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Rogers Mum On U.S. Jets To Israel; Emphasizes Need For Continued Diplomatic Initiatives

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA)—The anticipated announcement of the U.S. decision on more jet sales to Israel and details of the new American peace initiative in the Middle East failed to materialize at Secretary of State William P. Rogers' press conference here this morning. Mr. Rogers said that the United States has submitted new peace proposals on the Mideast to encourage Arabs and Israelis "to stop shooting and start talking" under United Nations auspices, but he gave no details of the plan. He declined to "discuss publicly military assistance for Israel" on grounds that to do so might jeopardize acceptance of the new U.S. peace plan. Saying that he does not plan to announce any further jet sales to Israel at the present time, Mr. Rogers asserted, "I think for the moment the emphasis should be on diplomatic initiatives and announcement now would be counter-productive." He said, "Our objective in launching this initiative has been to encourage the parties toward a just and lasting peace which takes fully into account the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all governments and peoples in the area. In light of that objective, we believe it would not be useful to disclose at this time details of the political initiatives or to discuss publicly military assistance for Israel," he said. Mr. Rogers said that the U.S. has not abandoned its position of support for Israel's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity which "remain in our interest." (The Israeli Cabinet met in special session in Jerusalem today after calling Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin home for urgent consultations. The Rogers peace proposals are believed to have been the subject of the cabinet session.)

(In New York, a United Nations spokesman said neither Secretary General U Thant nor his Mideast peace envoy Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, had expressed any views on the U.S. proposals. The spokesman added that "I have no confirmation that the Secretary General has been informed of the contents of the U.S. initiatives." Earlier in the week, however, a UN spokesman reported that Mr. Thant, during his visit to the Soviet Union last week, "was informed of new elements in the United States and Soviet Union positions regarding the Middle East," and that Mr. Thant felt "that these new elements could narrow the gap." The spokesman then said Mr. Thant's feelings were based on his discussions with Soviet officials and from a "message from the United States Embassy in Moscow" which was believed to have originated in Washington. There has been some speculation that the message had contained specifics of the U.S. proposals for breaking the Mideast deadlock.) The Secretary of State emphasized that the new American initiative was based on the United Nations Security Council's Mideast resolution of Nov. 22, 1967. He said it had been discussed with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt and with Israeli, Arab, Soviet, French and British leaders. Mr. Rogers said the Soviet Union had made no commitment but "listened politely and thoughtfully."

Secretary Rogers said the U.S. based its proposals in part on public statements made by both sides. He referred to President Nasser's May 1 "appeal" to President Nixon and Nasser's recent television interview broadcast in the U.S., in which he said he would be receptive to a cease-fire. He also referred to Premier Golda Meir's recent Knesset speech in which she said that Israel was willing to accept the Nov. 22, 1967 resolution and Foreign Minister Abba Eban's recent statement that Israel would be ready to make "startling" concessions once peace negotiations with the Arabs got underway. "This indicates considerable flexibility," Mr. Rogers said. Under the U.S. initiative, the United Nations special envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring would return to the Mideast to initiate Arab-Israeli talks. The Secretary of State supported the Arab position that negotiations do not have to be face-to-face. He said a "negotiating stance" can be "in the same city, in adjacent buildings, on different floors of the same building or in different rooms on the same floor." He emphasized that negotiations should be carried on in secret because public negotiations mean the parties simply repeat their cases and do not exchange ideas. "We never believed outside governments could do the negotiating," Rogers said. "I think the exchange has to be between the parties." The Israel Embassy here said today that Ambassador Rabin has already returned to Israel for "consultations" on the U.S. peace moves. An Embassy spokesman said "any other comment will have to come from Jerusalem." He added, "It would be wrong to comment on the American initiatives after the Secretary of State made it very clear that this is not to be done in public."

