

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Mrs. Meir's Knesset Address On Rogers' Peace Plan Expected To Be Non-Committal

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir will deliver a major address in the Knesset tomorrow afternoon on Israel's view of "the ways to achieve peace" in the Middle East. She will not make any clear cut statement of acceptance or rejection of the new American peace initiative announced last Thursday by Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mrs. Meir's equivocal stand on the U.S. proposals was predicted by informed sources here as the Cabinet met throughout the day, presumably to discuss the American approach. It was reportedly briefed by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin who was called home from Washington last week to make a personal report. According to the sources, the Israeli government believes that the Rogers' plan's chances are remote and to accept or reject it would only create a split in the coalition government. Even a qualified acceptance could lead to the resignation of the Gahal faction while outright rejection would alienate a large segment of opinion in and out of the government that would be willing to consider the American proposals, the sources said. Out of these considerations Mrs. Meir decided, after consultation with Ambassador Rabin and a small circle of senior cabinet ministers, to make an oblique statement tomorrow and to let the Arabs torpedo the Rogers plan if that is to be its fate.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, one of the leading "doves" in the government, will not be in the Knesset when Mrs. Meir delivers her speech tomorrow. He flies to Luxembourg tonight to sign the preferential trade agreement between Israel and the Common Market countries and will go from there to London for a meeting with Britain's new Foreign Minister, Sir Alex Douglas-Home. The government meanwhile has released no details of the American proposals which are believed to have been in its hands for more than a week. Mr. Rogers, in announcing that the U.S. has taken a new peace initiative warned that disclosure of the details now "would be counter-productive." Unofficial sources here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that there was "optimism" over the future course of U.S.-Israeli relations. They cited Secretary Rogers' acknowledgment in his press conference that the Soviet military build-up in the Middle East injected a new factor that made Israel understandably apprehensive. They also welcomed Mr. Rogers' assurances that American policy toward Israel "remains constant—it does not change." Disappointment over the Secretary's failure to announce an American decision on the sale of more combat jets to Israel was tempered in some quarters here with the observation that there was "at least not a rejection." The feeling is that if the Nixon administration's decision on the jet sales had been negative, Mr. Rogers would have announced it last Thursday.

## Reaction To Rogers' Proposal: Arab Governments Angry, Guerrillas Furious, Russians Silent

LONDON, June 28 (JTA)—Arab government leaders expressed anger this weekend over the peace proposals for the Middle East announced by United States Secretary of State William P. Rogers but not outright rejection of his approach, according to reports here. Spokesmen for the Arab-led pan-Arab group, however, bitterly denounced the proposals. At the same time, the Soviet Union maintained a tight silence about its views of the U.S. peace initiative. Egyptian sources here said today that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt will go to Moscow this week to discuss the new American peace initiative with Kremlin leaders. According to the sources, that will be the sole topic of his visit. No date was disclosed. British sources said the new British government will not announce any specific reaction to the American plan, beyond welcoming the initiative, until Foreign Secretary Sir Alex Douglas-Home has an opportunity to talk to Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Mr. Eban is due here tomorrow. What purported to be particulars of the Rogers plan were leaked to the press in Lebanon and Paris last week. According to the reports, the first phase of the American initiative calls for establishing a cease-fire in the Suez Canal zone for at least 90 days and to create a demilitarized zone 12 miles deep on each side of the waterway. The hiatus in fighting would be used to reactivate the peace mission of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring, the reports said. (Israeli sources claimed the "leaked" reports were inaccurate but made no other comment. But fear was expressed in some quarters here today that a cease-fire of limited duration could be used by Egypt and its Soviet allies to install SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles in the Suez Canal zone from which they have been excluded so far by constant Israeli bombardment.)

The newspaper of the leftwing Syrian Baathist party called the American initiative a "bloody, malicious declaration against the Arab nation's future." But the main Syrian complaint was that, according to leaked versions, the plan did not provide for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. (President Nasser, to whom Mr. Rogers primarily addressed his appeal to "stop shooting and start talking," said at a rally Thursday in Libya that the American proposal fell short of Arab objectives. Col. Nasser shared a platform with President Nureddin el Atassi, of Syria and in the tradition of Islamic Scholastic orthodoxy, declared, "Syria before Egypt, Golan before the Sinai." The implication was that Egypt would accept no settlement that did not provide for recovery of all Arab territories lost in the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Western observers noted however that President Nasser's reaction may have been a rebuff to the specific Rogers formula but was not a rejection of the American initiative. The Egyptian leader returned to Cairo Friday amid reports that he would immediately undertake consultations with other Arab governments on the American proposals.)

