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Rogers And Dobrynin To Meet Next Week; U.S. Wants USSR To State Its Mideast Interests

WASHINGTON, May 28 (JTA)--United States-Soviet bilateral talks on the Middle East conflict are about to resume here, a State Department source said today. He said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers, now returning from a NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Rome, has an appointment next week with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. Sources here said that Mr. Rogers will ask the Soviet government bluntly to state exactly what its interests are in the Middle East. The bilateral talks were held intermittently in Washington during the past year, mainly between Mr. Dobrynin and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco. They paralleled the talks between the United Nations Ambassadors of the U.S., Soviet Russia, Britain and France in New York. According to informants here, the bilateral talks were being reactivated because of growing Soviet intransigence at the Four Power parleys. At the last Big Four meeting on Tuesday, the Soviet Union reportedly was "more intransigent and stiffer" than ever and Moscow is providing "imprecise and unsatisfactory" responses to U.S. inquiries about Soviet intentions in the Mideast. The United States is under urgent pressure from Israel to sell her more combat jet war planes in light of the Soviet military involvement in Egypt. State Department sources said today that the U.S. will likely reply to Israel's request within a few weeks.

Despair Over Israel's Future Unjustified, Herzog Tells WJC Congress Leaders

MONTREAL, May 28 (JTA)--Dr. Yaakov Herzog, director-general of the Israeli Premier's office, told the World Jewish Congress Governing Council yesterday that despair over Israel's future was unjustified, despite the perils facing her. He said the Soviet presence in the Mideast indicated "the total failure of the Egyptian military offensive," and added, "There are limits to Soviet intervention just as there are limits to which the Arab world can agree to Nasser's hartering away Arab independence and the integrity of the Middle East to an external power." Dr. Herzog declared that the West cannot "tolerate" the Soviet buildup "without forfeiting the entire Southern flank of NATO and thus endangering the defense of Europe." But he said the Arab "dilemma" is "no less crucial than that facing Israel." The WJC Governing Council ended its three-day meeting here last night with a call for an international conference on the plight of Soviet Jewry. The Council also passed resolutions condemning the Soviet Union's "new and ominous" presence in the Middle East, urging action against air piracy, and reaffirming support for Israel and for Jews in Arab lands.

Ottinger: Nixon Pressuring Israel To Withdraw From Territories In Exchange For Planes

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)--The Nixon administration is pressuring Israel into withdrawing from border territory it has occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967 in exchange for a commitment to sell Israel the jet fighters she has requested, Congressman Richard L. Ottinger charged last night. Ottinger, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, said his information came from diplomatic sources. He asserted that the move indicates "that the pro-Arab clique in the State Department and the White House is still bent on jeopardizing Israel's security while currying favor with the Arabs." The Congressman's charge came in a speech before the N.Y. League of Histadrut. "It is apparent," Ottinger said, "that the Nixon administration feels it can dictate the terms of peace in the Middle East; starting with concessions from Israel, rather than making it clear to all the nations involved that only direct negotiations between them can provide a lasting solution." Delay in selling Israel the Phantom jets and other military equipment Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban sought in Washington last week "is just encouraging Nasser and the Arab terrorists to escalate their war against Israel in the belief that the United States will not act," he said. Asking Israel to withdraw from border territory it has occupied since 1967, Ottinger said, "would simply be inviting more terrorist attacks like the one which took the lives of innocent school children near the Lebanese border last week."

Cabinet Faced With New Crisis Over Whether Conversion By Reform Rabbi Is Valid

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)--The issue of whether conversions to Judaism performed by Reform rabbis in Israel will be recognized by the Israel government threatened to precipitate a new Cabinet crisis today. The executive of the National Religious Party, overruling two of its leaders, voted to quit the coalition government unless the Labor Alignment agrees to push a law through the Knesset making conversions invalid if not performed by Orthodox rabbis. The Labor Party absolutely refused to go along with this demand but offered a compromise in the form of an informal agreement to recognize conversions performed in Israel only if they are approved by the Chief Rabbinate. Spokesmen for the Council of Reform Rabbis in Israel charged today that the compromise offer amounted to discrimination against Israel's Reform rabbis and urged all concerned to remove the issue from partisan political struggles. The NRP executive rejected the compromise although Minister of Welfare Joseph Burg and Minister for Religious Affairs, Zerach Warhaftig voted to accept it. Minister of Interior Moses Shapiro was absent from the executive meeting.

