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Unofficial Israeli Reaction To Nixon's Mideast Views Is Favorable But Cautious

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA)--Unofficial reaction today to President Richard M. Nixon's remarks on the Middle East last night was highly favorable here. Especially welcome was his assertion that the maintenance of the Mideast balance of power--meaning Israel's deterrent strength--was "an American interest." There was no official comment today. The Foreign Ministry was reported to be closely studying Mr. Nixon's statement on the Middle East, made during an unusual hour-long television question-and-answer session with correspondents representing each of the three major American networks. The Ministry was reportedly withholding an official statement pending the return of Foreign Minister Abba Eban from Luxembourg and London later tonight. (The bulk of President Nixon's televised interview, broadcast from Los Angeles, was devoted to the Indo-China war. But the President made it clear that he regarded the Middle East situation more dangerous than Viet Nam "because it involves the possibility that the two nuclear superpowers may be drawn into a confrontation that neither wants.")

(Declaring that the Middle East situation is "terribly dangerous...like the Balkans before World War I," the President emphasized that the United States considers the balance of power between Israel and the Arab states essential to its interests. If Soviet aid to the Arabs upsets the balance, there will be war, he said, and for that reason the U.S. will "do what is necessary to maintain Israel's strength" at a level that will "deter its neighbors from attacking.") One official here observed that "This removes the Israel-American dialogue from the level of pressure and lobbying and places it in the sphere of practical politics." Others maintained that Mr. Nixon's unequivocal commitment to maintain the military balance in the region could have an affect on the Arabs and the Russians particularly at this time when President Nasser of Egypt is visiting Moscow, reportedly to ask for more Soviet arms. But the general satisfaction with Mr. Nixon's words was tempered by caution. Some Israeli circles observed that Israel has better friends in the White House than in the State Department and warned that pressure to accept the proposals made last week by Secretary of State William P. Rogers cannot be excluded. Israel has reacted coolly to those proposals, the details of which have not been disclosed.

Nixon: Vows U.S. Will Maintain Mideast Balance; Problem Broader Than Arab-Israeli Dispute

(President Nixon spoke at greater length and in more detail on the Middle East than he has at any of his formal press conferences. He said the problem in that region had ramifications far broader than the Arab-Israeli dispute. He noted that Soviet Russia was moving into the region which was of vital importance because it "is the gateway to the Mediterranean, the hinge of NATO and the gateway to India." He said, "If the military balance shifts to where Israel is weaker, then there will be war." Israel, he declared, "is not desirous of driving other countries into the sea but some other countries are desirous of driving Israel into the sea. It is in United States interest to maintain balance of power and we will maintain the balance of power...Not because we want Israel in a position to wage war, but because that is what will keep its neighbors from attacking." President Nixon confirmed for the first time officially that the Soviet Union has submitted its own proposals for a Middle East solution to the Four Powers. He said he has not had time to study them, but added that anything that would "cool it" in the region would be helpful. The President said that to have peace the "Arabs must recognize Israel's right to exist and Israel must agree to withdraw" from territory occupied in the June, 1967 war.)

(The President made no mention of the specifics of American aid to Israel and did not mention Israel's request for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets. The implication of his remarks was that Israel's needs will be met whenever it appeared that the military balance had shifted to its disadvantage. A further implication was that in America's view, that time has not arrived. A White House official who spoke to newsmen before the interview was broadcast said yesterday that if the Soviet build-up in the Mideast continued there must necessarily be some U.S. counteraction but he added that this need not be an overwhelming American presence. He said that Israel could not permit itself to be gradually strangled and that the Soviet Union is aware that a point could be reached when the Israelis must do something. In view of the American commitment to Israel, the Nixon administration would be forced to strengthen Israel to a point where it cannot be destroyed. The official said that the Soviet Union has shown some interest in a Mideast settlement because it realizes the dangers of its activities in the region.) (Arab reaction to President Nixon's remarks was sparse and hostile. The interview received heavy coverage in broadcasts from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Cairo radio emphasized that the U.S. was concerned that Israel's military strength must be equal to the Arabs'. Damascus radio, which speaks for the Syrian government, said "Nixon emphasized his government's enmity toward the Arab nation and America's complete bias in favor of Israel.")

Big Four Discuss Malik, Rogers Peace Plans; Some View Malik's Plan As 'Positive Step'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 2 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources confirmed today that both the new Soviet Middle East peace plan which was submitted on June 24 to the Big Four meeting in New York by Soviet Ambassador Yacob A. Malik, and the United States' peace plan announced the following day in Washington by Secretary of State William P. Rogers were formally discussed by the Big Four at their meeting late yesterday afternoon. A spokesman for the U.S. Mission described the Soviet rec-

ommendations as "some suggestions, some formulations." He termed them "probably constructive," adding: "But I don't think they're going to cause any dancing in the streets." Other U.S. diplomatic sources called the Soviet move "a positive step" that "shows a genuine desire on their part to come up with guidelines for (Ambassador Gunnar V.) Jarring that could help a settlement." A State Department spokesman said the Soviet initiative was in the form of "negotiating points" rather than a formal "proposal." He added that "all sides yesterday discussed it, everybody discussed it." The Soviet Union's "state of peace" plan submitted by Mr. Malik called for major concessions by the Arab states as well as by Israel and, for the first time, the USSR did not insist on immediate Israeli withdrawal as a prerequisite for peace.