## Riad Meets With Sisco: Administration Disappointed With Nasser's Response To Rogers

In Washington, the State Department announced that Mahmoud Riad, chief of the cabinet to the Foreign Ministry of the UAR, met yesterday with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco to discuss the

Mideast situation in light of the U.S. peace initiative. State Department press officer Carl Barth said that Ried's visit was on the invitation of the State Department, but that he was not bringing a response from President Nasser because he had been at the United Nations for the last month and out of direct contact with the UAR leader. Mr. Barth said that the administration is "waiting for considered response" to its proposals from the principals. He said that although Pres. Nasser had received the initiative proposal "within the last week," his speech rejecting peace was not the "considered response" the U.S. was awaiting. King Hussein, of Jordan declared yesterday that his country must now prepare for a "battle of liberation" and reportedly agreed to seek arms from any source and to give guerrilla groups a free hand against Israel. However, Western sources say King Hussein would be amenable to a peaceful settlement in the Mideast but is the prisoner of the militant Palestinian terrorist group who stripped him of much of his authority during five days of bloody clashes in Jordan two weeks ago.

El Fatah branded the Rogers plan a "conspiracy" aimed at forcing the Arabs to accept "submissive" plans. Kamal Nasser, spokesman for the unified central guerrilla command in Amman, pledged that the guerrillas would do everything in their power to block implementation of the American proposals. Dr. George Habash, Marxist leader of the terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine mocked the Rogers proposal according to reports from Amman. Secretary Rogers said at his press conference that the Soviet Union made no commitments on the American plan but "listened politely and thoughtfully." In the absence of official reaction from Moscow there were contradictory reports about as to the Kremlin's attitude and intentions. Some reports from the Soviet capital yesterday noted that the Russians have shown renewed interest in recent weeks in reaching a political settlement of the Mideast dispute and that Moscow was reported to have shown some new flexibility in talks in Washington. Some reports observed that there is still no indication that the Russians really want a settlement in the Middle East and Soviet reaction to the latest American initiative has been one of reserve. According to most observers here, Israel subscribes to the most pessimistic views of Moscow's intentions and is deeply unhappy that Secretary Rogers did not take a firmer stand toward the growing Soviet military presence in Egypt.

### **Israel Concerned Over Nature Of Jordan's New Pro-Guerrilla Coalition Government**

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA)--Israeli officials expressed concern today over the nature of the new pro-guerrilla coalition government that took office in Jordan yesterday with King Hussein's blessings and an exhortation to prepare for all-out war against Israel. The 17-member coalition, headed by Premier Abdel Monem Rifai, is top-heavy with hardliners, some of whom may have been hand-picked by the Fedayeen, government circles here said. They were especially perturbed by King Hussein's formal message to the new cabinet in which he stated that the Jordanian Army would fight side-by-side with the Palestinian guerrillas and authorized the new government to obtain weapons from any sources, presumably not excluding the Soviet Union. Israeli pointed out that the message was the first in which King Hussein ever referred to the guerrillas in a favorable light. They believe the new government is the price he paid for retaining his throne following the bloody clashes earlier this month between Jordanian regulars and guerrilla bands.

No fewer than eight of the new cabinet ministers openly sided with the terrorists in that crisis. Among them are Abdel El Faiz, former speaker of the Jordanian Parliament who is the new Minister of State for Prime Ministerial Affairs; Amin Atallah, who was expelled from the West Bank by the Israelis after the Six-Day War for incitements, now Foreign Minister; Sheikh Al Hamid Al Sayegh, another ex-pellet, now Minister of Religious Affairs and Religious Trusts; Fawaz Russan, Minister of Justice; Kassim el Rimawi, formerly of Ramallah now Minister of Municipal Affairs; Dr. Daoud Al Hussein, a member of the family of the ex-Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin el-Hussein who collaborated with Hitler during World War II, now Minister of Economic Affairs and Suliman al Hadidi, a close ally of El Faiz chief Yasir Arar, now Minister of Public Works. On the other hand, one of Hussein's trusted lieutenants, Abd el-Wahab al Majali who was reportedly slated to be Premier, was given the defence portfolio instead because of guerrilla threats, Israeli sources said. They said that while none of the new ministers is a guerrilla leader himself, this is only because the guerrillas are satisfied that they can now control the government without having to bear ministerial responsibility.