Israel Expected To React To Rogers' Statement Within Next Few Days

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA)—There was no official reaction here today to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' announcement this morning of a new U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East. Following an extraordinary cabinet meeting today, Premier Golda Meir announced that she will make a major political statement in the next few days. Sources here believe it will contain Israel's official reaction to the Rogers plan. Mrs. Meir said yesterday that Israel would reject any American proposals that jeopardized her nation's security. "I am not prepared to guarantee that the United States will not present us with a demand in the near or distant future that we shall be unable to accept," she told a student audience at the new immigrant township of Migdal Haemek near Nazareth. Mrs. Meir was believed to have been referring to the latest peace proposals which are reportedly under intensive study here and are said to have been the subject of this morning's special Cabinet meeting at which it was decided to call Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin home from Washington for urgent consultations.

Mrs. Meir made her remarks prior to Mr. Rogers' press conference in Washington this morning. She said relations between Israel and the U.S. "ought to be regarded as friendly despite recurrent differences on basic and vital issues...you must not forget the United States has great economic potential

which we need more than she needs us." She insisted however that Israel would accept "nothing less than peace." "After what we have suffered, no one has the right to tell us to give up peace. After the experience of 1956 we shall know how to withstand pressure," she said. The reference was to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula and Gaza Strip under U.S. and Soviet pressure following the 1956 Suez campaign. It was understood here that details of the Rogers' plan were conveyed to the Israeli government last weekend and discussed at Sunday's regular cabinet session as well as at today's. The plan was believed to have been given to Ambassador Rabin at a meeting with Secretary Rogers in Washington last Friday.

Arab Diplomatic Reaction At UN Lukewarm; Hopes For Jarring Peace Mission Buoyed

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 25 (JTA)--Diplomatic reaction here to Secretary of State Rogers' announcement this morning that the United States has taken a new initiative toward peace in the Middle East was sparse. Many ranking UN diplomats, like Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, were enroute to San Francisco for celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter. Mr. Rogers gave no details of his proposals and what reaction there was here concerned unconfirmed reports from abroad of what purported to be the American plan. But Arab sources here indicated that they were neither enthusiastic over Mr. Rogers' announcement nor totally dissatisfied with it. An Egyptian diplomat said, "If Mr. Rogers had coupled this exercise with the announcement of any more, even limited, plane shipments to Israel, we would not even have looked at his proposals." Commenting on reports from Beirut and Paris that the Rogers' plan contemplated a demilitarized zone between Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal, he said "one thing that is bound to be rejected" is a pull-back. He took the position that Egypt could not be asked to evacuate its own territory and that it was unrealistic to expect Israel to abandon fortifications in which it has already invested millions of dollars.

Hopes for the reactivation of Ambassador Gurnar V. Jarring's peace mission were buoyed here after last night's Big Four meeting. The French Ambassador, Jacques Koestelko-Morizet said the "impasse" had been broken by "a certain acceleration" of progress, although the U.S. initiative was not taken up at the meeting. A U.S. State Department spokesman said today that the Big Four--U.S., Soviet Russia, Britain and France--meetings represented a "holding action" pending the success or failure of the latest American initiative. The spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that today's statement by Secretary Rogers "makes it essential that they continue meeting." He said the success of the U.S. proposals would facilitate Big Four agreement on a progress memo and would enable them, after months of fruitless negotiation, to have a set of written guidelines to present to Secretary General U Thant as the basis for resuming the stalled Jarring mission.

Reports From Abroad Say U.S. Plans Call For Demilitarized Zone, 90-Day 'Peace-Pause'

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA)--Purported details of the new U.S. peace plan for the Middle East emerged in several foreign capitals today though officials in Washington remained silent. According to the reports, the plan calls for a 90-day "peace pause" and the creation of a demilitarized zone between Israeli and Egyptian forces facing each other across the Suez Canal. According to observers here, the fate of the Rogers plan is at the "crucial" stage which accounts for the refusal here to confirm or deny accounts emanating from abroad. The delicacy of the situation was evidenced by use of the words "peace pause" a euphemism for cease-fire. Israel has already stated flatly that it will not accept a cease-fire with any time limit attached. An account of the proposals in the Beirut press, inspired by high Lebanese officials, said the first phase of the Rogers plan would have Israeli and Egyptian forces each withdraw 12 miles behind their present lines, beginning July 1. The three-month hiatus would be employed to bring Israelis and Arabs together under the auspices or through the medium of United Nations special envoy Ambassador Gurnar V. Jarring. (Official sources in Jerusalem claimed today that the Beirut accounts were inaccurate.) Washington Post correspondent Anatole Shub reported from Paris today that the U.S. initiative would establish a United Nations peace-keeping force on both sides of the Suez Canal and that Egyptian and Israeli forces would be required to withdraw six miles behind their respective lines. Control of the UN force would rest with the Security Council and it could be withdrawn only by unanimous vote, Mr. Shub reported.

