Hebron area would not prejudice any future political agreement that might be reached with the Arabs and declared that any settlement must provide for open frontiers because "Israel will not resume living in a ghetto."

Minister-Without-Portfolio Menachem Beigin, leader of the nationalist Herut faction, accused Mr. Eban last Thursday of "deliberately and willfully distorting Cabinet decisions." Addressing a Herut party council, Mr. Beigin leveled a bitter personal attack on the Foreign Minister for allegedly denying that the Cabinet had decided on a Jewish quarter in Hebron. He called Mr. Eban an "untelligent boor" for remarks he made in a recent newspaper interview equating the extreme no peace stand of El Fatah, the guerrilla organization, with the attitude of certain Israelis who insist that every inch of occupied territory be retained to form a "greater Israel." Further fuel was added to the Hebron controversy yesterday when the Army announced that a 750 acre area east of the town was being sealed off for military purposes. Brig. Gen. Shlomo Gazit said it was a security measure to combat terrorism which has been on the increase in the area. He said Arab land in the sealed off zone would not be confiscated and the owners could continue to work it with special permission. But some sources believe that the move was preliminary to establishing a Jewish suburb of Hebron. Arab inhabitants were ordered to move out and were given compensation. Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jaabari, the Mayor of Hebron, went on the air last night to oppose the latest move. He warned that it would only increase tension between Jews and Arabs in the region.

(Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said Thursday night that the controversy President Nasser's invitation to Dr. Nahum Goldmann had done more harm to Israel's public relations than any other internal political argument in the past 30 months. Gen. Rabin, speaking on the radio in a telephone interview, said that prior to the Goldmann controversy, Israel had presented a united front on basic foreign policies and that this had been generally accepted in the United States, despite "small divergencies" in statements of Israeli leaders. He added that the timing and wording of the Cabinet opposition stand on the Goldmann invitation had made the State Department and public opinion in the United States "very attentive to nuances.")

U Thant Asked To Clarify Meaning That Jordan-Israel Cease-Fire Line No Longer Exists

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA)--An official directive was sent today to Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, to present a note to Secretary General U Thant on the statement made Friday by the Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Munaim Rifai that the cease-fire line no longer exists. Sources who disclosed that the directive was sent indicated that Mr. Tekoah has been asked to draw Mr. Thant's attention to "the grave significance" of Mr. Rifai's declaration. (Mr. Tekoah told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York this afternoon that he will prepare a statement for transmission to Mr. Thant later today and confirmed the directive from Jerusalem. He said the statement will draw attention to the fact that "this Jordanian statement nullifies all basis for any Jordanian complaints concerning Israeli defense actions as violations of the cease-fire which Jordan now says does not exist." The statement to Mr. Tekoah will also request clarification of the meaning of the announcement by Mr. Rifai, Mr. Tekoah stated.)

An Estimated 20,000 In Exodus March Feel Demonstration Will Have Impact On Soviet Policy

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--The long-planned Exodus March for Soviet Jewry turned into a half-mile-long protest walk on behalf of equal rights within the Soviet Union and the right to emigrate to Israel if desired. A spokesman for the march estimated the turnout at "20,000 - at least." The police declined to give an estimate. The outpouring was essentially youthful, although the marchers ranged from the elderly to lower-grade-schoolers. They carried signs reading "Anti-Semitism Is Alive and Well and Living in Russia," "Save Soviet Jews Now," "Reunite Jewish Families," "Stop Religious Persecution," "6,000,000 in Germany, 3,000,000 More?" and "Nothing Comes of Hoping, Only Doing." The spirit of the gathering was joyful and hopeful, rather than solemn. Marchers and public officials interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, including students from as far away as Massachusetts, agreed that the demonstration could definitely have an impact on Soviet policy.