The Orthodox refuse to recognize Reform or Conservative rabbis and under the prevailing status quo in Israel rabbis other than Orthodox have no official standing. But an American woman, now a citizen of Israel, who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in Tel Aviv, is suing the government for official recognition as a Jew. Mrs. Helen Zeidman, a member of Kibbutz Nahal Oz, was

granted an order nisi against the Interior Ministry by the Supreme Court. At a hearing this morning the States Attorney General refused to oppose the order. In an apparent effort to avert a Cabinet crisis, Minister of Justice Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro, of the Labor Party, indicated that the government was prepared to enter an agreement with the NRP that the Zeidman case, if decided in favor of the plaintiff, will not constitute a precedent with regard to conversions. The compromise offered by the Labor Party would, in effect bar conversions by Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel because the Chief Rabbinate is not likely to approve them. But the NRP insists that this principle be frozen into law to assure the Orthodox establishment permanent control in matters of conversion.

Two Reform rabbis, Rabbi Moshe Zemmer of Tel Aviv and Rabbi Richard Hirsch, of Washington, D.C., chairman of the Israel committee of the World Union of Reform Jewry, welcomed an earlier statement by Justice Minister Shapiro that conversions performed by Reform rabbis abroad would be recognized in Israel. That would be in accordance with an amendment to the Law of Return, passed by the Knesset last March 10, which states that a person may be registered as Jewish only if born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism. The text of the amendment deliberately omitted a stipulation that conversions must be in accordance with halacha, religious law, which in effect means only by an Orthodox rabbi. The Religious bloc was unable to get such a stipulation included when the amendment was drafted.

Rabbi Zemmer and Hirsch said at a press conference this afternoon that the Justice Minister's offer to compromise, if the NRP would waive its opposition in the Zeidman case, would create a situation in which a person converted to Judaism by a Reform or Conservative rabbi abroad, would be recognized as Jewish in Israel but the same conversion performed by a non-Orthodox rabbi in Israel would not be valid. Such a situation is simply not logical, they said. They noted that Premier Golda Meir and the late Premier Levi Eshkol had welcomed Reform Jewry to Israel and said they would accept persons converted by Reform rabbis as Jews. They said Reform rabbis performed conversions with scrupulous care and accepted for conversion only those candidates who proved themselves fit to become Jews. Mrs. Zeidman married a Jew in a non-religious ceremony in Mexico. Later she was converted and went through a religious wedding ceremony performed by a Reform rabbi in Tel Aviv. The Interior Ministry, headed by an NRP minister, refused to recognize her conversion. The couple have a son and although a citizen of Israel, he will not be granted status as a Jew unless his mother's conversion is recognized by the government.

Reform Rabbis in U.S. Abroad, Deplore NRP's 'Unseemly Threat' To Israel's Coalition

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)--In a cablegram sent today to Israeli Premier Golda Meir, religious leaders of Reform Judaism here and abroad expressed deep concern over the "unseemly threat" to Israel's coalition government by the Orthodox National Religious Party, which has challenged the registration as a Jew of a woman who was converted to Judaism by Reform rabbis in Israel some three years ago. The cable, signed by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Rabbi Jacob K. Shankman, President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which is the international arm of Reform Judaism, stated, in part:

"It is astounding that the National Religious Party should be so exercised over one conversion that at this critical juncture it would threaten the dissolution of the coalition government and jeopardize the unity of the Jewish people. We are especially dismayed by reports that legislation will be proposed to oppose registration as Jews of all such converts in the future. It is totally incongruous for the state to recognize conversion performed by non-orthodox rabbis abroad and then to disqualify the conversion of those same rabbis after they have responded to the call of aliyah." The three Reform rabbis urged the government not to "compromise away the right of the majority to a small local minority who have once again demonstrated that petty vested interests take precedence over their sense of responsibility to the Jewish people as a whole."