### **Heavy Israeli Casualties Reported In Fighting Along Golan Heights, Suez Canal Zone**

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)--A guerrilla rocket attack on Kiryat Shemona in Upper Galilee early this morning killed one civilian and wounded another, bringing Israel's death toll since Friday to 11 soldiers and two civilians killed in fighting that ranged from the Golan Heights to the Suez Canal zone. The longest battle took place on the Golan Heights. Syrian artillery attacks on Israeli settlements Wednesday touched off three days of ground and aerial warfare described by observers as the heaviest in the area since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Israel claimed five Syrian jets downed, 26 Syrian tanks and six Syrian positions destroyed and 38 Syrians captured. Israel conceded the loss of ten soldiers killed and 27 wounded and one jet shot down over Syrian territory. At one point Israeli jets bombed military targets only six miles from Damascus. Israel Air Force jets attacked military targets in the Suez Canal zone intermittently throughout the day yesterday. This morning Israeli jets smashed guerrilla bases in the Jordan Valley and on the slopes of Mt. Hermon in Lebanon following a series of Katyusha rocket attacks on Israeli settlements. Israeli and Egyptian forces exchanged artillery fire across the Suez Canal yesterday. An Egyptian MiG was shot down Friday in an attack on Israeli positions. An Israeli officer, Lt. Yeshayahu Weisman, 28, of Ramat Gan, was fatally wounded. A civilian tractor driver, Sanior Brook, of Bnei Brak was killed by Egyptian gunfire in the canal zone Friday night.

Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Haim Bar Lev, said in a radio broadcast yesterday that Israel's counter attack in the Golan Heights was intended to teach the Syrians "a lesson they will not soon forget." He said the Syrian aggression there was undertaken at Cairo's behest to relieve Israeli pressure on the Suez Canal front. But, he said, the fighting in the north had no effect on Israeli Army and Air Force

activities along the canal. Israel admittedly paid a heavy price in the Golan Heights. Four of the dead were medics rushing to a United Nations observers outpost following reports, later proved erroneous, that UN personnel were hurt. A Syrian tank scored a direct hit on the medical crew's vehicle killing its occupants. The Israeli dead, all killed on Friday were Capt. Yohanan Zohar, 29, of Upper Nazareth; Capt. Oded Sheldor, 29, of Haifa; Lt. Ron Paz, a medical doctor, 38, of Carmiel; First Sgt. Mordechai Elazar, 23, of Kiryat Motzkin; Sgt. Yosef Barkowski, 31, of Migdal Haemek; Corp. Abraham Wahab, 21, of Bokha; Pts. Ephraim Tchava, 16, of Ratzon; Ben Gutman, 20, of Nathanya; Tsvi Haris, 18, of Givatayim; Aryeh Machlouf Saadoun, 20, of Zichron Yaakov. The latest civilian casualty was Yehuda Kadush, 13, of Kiryat Shemona, who was killed by a salvo of Katyusha rocket fire while riding a motor scooter shortly after midnight. Marcelle Fortal, 22, was slightly injured. A second salvo at 6:20 a.m. local time caused no casualties. Two Israeli border policemen were injured this morning when guerrillas from Lebanon fired bazookas at an Israeli patrol. Bazooka shells and Katyusha rockets were fired at Beisan Valley settlements today but caused no casualties.

An Israeli armored tank column returned to Israeli territory in the Golan Heights Friday after 48 hours of blazing clashes in which six Syrian positions and 20 tanks were destroyed, 20 Syrians taken prisoner and four Syrian MiGs shot down in two aerial clashes. Syria claimed it had "wiped out enemy garrisons" at three Israeli positions in the northern sector. One Israeli jet was hit and abandoned and its pilot parachuted into Syrian territory. A late afternoon Syrian attack on Israeli positions Friday near Kuneitra was repulsed. A Syrian armored troop carrier was set afire in the battle. Artillery exchanges across the Golan Heights continued through the day, with heavy Syrian casualties and four dead and 27 wounded Israelis, officials reported. Israeli jets attacked for the second day on Friday the same three major Syrian army camps at Katana, Killa and Sidjam, one near Damascus. Cpl. David Tourea, 20, of Bet Yam was killed in the fighting Thursday. Sgt. Itzhak Grossman, 34, was killed Wednesday night. An Italian airliner with 104 passengers and crew members was hit by rocket fire during Israeli-Syrian clashes Friday on its way from Tel Aviv to Rome. The Alitalia DC-8 made an emergency landing at Beirut with two engines dead and fuel spurting from a 40-inch hole in one wing. There were no injuries. Capt. Giorgio Pizzo, of Padua, said the plane had been hit over Damascus, but that he did not know the source of the fire.