"For Israel such a retreat would signify symbolic acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967... For Egypt, withdrawal from the canal would constitute acceptance of a local cease-fire... and thus renunciation of the 'war of attrition' pledged by Egyptian President Nasser," Mr. Shub reported. He also reported that according to diplomatic sources the Soviet Union has accepted the idea of Security Council control over UN peacekeeping forces. "If so, this would be a significant concession," Mr. Shub wrote. U.S. officials confirmed that the Rogers plan envisioned a temporary cease-fire agreement and that it has been submitted to Israel and the Arab states as well as to the USSR, Britain and France. Reports from Lebanon said Arab governments had "leaked" details of the Rogers plan to the press to test popular reaction before taking an official stand. The plan has already been denounced by the "Voice of Assifa, the El Fatah radio station in Cairo. In Cairo today the semi-official Egyptian daily Al-Ahram said Egyptian officials considered the latest American proposals nothing but a modification of proposals made last year which Egypt rejected because they did not provide for Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula. Similarly, reports from Damascus said the U.S. plan was unacceptable to Syria because it made no provisions for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Pro-Israel Groups Unhappy With Rogers' Statement; Javits Calls For Clear Statement

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA)--Pro-Israel groups were unhappy today over Secretary of State William F. Rogers' failure to announce this morning that the U.S. would sell more jets to Israel. A spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee said, "Obviously all Americans want peace in the Middle East and one way to insure it is to see that Israel's request for arms is filled." There was virtually no public comment in Congressional circles on Mr. Rogers' new Mideast peace initiative. The only details of the plan are contained in unconfirmed reports from abroad. But Sen. Jacob K. Javits said

in a statement to the press today that the administration "may be putting the cart before the horse." The New York Republicans claimed that "unless and until Israel is assured of receiving the military equipment it needs, it is doubtful that the Soviet Union and the radical Arabs are likely to negotiate to any real purpose." According to Sen. Javits, only a clear statement of military support for Israel will convince the Arabs that it is in their interests to negotiate a peace settlement. Commenting on the reports that the Rogers' plan envisions a temporary cease-fire and a demilitarized zone between Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal, Mr. Javits warned that a cease-fire could be "used by the USSR and Egypt to gain a strategic advantage." He said Israel would be taking a big chance in giving up some of the "strategically viable" area it won in the June, 1967 war and must be assured that it would not be to her disadvantage.

Some opinion-makers in the capital said privately that the new U.S. initiative might re-establish a dialogue between Israelis and Arabs. A leader of the organized Jewish community here who asked not to be identified, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "Both sides are looking for a way out, and this might provide it. I'm not sure it will lead directly to peace, but it is a start." Some foreign observers welcomed the new U.S. initiative and were especially pleased that Mr. Rogers did not mention new jet sales to Israel because it leaves room for flexibility on all sides. The heads of the rabbinic bodies of Reform and Conservative Judaism praised the new U.S. peace initiative today but expressed regret that the government has failed to see to provide further defensive military assistance to Israel and warned that the Soviet Union may be encouraged to increase its military involvement in the region. The views were expressed in a telegram sent to President Richard M. Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers by Rabbi Ronald B. Gittelsohn, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) and Rabbi S. Gershon Levi, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative). The telegrams said, "We urge our government to state its intentions publicly and unequivocally, to prevent any attempt by any power hostile to Israel to escalate the level of the conflict in the Middle East."