Several noted that similar pressure had resulted in the granting of emigration rights to at least some Soviet Jews. A young lady pointed out that Soviet Jewry recently obtained the right to have matzo for Passover. A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy declined comment, except to say that the demonstrators could march if they wanted to. A 25-man delegation led by Rabbi Norman Lamm, chairman of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, which represents 34 adult organizations and agencies and 19 participating youth groups, the sponsoring group of the march, assembled before the Embassy to read a statement expressing to the Soviet government "out utter dismay over the discriminatory treatment accorded the Jewish people of the Soviet Union." It called on them to "live up to the guarantee" of Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin in December 1966 not to hinder emigration. "You betray no other cause than your own if you disregard our plea," the statement continued. "Jew and non-Jew, Soviet nationals and men of goodwill from every corner of the earth demand justice now." From the area of the Embassy and Hunter College, the demonstrators--informally dressed, carrying placards and the names of Soviet Jewish families (including "Kazakov"), and chanting Hebraic tunes--marched the mile and a half to the UN headquarters. In advance remarks Rabbi Lamm declared that the Exodus March--coinciding with the Passover celebration of the original exodus from Egypt--was designed to "pay tribute to our brethren who have placed their lives in jeopardy" by publicly opposing Soviet policy, as well as to "arouse the moral conscience of the world."

Israelis Repulse Raid By Egyptian Commandos; Israeli Jets Shoot Down Two Soviet Bombers

TEL AVIV, April 26 (JTA)--A military spokesman said today that Israeli forces repulsed a midnight raid by a large party of Egyptian commandos on a position in the southern section of the Suez Canal zone. He said the Egyptians were driven back within "minutes" leaving the bodies of three soldiers behind while two more bodies were seen floating on the canal. The Israeli position sustained no casualties or damage, the spokesman said. An Israeli spokesman said the Egyptian raiding party left behind military equipment including two bazookas, Russian-made Kalashnikov rifles and flare pistols. Cairo radio claimed today that a 200-man Egyptian force crossed the canal, destroyed an Israeli position and killed all of its defenders. The force returned safely, the Egyptians said. They described the raid as "the first of its kind" since the 1967 war. It was accompanied by a heavy artillery bombardment of Israeli positions. An Israeli spokesman said the artillery fire was returned and Israeli jets successfully attacked the Egyptian gun positions at about 1:30 a.m. local time and returned safely to their bases.

Israel shot down two Soviet-made Ilyushin-28 bombers which raided El Arish in the northern Sinai yesterday. The Israelis said the Egyptian planes dropped their bombs on a populated part of the Arab town but killed only a flock of sheep and destroyed a cowshed, an animal quarantine station and an ice factory. El Arish is about 90 miles south of Tel Aviv. Syrian Air Force jets raided an Israeli position in the Golan Heights yesterday. According to Damascus they inflicted "heavy losses and casualties." An Israeli military spokesman reported that four Syrian MIG-21s attempted to bomb a hilltop bunker in the Geshor region but missed their target and fled.

Tekoah: Israel Determined To Remain Standing Against Implacable Enemy

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah reaffirmed Israel's determination to "remain standing" against the "implacable enemy" in an address Saturday night at the 38th annual Histadrut Third Seder. "Arab aggression against Israel has become the longest war of this century anywhere," he asserted, adding that behind the Arabs "stands the Soviet Union, unswerving in its support of Arab belligerency." "At times," he continued, "we feel as if we were standing under an avalanche of rocks, rocks, hurling against us from all directions, beating, wounding, bleeding us. Yet we remain standing. We must remain standing. If we bend, if we turn away we shall all be crushed. We have no intention to be crushed. The four-hour service--attended by 2,000 guests who also marked the 50th anniversary of Histadrut, the National Committee for Labor Israel--derived from a "Voice of Jubilee Haggadah," comprising traditional and contemporary passages on Zionism, Independence and Judaism in general, presented in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. Music was by the Zamir Chorale, with soloists Shoshana Damari and Sidor Belarsky.

Ottinger Urges Nixon To Act To End Spiritual And Cultural Genocide Of Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--Declaring that President Nixon is the "one man" in the West who can save Soviet Jewry, Rep. Richard Ottinger today called upon Mr. Nixon to make every effort to bring to an end "the spiritual and cultural genocide of the 3 million Jews living behind the Iron Curtain." In a telegram to Mr. Nixon, the Congressman urged the President to use the current Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in Vienna and Big Four Mid-East conference to formally protest Soviet anti-Semitism. "When the Soviets complain about the alleged atrocities committed by the Jews of Israel against the Arabs," Ottinger told the President, "let the U.S. delegates protest in the strongest possible terms the spiritual and cultural genocide of the 3 million Jews living behind the Iron Curtain," and "let the U.S. delegate present a personal plea from the President for the distribution behind the Iron Curtain of unlimited spiritual arms--prayer books, bibles and total religious freedom--to the 3 million Jews within the Soviet Union." The third term Democratic Congressman also told newsmen that he would urge other participants of today's Exodus March for Soviet Jewry "to bring pressure on the White House "in an effort to get President Nixon more personally involved with the plight of the oppressed Jews of Russia."