#### Mrs. Meir Warns Against Illusion That Jewish Nation In Diaspora More Secure Than Israel

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)--"We are fighting our enemies not only because we have no other choice and not only to preserve the State of Israel. Our struggle is for the sake of the whole Jewish nation. We are convinced that our victory would ensure the continuation of the Jewish nation's existence throughout the world..." Premier Golda Meir said last night addressing some 400 delegates of the American Friends of Histadrut. The gathering marked the 50th anniversary of Histadrut. The American Histadrut Friends, headed by Leon Keyserling, an economic adviser to former President Harry S. Truman, heard Mrs. Meir warn the delegates against illusions that the Jewish nation in diaspora is more secure than Israel. "Even today, in midst of the struggle, it's the safest place for any Jew to live in Israel" she said, adding that this is now new war, nor was the 1948 and 1967 separated wars, but it's "a single pattern of war stretching from 1948 to this very day." Mrs. Meir said Israelis want peace.

#### Prominent Panamanians Condemn Soviet Discrimination Against Jews

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)--Fifteen of Panama's most prominent intellectuals and political personalities, including two ex-Presidents of the Republic, have signed a declaration condemning the treatment of Jews by the Soviet Union and by "some countries of Eastern Europe." The declaration stated, "We must declare our solidarity with the Jewish population in the territories of the Soviet Union and of some countries of Eastern Europe, as well as our repudiation of the conditions of spiritual and moral violence to which these people are systematically subjected." Noting that the Jews are hindered from practicing their religion, from emigrating to Israel, and confronted with countless manifestations of hostility on the part of the public authorities, the declaration warned they may well fall victim to the intention to destroy the existence of their historical, moral and cultural personality. The declaration added, "We join our voice to those raised throughout the American continent to demand the elimination of the discriminatory measures, overt and covert... threatening the Jewish community in the Soviet Union and in other European countries..."

The signatories included Panamanian ex-Presidents, Ricardo J. Alfaro and Ernesto de la Guardia, Jr.; the President of the University of Panama; the Dean of its Law School; former members of Parliament; former members of the Supreme Court; educators; jurists; professors; writers; former ministers of foreign affairs, finance, housing and education; lawyers; linguists; and poets. The declaration was transmitted to the World Jewish Congress in New York by the Central Jewish Community Council of Panama, an affiliate of the Congress. On August 12, the Jewish Community of Panama will hold a public demonstration in support of Jewish rights in the Soviet Union. The Jewish community of Panama totals approximately 2000 persons and its central representative body is the Central Jewish Community Council of Panama. Ninety percent of all Jewish children receive a Jewish education at the Albert Einstein Institute, a Jewish school located in the capital.

#### Jewish Community Sends \$3000 To Earthquake, Flood Victims In Peru, Rumania

BUENOS AIRES, June 28 (JTA)--The Jewish community of Buenos Aires has sent \$3000 in aid to flood and earthquake victims in widely separated areas of the world. Community Council president Gregorio Falguerich announced that \$2000 has been sent through the Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania to flood victims in that country and \$1000 to help those made homeless by the recent earthquakes in Peru. David Kaplan, who was appointed Undersecretary of Press and Tourism by the new Argentine military junta, resigned his position today. He said the appointment was only temporary. He has been succeeded by Rodolfo Baltierrez, a former journalist who served as Ambassador to Israel in 1968 and 1969.

**Prominent Black Americans Appeal To U.S. Government To Sell Planes To Israel**

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)—Black Americans, prominent in the fields of civil rights, trade unions, politics, mass media, government agencies and business, signed today an appeal for United States support to Israel. The appeal, sponsored by the A. Philip Randolph Institute and signed by 62 individuals, appeared in several newspapers including the New York Times and The Washington Post. The signers urged "the United States government to use its great influence to help bring the Israelis and the Arabs to the conference table where they can work out among themselves a just and negotiated settlement." The appeal also urged the government "to take steps to help guarantee Israel's right to exist as a nation. For the present this means providing Israel with the full number of jet aircraft it has requested." The appeal noted that the crisis in the Middle East is a "cause of great concern to all Americans—non-Jew as well as Jew, black as well as white." The concern of black Americans, the appeal continued, is motivated both by the threat to world peace which is posed by the Arab-Israeli conflict and by the awareness that Israel, "like any other nation, has its shortcomings, (but) it is by far the most democratic country in the Middle East." It expressed concern with the plight of the impoverished Arabs and observed that the "income from oil has been used to sustain wealthy sheikdoms—and often terrorist organizations as well—but rarely to alleviate the suffering of the poor."