Israeli Jets Strike Close To Damascus In Retaliation For Syrian Attack On Israel

TEL AVIV, June 25 (JTA)--Israeli fighter planes struck deep into Syrian territory, reaching almost to Damascus, in retaliation for the biggest Syrian attack in three years last night. The Israelis hit bases and depots at Katana and the Kiswa region---nine and six miles south of Damascus, respectively---and at the Sbein camp north of Sweida. These are the major Syrian army camps. All Israeli planes returned safely. Last night, three Syrian tanks crossed the cease-fire line into the occupied Golan Heights, stopping short of the Israeli military line but shelling Israeli positions near Kuneitra, Nahal Gushar and Ein Zivan, according to an Israeli military spokesman. The entire 37-mile-long Israeli line mobilized and pursued the tanks back into Syrian territory in the Mount Hermon area, destroying two of them, he said. The two-hour confrontation ended at 8 p.m. local time. The spokesman said the Syrian attack was her "heaviest ever."

Syria claimed that 175 Israelis had been killed or wounded last night. Israel reported one dead and seven injured. The Syrian raid last night is believed to have resulted from Cairo requests to ease Egypt's fighting burdens. Beisan township and the surrounding area were attacked four times this morning by Katyusha rocket fire from Jordanian territory. One Israeli woman was slightly injured. Israeli army units returned fire. The Arab rockets all exploded in empty lots. This afternoon, Israel reported downing a Soviet-built Syrian MIG-21 in a dogfight over the Golan Heights. Syria claimed it had downed an American-made Israeli Phantom. Cairo military sources said Egyptian anti-aircraft gunners had shot down an American-made Skyhawk today as 30 Israeli planes struck Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal. This was the 18th straight day of Israeli attacks on canal positions. The Egyptians said their forces had launched two "fierce" strikes on Israeli positions on the East Bank.

Soviet Union Vetoes Oistrakh-Menuhin Concert, Charging Menuhin Helps Israel

LONDON, June 25 (JTA)--Plans for a Swiss concert by the prominent Soviet violinist-conductor David Oistrakh and the noted American violinist-conductor Yehudi Menuhin--both of whom are Jewish--have been vetoed by the Soviet government, according to a Soviet spokesman in Bern. This is believed to be the first time the Kremlin, which has heretofore maintained a distinction between culture and politics, has made such a decision. The setting for the concert was to have been the annual music festival at Gstaad of which Mr. Menuhin is honorary president, scheduled for Aug. 13-Sept. 4. The spokesman explained that "No Soviet artist is permitted to work with or for artists of other nationalities if the latter are favorable or helpful to the Israeli aggressors." (In New York, the American Jewish Congress termed the reported Soviet decision "ludicrous" and "an ominous development in the Soviet campaign against its own Jewish community and against Israel.") Eleazar Lipsky, chairman of the Congress' Commission on International Affairs, added: "It is saddening enough that statesmen and military figures must approach each other with distrust on the subject of the Middle East. It is intolerable that extraneous political circumstances must now be invoked to keep artists and performers from joining one another in their art...We call upon performers everywhere to repudiate this latest manifestation of Soviet intransigence and insensitivity..."

Report Dr. Goldmann Met Secretly With Tito; Nature Of Meeting Not Disclosed

BELGRADE, June 25 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, has met secretly with President Tito at Briuni, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug. Dr. Goldmann, who requested the meeting, was accompanied by Armand Kaplan, Paris-based director of international affairs for the WJC. Mr. Kaplan is said to have been Dr. Goldmann's liaison with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser in the WJC leader's aborted attempt at personal Middle East consultations. Tanjug said both Dr. Goldmann and Marshal Tito "are maintaining strict secrecy" about the nature of their meeting.

COLPA, Six Jewish Groups, File Suits In Segregated, Non-Public School Cases

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)—The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) has filed a brief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia opposing tax exempt status for segregated private schools set up to evade judicial decisions outlawing segregation in public schools. The brief was submitted in connection with the Internal Revenue Service's decision to grant tax exempt status to a private school established by white parents in Mississippi which refuses to accept non-white pupils. A suit attacking the grant has been brought by a number of individuals. COLPA, which specializes in cases involving Orthodox Jewish groups, said it entered the case to counter arguments by proponents of tax exemption that would equate segregated private schools with parochial schools. COLPA and nine Orthodox organizations were recently involved in a case in which the United States Supreme Court upheld tax exempt status for religious institutions. In an unrelated case, six national Jewish organizations filed a "friend of the court" brief with the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday challenging the constitutionality of a Pennsylvania law providing state support for non-public schools. The organizations are the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Their brief argues that the Pennsylvania statute violates the First Amendment because it allocates funds to sectarian schools thus involving the state in the propagation of religion.