(In Washington, the administration was said to be studying the Soviet text "sympathetically." In a related development, Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin met for 45 minutes yesterday afternoon with Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. They discussed the new diplomatic developments in the Mideast, but no details of their talk were disclosed. Mr. Sisco had met earlier in the day with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin.) A UN spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Secretary General U Thant had received the text of the Soviet suggestions on June 18 during his talks with Kremlin leaders in Moscow. The spokesman also confirmed that the "State Department message" presented to Mr. Thant in Moscow on June 20 was the text of the U.S. initiative announced by Mr. Rogers five days later. Sources described the Soviet-suggested "state of peace" as potentially more binding on the Mideast combatants than an "understanding" between them. The USSR initiative reportedly calls for total Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and an Israeli solution to the Palestinian refugee problem. In turn, the Arab states would cease their belligerency toward Israel, recognize her independence and territorial integrity, stifle terrorist raids from Arab soil and agree to talk peace.

Reports that Secretary General Thant might discuss the U.S. and Soviet plans in Geneva this week-end with Dr. Jarring, his special Mideast mediator, were discounted by Western sources. They said it was probably too soon for such a meeting. Mr. Thant was scheduled to fly tonight to Geneva for a week of economic and administrative meetings and ceremonial functions. Dr. Jarring is currently vacationing in the south of Sweden, but the UN spokesman said he would be "available on short notice" if Mr. Thant were to summon him. The spokesman, asked about the probability of a Jarring-Thant meeting in Geneva, said: "I don't think there's anything in the cards on that." He added that Mr. Thant met for an hour with Mr. Malik as he regularly does with the host of each Big Four session. No details of the specific content of their talk were disclosed. The Four Power ambassadors are scheduled to meet again July 15. Their deputies, who are struggling over a mutually agreeable progress memorandum to serve as the basis for a resumption of the Jarring peace mission, are due to meet again today. Meanwhile there were reports that Dr. Jarring, who is the Swedish Ambassador to the Soviet Union, might meet in Moscow with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad, who is accompanying President Gamal Abdel Nasser and other Egyptian leaders in their solidarity conference with the three top Soviet rulers. It was also learned that the Soviet Defense Minister, Marshal Andrei Grechko, has cabled his Syrian counterpart, Lieut. Gen. Hafez al-Assad, praising Syria's recent stepup in military strikes against Israel. The unprecedented message read: "We are pleased with your fighting successes. I wish the Syrian people and their armed forces a life full of new victories for the final crushing of the Israeli invaders."

Israeli Jets Attack Egyptian Ground-To-Air Missile Bases In Suez Canal Zone Sectors

TEL AVIV, July 2 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian ground-to-air missile bases in the southern and central sectors of the Suez Canal zone and the northern section of the Gulf of Suez today. The jets attacked in intermittent waves throughout the night as well, according to a military spokesman, hitting mortar positions, artillery batteries, infantry bunkers and other fortifications all along the waterway. No Israeli losses have been reported since the downing of two jets by anti-aircraft missiles in the canal zone yesterday. They were the first combat jets to be hit by Egyptian ground-to-air missiles since the June, 1967 war. There is some speculation here that they may have been victims of the new Soviet SAM-3 missiles. But most military observers believe they were hit by the older SAM-2s, hitherto ineffective against low-flying supersonic jets. Jordanian and Israeli forces fought a 40-minute artillery battle in the south Jordan Valley last night. Several Katyusha rockets were fired from Jordanian territory this morning at Beth Joseph and Yardenia in the Beisan Valley. No casualties or damage was reported. Terrorists in Lebanon fired 90 mm. mortars at Avivim settlement last night without causing casualties or damage. A water conduit near Maalot settlement in the Upper Galilee was sabotaged last night, seemingly by terrorists from Lebanese territory. Four Lebanese fishermen were rescued today in Israeli waters by an Israeli police boat when their own boat developed trouble. Haifa police acted to arrange for their immediate return to Lebanon. Twelve Arabs detained three years for aiding terrorists were returned to Jordan under the terms of 1945 regulations issued by the British Mandate authorities and still in force.