Jewish Labor Committee To Hold A Conference In Support Of Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--The Jewish Labor Committee has scheduled a Labor Conference In Support of Soviet Jewry on May 4 in the Hotel New Yorker. Charles S. Zimmerman, president of the Jewish Labor Committee announced today. He said the conference is being held as response to the Soviet Union's increasingly virulent anti-Jewish campaign. "The pro-Soviet and anti-Israel statements made recently by some Russian Jews in a staged press conference in the USSR are painfully reminiscent of the 'confessions' extracted in the past highly publicized trials of Russian leaders who fell afoul of Stalin. No knowledgeable person is deceived by these statements," David Ashe, chairman of the Committee on Soviet Jewry, declared; "Our protests are necessary. Our voice must be heard. We must demand that Soviet Jews should have cultural and religious freedom. We must demand that Russian Jews should be free from discrimination and oppression; the anti-Jewish campaign must come to an end. We must demand that Russian Jews, if they so desire, shall have the right to emigrate." Among those addressing the conference will be Henoch Mendelsund, vice-president International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Bayard Rustin, Executive Director, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Albert Shanker, President, United Federation of Teachers; Emanuel Muravchik, JLC Executive Director; Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Ashe.

United Auto Workers Union Calls For Direct Talks As One Road To Mideast Peace

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., April 26 (JTA)--A resolution urging direct talks as the "one road to peace in the Middle East" was approved by delegates to the 22nd convention here of the United Automobile Workers. The union represents almost 2 million auto workers. The resolution noted its long friendship toward Israel as "a democratic oasis in a troubled and turbulent area of the world" as well as its continued "generally cordial contacts with the various labor movements in the Arab world." The resolution warned that the "tragedy" of the area could explode in a "direct confrontation" of "the great powers." The resolution urged the Big Four to "use their separate and combined influence to bring all parties to the Middle East conflict to the conference table to settle the political issues first. It must be made perfectly clear to Arab leaders that guerrilla warfare cannot and will not contribute to a just and peaceful solution."

Declaring that Israel had a right to "peaceful existence and recognition of its place in the family of nations," the resolution also expressed concern for the plight of the Palestinian refugees and urged that a solution be found to that plight. The resolution denounced "the terror tactics of El Fatah" which it said led to "vengeance on the innocent." The resolution also called upon Arab governments "now sheltering and arming" guerrillas to prevent the reoccurrence of such acts of piracy by organized guerrilla groups; the Secretary General of the United Nations to convene the U.N. Security Council to consider means of halting such attacks; the world's airlines operating flights in the Middle East "to cancel all flights to airports in any nation implicitly or explicitly sanctioning...such acts of international piracy and terrorism" and to the International Airline Pilots Association "to urge their members to...boycott all flights to these same nations." The resolution added; "While the major powers may be helpful in finding a solution to the Middle East dilemma, they cannot legitimately impose such a solution on the nations directly involved...This is thus far the missing ingredient in the Middle East."

Zionist Organization Of America's 75th Jubilee Convention To Be Held In Israel

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--The 75th National Jubilee Convention of the Zionist Organization of America will be held in Israel on July 12-19, 1972, according to an announcement made here by Leon Hutovich, Executive Director of the ZOA. Previously, the ZOA held two national conventions in Israel--one in 1963 and another one immediately following the Six Day War in July, 1967. The 73rd ZOA National Convention will be held September 3-6, 1970, in New York City and the 74th on September 2-5, 1971, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Keren Kayemeth Director General Coming To U.S. To Consult With JNF Officials

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA)--Shimon Benshemesh, Director-General of the Keren Kayemeth Le Israel (Jewish National Fund) will arrive in the United States on April 29th for a 10-day round of consultations with the leadership of the Jewish National Fund. Mr. Benshemesh is in charge of all land reclamation, afforestation, road construction and site development activities of the Fund throughout the entire territory of the State of Israel. A special meeting of the board of directors of the JNF has been called for April 30th to hear Mr. Benshemesh deliver a detailed report on current Keren Kayemeth land development activities along Israel's borders.