The appeal observed that Israel, "with its impressive program of foreign technical aid, has contributed far more than any of its Arab enemies to the development of black African nations" and called attention to the "continuing brutal persecution of black Africans by the Sudanese government which...is militarily allied with and assisted by the Egyptian government. The appeal affirmed Israel's right to exist "for the same reasons that we have struggled for freedom and equality in America." It warned that the view expressed by some Americans "including a small minority of blacks" that the Middle East crisis is fundamentally "a racial conflict between nonwhite Arabs and white Israelis" is uninformed and "dangerously misleading." The signers noted that this view also "ignores the fact that approximately half the Jewish Israeli population consists of immigrants from Asia and Africa. Among the signers of the appeal were: New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; New York State Senator Basil A. Paterson; Detroit Congressman Charles C. Diggs; Gary, Indiana Mayor Richard Hatcher; Cleveland, Ohio Mayor Carl Stokes; New York City Housing Authority Chairman Simon Golar; National Council of Negro Women President Dorothy Height; John H. Johnson, publisher of Ebony, Jet, and Tan and Black World; and A. Philip Randolph, Jackie Robinson, Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins, and Whitney M. Young Jr.

**NJCRA Convention Probes City-Suburb Apartheid, Jewish-Catholic Relations, Israel**

CLEVELAND, June 28 (JTA)—An official of the National Council of Churches said last night that his organization's recent policy statement opposing American sale of jets to Israel did not reflect any fundamental change in Protestant attitudes toward the Jewish state. The Rev. Dr. David R. Hunter, Deputy Secretary General of the National Council, attributed the resolution adopted by the National Council's General Board last week to concern over a rising Middle East arms race. Dr. Hunter, who addressed the annual plenary meeting of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, expressed hope for "a more realistic and fair resolution" when the National Council's board reconsiders the issue in September. NJCRA concluded its four-day parley today with the adoption of a series of "policy guidelines" for its constituent agencies and the election of Albert E. Arent of Washington, D.C., a tax attorney and member of Georgetown University's graduate faculty, chairman for the coming year. Arent succeeded Jordan C. Band of Cleveland. The church group's controversial resolution had asked that the United States withhold planes for Israel and "seek progressive reduction of arms as part of a Middle East peace settlement." Speaking at the same symposium, on Christian-Jewish relationships, Philip Scharper, editor of a Catholic publishing house and member of the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Secretariat on Relations Between Catholics and Jews, said that the "thrust toward participatory democracy" was accelerating a decentralization in church authority with "collegiality" on the local level opening ways for greater Catholic-Jewish dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. Scharper cited the statement of the American Bishops "affirming the central importance" of the state of Israel to the Jewish people." As action he noted taken "without waiting for Vatican initiative or encouragement" as an instance of Catholic response "to the needs of American Jews who had been disillusioned by the comparative silence of Christian leaders" just prior to the Six-Day War. NJCRA urged that its constituent agencies initiate programs to interpret to Jews in suburbs the "self-defeating" nature of government housing and highway policies that are reinforcing racial separations between the inner city and its surrounding suburbs. Describing such programs as a "major responsibility" of Jewish community relations agencies, a "policy guideline" adopted at NJCRA's annual plenary meeting here stressed a need for Jewish suburban dwellers to recognize "the interdependence of city and suburb" and to work to reverse government policies creating "apartheid" in the nation. The Council's statement challenged an administration view that de facto discrimination is beyond federal control and warned that continuing the pattern of "two societies"—blacks and the poor in the inner city and affluent whites in the suburbs—would mean "economic death" for the cities and doom for the cause of racial equality.

At an earlier session during the NJCRA's weekend convention, delegates were told that American Jewry has a special responsibility for re-enlisting the "substantial number of Jews" in "Middle America who have 'grown hostile to the blacks and the young.'" Mr. Band said that "If we cannot convince our own constituents of the relevance of Jewish religious tradition to the struggle to end racism and want, we can hardly expect to convince others." Mr. Band recommended, in this connection, the restoration of the "liberal coalition" of the early 1960's—Jews, blacks, labor, intellectuals, religious groups and ethnic minority groups—that proved effective in instigating civil rights progress. That coalition "eroded at its base where the backlashes occurred," Mr. Band contended, and the NJCRA's task is to reunite those forces so that each "can be made to understand the indivisibility of its problems." The alternative, he said, was continued polarization.