Doubtful Thant Will Have Big Four Mandate When He Visits Jarring In Moscow

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 (JTA)--A UN spokesman confirmed today that Secretary General U Thant will meet with his special peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring in Moscow next month. Dr. Jarring is formally Swedish ambassador to the Soviet Union. Diplomatic sources said, however, that Mr. Thant will, in all likelihood, go empty-handed, without the "interim report" on the progress of the Big Four talks. The British ambassador, Lord Caradon, had hoped that the Big Four report could be submitted to Mr. Thant by the end of this month. But the four ambassadors' meeting Tuesday failed to produce even a hint that such a report was available. Diplomatic sources said the future course of the Four Power talks would be largely determined by the course of bilateral talks in New York and Washington, where the talks between Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, broke off several weeks ago, but are expected to be resumed soon. The "interim report" was expected to serve as the basis for the possible return of Dr. Jarring to New York leading to the resumption of his Mideast peace mission. Without such a report as a mandate or guideline, diplomatic sources feel, Jr. Jarring will not return here.

Five Jews From Riga Send Cable To Israel Expressing Horror At Schoolbus Ambush

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--A second cable has arrived from Russian Jews expressing horror at the bus ambush that killed eight Israeli school children and four adults near the Lebanese border last Friday. The cable was received at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa where children and adults wounded in the terrorist attack are being treated. It came from Riga, Latvia and was signed by five persons, Portnoy, Miller, Glazer, Goldschmidt and Feigin. Last week the hospital had a similar cable signed by nine Jews from Leningrad.

Some 1500 Educators, Artists, Intellectuals Condemn Soviet Treatment Of Jews

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)--One hundred sixty-nine American educators, creative artists and other intellectual leaders and more than 1300 college teachers have signed a statement expressing "shock" at "the campaign of vilification, intimidation and coercion" of Soviet Jewry by the Soviet regime. They described the policy as "an irrational anti-Semitic campaign" based on "transparently specious accusations." They called for equal rights for Soviet Jews and the right of emigration. Among the 169 notables--Jewish and non-Jewish, white and black--were Hannah Arendt, Saul Bellow, Theodore Bikel, Ralph Ellison, Michael Harrington, Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel, New York Mayor John V. Lindsay, Bernard Malamud, Arthur Miller, Chaim Potok, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Dore Schary, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Cleveland Mayor Carl B. Stokes. The statement was issued jointly by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Conference on the Status of Soviet Jews. Moshe Decter, executive secretary of the latter organization, noted at a news conference that the Kremlin's linking of anti-Soviet protests to American imperialism was disproved by the presence among the signers of the declaration of a number of critics of United States foreign policy. Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference, said his organization was in "constant communication" with U.S. officials on the matter of Soviet Jewry. But he added that attempts at redress through the UN had so far proved "frustrating."

Israeli Jets Attack Egyptian Targets; Syrian, Israeli Soldiers Clash In Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military targets in the Suez Canal zone for two hours this afternoon and returned safely to their bases. An Israeli officer, 2nd Lt. Yair Shapiro, 21, of Haifa, died today of wounds he received during an exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces across the canal last week. An Israeli soldier was wounded in a Golan Heights clash yesterday in which one Syrian soldier was killed and a second Syrian wounded. The encounter took place near Kuneitra and was fought at close range with rifles, submachineguns and hand grenades. Both Syrians were corporals who were apparently on a reconnaissance mission into Israel-occupied territory. They carried firearms, field glasses and food.

Dulczin: U.S. Recognizes Mideast Conflict Not Regional War But War Of Free World

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--The United States now recognizes that the conflict in the Middle East is no longer a regional war but a war of the free world of which the U.S. is the leader, Minister-Without-Portfolio Aryeh Dulczin said here today. Mr. Dulczin, addressing the Liberal Party convention, said the Mideast situation must be viewed in light of Russia's deepening military involvement in Egypt. Mr. Dulczin predicted that 50,000 new immigrants would arrive in Israel this year, 10,000 more than last year. He said the quality of the newcomers was much higher than in previous years, noting that 72 percent are under 39 and at least a third have academic degrees. He said there were presently 7000 overseas students in Israel and he hoped some of them would remain as settlers.