Plans Announced For 'Martyrs Memorial'; Will Be Only One In Western Hemisphere

LOS ANGELES, June 25 (JTA)—Plans for a "living memorial" to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust are taking shape, and it will be constructed adjoining the Jewish Community Library here, according to Morton Silverman, chairman of the Jewish Federation-Council's Memorial Project Committee. The entire structure, including the library will contain 5,000 square feet and house Jewish community archives, historical documents pertaining to the Nazi era, exhibits, and a sanctuary. When completed, it will be the first and only of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Silverman said that no work would begin on the project until at least three-quarters of the money required for its construction and the library's alteration is realized. The project will cost approximately \$200,000. The idea for the project had its origin more than a decade ago among the 35,000 war refugees who now reside in Los Angeles. They felt it fitting that the millions of innocent Jews who gave their lives must not be forgotten. They also felt it to be appropriate that the second largest Jewish community in the U.S. have such a memorial. The only other similar memorials are in Paris and Israel.

Course In Jewish Studies To Be Established At University Of Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 25 (JTA)—Taking a cue from a nationwide trend on college campuses, the Conference of Jewish Organizations voted expenditure of \$5,000 to establish a course in Jewish studies at the University of Louisville next spring. The Conference plan envisions financing such studies for three years, after which the university would take over its full cost. Members of the Conference took the action following a committee study which resulted from a petition presented to the Conference last February by Miss Rhonda Zalman, president of the Hillel chapter at the university and signed by some 400 Jewish students on the campus. The course will include guest lecturers, local authorities, and full-time supervision by a member of the college faculty.

Saphir Says Israel Prepared To Grasp Any Opportunity To End War, Work For Coexistence

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)—Joseph Saphir, Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry, declared here last night that "We are prepared to grasp any opportunity to end the war which costs us dearly, but not at the expense of our security and future." Mr. Saphir was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the American Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He told the 500 guests at the Waldorf Astoria: "We have declared many time again and again that we are prepared to sit down and talk peace and find a means of coexistence with our neighbors. We want to build up a new democratic society that can be an example to the whole Middle East and the world." He warned the audience that "we are facing bitter times," but he stressed that "we are determined to survive." He expressed the hope that the free world, including the United States, would understand the role of Israel as a bulwark and a dam preventing the flooding of the Middle East by Communism." The dinner honored Spiro P. Skouras, a Greek American and a leading figure in the film industry and shipping, for his contribution to Jewry and Israel.

27 JDL Members Released On Parole After Occupying Soviet Trade Mission Office

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)—Twenty-seven members of the Jewish Defense League were released on parole yesterday pending a Sept. 23 hearing in Criminal Court on their occupation Tuesday of the two-floor offices of Amtorg Trading Corp., the Soviet trade mission. The demonstrators were released in their attorney's custody. State Sen. Paul Bookson assisted the JDL attorney at the arraignment. A JDL spokesman charged that the Jewish militants had been denied food and drink during 24 hours in jail. He said three of them were temporarily re-incarcerated when Dr. M. T. Mehdi, Secretary General of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, who was beaten in reprisal for the terrorist attack May 23 on an Israeli school bus, suddenly appeared on the scene and accused the three of the beating. Both JDL and Amtorg denied published reports that the damage sustained in the JDL action totaled \$10-12 million. The JDL spokesman said, "We didn't damage a thing."

Jewish Agency Sends Record Total Of 5421 Americans To Israel To Work In Its Programs

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)—A record total of 5,421 American adults and youths—including 4,554 high school and college students—will be sent to Israel by the Jewish Agency to participate in the agency's work-study programs. Of the total, 4,548 will remain for the summer and 873 for periods of six months to a year. The project is being coordinated by the Jewish Agency's Department of Education & Culture and Torah Education & Culture.