Guerrillas In Lebanon Beg For Transfers; Lebanese Villagers Bitter Toward Guerrillas

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon begged their commanders to be transferred out of the region because they feared an Israeli attack two weeks ago. This was learned from documents captured in Israel's 32-hour punitive raid on commando bases in the Arkoub region May 12-13. One document was a letter signed by 25 fedayeen and addressed to the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Front. It requested transfer to a less dangerous area because they had no adequate means of defense where they were, a military spokesman disclosed. (According to Washington Post correspondent William Tuohy, reporting today from Beirut, a new explosive element has been injected into Lebanon's internal crisis in the form of farmers and villagers in the southern border regions who are furious at the Palestinian guerrillas for bringing Israeli retribution on their heads and bitter toward their own government in Beirut for failing to protect them from the Israelis.)

Mr. Tuohy stated that whatever sympathy the Lebanese villagers may have had for the fedayeen has rapidly evaporated. He quoted one farmer from Blida, a border village as saying, "Why don't all those Palestinians in Beirut come down here to live. Then they would know what it is like for us to be shelled and killed by the Israelis for what the fedayeen do." Mr. Tuohy quoted one diplomatic analyst as saying: "Most Palestinian leaders couldn't care less about the plight of the Lebanese. They feel that they have been kicked around by the Lebanese for 22 years and now they would like to see Lebanon dragged into the war against Israel on a full-time basis.")

Keren Hayesod Reports \$60.5 Million In Cash Contributions Received In 1969-70

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)--Keren Hayesod, the Zionist movement's world-wide fund-raising agency, reported today that its 1969-70 campaigns in 54 countries yielded a cash income of \$60.5 million. Additional pledges not yet paid should bring the total to over \$80 million, the report said. South Africa contributed \$23.8 million, Britain \$17 million and Rhodesia, with only 6000 Jews, raised \$1 million. The 50th anniversary of Keren Hayesod was marked at the Israel Trade Fair today with the opening of the Keren Hayesod pavilion. Fifty-four colored balloons, representing the countries where the fund-raising unit functions, were released at the ceremony.

France Soir Claims 19 Most Wanted Nazis Living Safely In South America And Egypt

PARIS, May 28 (JTA)--The newspaper France Soir named 19 wanted Nazi war criminals who it says are living safely in South America and in Egypt. According to France Soir, Gen. Heinrich Mueller, former Gestapo commander, was last seen in Port Said wearing an Egyptian uniform, and there are 16 other wanted Nazis in Egypt, many of them employed by the police or the propaganda ministry. The top Nazis still at large in South America are Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, who lives in the Paraguay-Brazilian border region and Dr. Joseph Mengele, the Auschwitz physician who selected inmates for the gas chambers, France Soir said.

American Zionist Federation Holds Founding Convention; Jewish Unity Is Main Theme

PHILADELPHIA, May 28 (JTA)—Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem, declared here tonight that "Zionism is the only philosophy that has an answer to the burning problems of embattled Israel, of the Jews in countries of discrimination and need like the Soviet Union, and of Jews in the free world." In a moving and eloquent address to the opening session of the founding convention of the American Zionist Federation, Mr. Pincus also told the more than 1000 delegates representing 13 American Zionist organizations and some 20 student and activist Zionist youth groups, that "Israel's economy is moving forward and our industrial output and gross national product is increasing at a satisfactory rate." The Zionist leader added, "However, the overwhelming financial burden on Israel's taxpayers, arising out of the heavy defense obligations, leave the major responsibility of meeting humanitarian tasks of immigration and absorption on the free Jews of the world." Mr. Pincus said that the AZF has to include the maximum number of Jews who will contribute in various ways in giving practical help to sustain Israel's economic growth and assure her survival.

He warned that the current crisis Israel faces "is unprecedented in our 22-year history. The pressures upon the people and the government of Israel are without parallel both in variety and intensity." Nevertheless, Mr. Pincus declared, "we have the will to survive, and no sacrifices are too great for our people." The introduction of Soviet pilots and SAM-3 missiles "adds a new and dangerous dimension to our security problem," he said. "As of this moment, we can hold our own militarily. But what the future holds in store for us, should the USSR become further involved, is a matter of serious and worrisome contemplation." He mounted an urgent plea for additional Phantom and Skyhawk jets to maintain air strength. "We want no troops from foreign sources, from the United States or from any country. But we do need continuing air strength," he said. Because the situation for Israel is so grave, Mr. Pincus observed that "never was a united front of American Zionist strength more necessary since the pre-State days when American Jewry played so notable a role in fostering the establishment of Israel." The present crisis, he added, is one of survival for Jews in Israel and Jews throughout the world. It is in this struggle for survival that Zionism has the only answer, Mr. Pincus declared.

Rabbi Israel Miller, interim chairman of the AZF and assistant to the president of Yeshiva University, was scheduled to address the opening session tonight but was not present due to the death last Saturday of his father, Tobias Miller. His address was read by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, past president of Hadassah and member of the Jewish Agency Executive. In his prepared address, Rabbi Miller stated that the "American Zionist Federation is a preparation for 21st Century Zionism. It is our way of proclaiming that humanity is not doomed and that Israel will live. The Jewish people will live, and Zionism will live." Rabbi Miller observed that the Federation would "motivate American Jews to accept the Zionist principles that the Jews all over the world are one people, united by a common history, heritage, and destiny, with Israel as the center of Jewish life everywhere." He noted that the new Federation would create a functioning, unified central organization capable of acting in behalf of all Zionists in such areas as aliyah, youth, Jewish education, public information and internal Jewish communal affairs. Rabbi Hershel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and Dr. Max Nussbaum, former president of the American Zionist Council, opened the convention in a moving ceremony at the Memorial for the six million Jewish martyrs. Both called for a commitment to the survival of Israel in these times of crisis. The convention will continue through Sunday.

Pres. Shazar, Dr. Goldstein Hail AZF; Hope It Will Strengthen Zionist Movement

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)—President Zalman Shazar cabled his good wishes to the founding conference of the American Zionist Federation. He expressed the hope that the new Federation would succeed in its work for the realization of the Zionist idea, the continued existence of the Jewish people and the strengthening of the State of Israel. The President urged American Zionists to redouble their efforts for the promotion of Jewish education in America. On behalf of the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem, its acting chairman Dr. Israel Goldstein cabled the Federation expressing his conviction that the founding of the Federation would launch a new period and would strengthen the Zionist movement at a time when internal Zionist unity and solidarity are essential.

Israeli Cabinet Ministers Burg And Saphir To Tour U.S. For Israel Bonds

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)—Two of Israel's leading Cabinet members are scheduled to tour the United States next month to alert major Jewish communities to Israel's difficult financial position resulting from the country's spiraling defense burden, it was announced today by State of Israel Bonds. Joseph Saphir, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Joseph Burg, Minister of Social Welfare, will address meetings in communities from coast to coast in behalf of the State of Israel Bond drive. The 1970 Israel Bond campaign seeks to raise \$250 million. Mr. Saphir's and Mr. Burg's visit follows on the heels of the recent announcement that Israel's dwindling foreign exchange reserves necessitated a cut of \$57,000,000 in Israel's current budget. It is feared that the budget cut, which will not affect the indispensable defense requirements of the country, will further limit Israel's ability to maintain the pace of its economic development in the continuing struggle for peace unless there is an increase in the flow of cash from Israel bonds.

Technion Receives Gift Of \$1 Million From Julius Silver, New York Attorney

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)—A gift of \$1 million from Julius Silver, a New York attorney, to the American Technion Society will enable the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology to assume an international leadership role in the field of bio-medical engineering, it was announced today by the American Society for Technion. The gift will make possible the creation of a Center of Medical Engineering and Applied Human Physiology at the Technion's Mt. Carmel campus. The Technion is already a pioneer in the application of engineering technology to medicine. The ATS also announced that Technion laboratories in sanitary engineering were selected to participate in a worldwide project to explore new solutions for the disposal of waste materials. The project is sponsored by the United Nations.