Court Rejects Application Of Two Couples To Have Their 'Private' Marriages Recognized

TEL AVIV, July 2 (JTA)--A Tel Aviv district court rejected the application of two Israeli couples yesterday to have their "private" marriages recognized. The couples, Ilan Rogizinsky and Yael Tzahari of Kibbutz Evron and Danni and Tamar Shifoni, of Kibbutz Ein Dor, petitioned for recognition of their non-religious marriages on grounds that they are non-believers. They said that to require them to undergo marriage ceremonies performed by a rabbi according to Orthodox ritual amounted to religious coercion and violated their consciences. The court, obviously sympathetic to the couples, stated that Israeli law, which precludes civil marriage, is so clear on this point that even the plea of coercion is insufficient to override it. They were advised to take their plea to "the forum of public opinion as a moulder of legislation."

Pompidou Asserts France Will Not Ease Arms Embargo Against Israel

PARIS, July 2 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou today angrily rejected suggestions that France was prepared to ease its arms embargo against Israel. "Israel does not need weapons, what it needs is peace," he said at a press conference at the Elysee Palace, his first since July 10, 1969. He asserted that France has no intention of reverting to a policy of "selective embargo," one in which jets and other heavy military equipment is withheld but not spare parts. President Pompidou appeared irritated by questions on the embargo. "Not a single day passes without someone or other questioning me on the subject," he told the newsmen. "It reminds me of the man who continues to phone the same number even after he has repeatedly received a recorded message that there is no longer a subscriber at the other end. There is no longer a subscriber at this phone number," he declared. M. Pompidou's remarks on Israel were regarded here as the harshest he has made since taking office a year ago. He warned that peace was more necessary for Israel than for anyone else in the Middle East and that time was working against the Jewish State.

"More aircraft, more weapons, will make no difference whatsoever. Only peace can bring a solution to the problem and assure Israel's security," he said. He conceded that the situation has become more dangerous than ever before and that "there is a danger of a world conflict stemming from the Mideast conflict which would be a terrible catastrophe." That makes it more imperative than ever to reach an agreement. The French President seemed piqued by the new American and Soviet proposals for a Mideast solution, initiatives taken by the two superpowers which seem to exclude France from the role it covets as a Mideast peace-maker. "Agreement can come only through a Four Power confrontation and agreements among themselves," he said. "No American or Russian plan can be useful as it would be automatically suspect to one side or the other. The only possible solution can be a joint Four Power plan." He claimed that "conditions for such an agreement are better now than ever before."

Histadrut Under Pressure To Hold Back New Wage Demands; Ben Aharon Conciliatory

JERUSALEM, July 2 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir brought pressure to bear on Histadrut leaders last night to hold back new wage demands. The two met with the trade union's central committee to try to close a growing rift between the government and Histadrut on wage policy. They were reportedly severely critical of Histadrut's leadership, notably Secretary General Yitzhak Ben Aharon. Mr. Ben Aharon has been backing the wage demands of Israeli longshoremen, hospital nurses and X-ray technicians which Mr. Sapir regards as inflationary. The Finance Minister said yesterday that if the demands are met it could wreck the carefully balanced "package deal" between government, labor and management worked out early this year as an anti-inflation measure. Mrs. Meir said, at yesterday's meeting, "We want to know if the Histadrut central committee is still with us." She urged the nurses not to carry out their strike threat, though she conceded that their demands were just. Mr. Ben Aharon, who declared recently that he would not check wage demands as long as the government failed to check profits, was in a conciliatory mood last night. He assured the government leaders that Histadrut would adhere to its part of the "package deal" even if the government saw fit to raise taxes. According to the arrangement, labor and management agreed to hold back on wages and prices while the government said it would try to avoid major tax increases during the current fiscal year. But Mr. Sapir said recently that substantial tax hikes appeared inevitable in view of growing government expenditures for defence.

Kreisky Not Influenced By Protests Against Impending Closing Of Documentation Center

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA)--Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria has indicated he will not be influenced by American protests against his government's apparent threat to close down the Nazi-hunting Documentation Center of Simon Wiesenthal in Vienna, according to a letter from Mr. Wiesenthal received here. Harry Evans, a lawyer who has aided the Wiesenthal cause, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today he had received a letter to that effect from the locator of Adolf Eichmann, Franz Paul Stangl and 900 other Nazi criminals. In the letter, dated June 29, Mr. Wiesenthal reported that in a television interview, Dr. Kreisky was asked whether protests by the investigator's "co-religionists in America" would "raise difficulties" over the reported closing of the center. Dr. Kreisky replied: "That is not important." Mr. Wiesenthal has indicated that "there might be a Nazi amnesty" in Austria. He has noted that "We know very well that (Dr. Kreisky's) Socialist Party needs the votes of the former Nazis to reach the majority."

Efforts To Resolve Differences Between Palestinian Guerrillas And Hussein Under Way

LONDON, July 2 (JTA) -- A committee representing four Arab states met in formal session in Amman last night to try to iron out the differences between Palestinian guerrillas and the regime of King Hussein. The atmosphere in the Jordanian capital was calm in contrast to the situation on June 7 when violence broke out leading to six days of bloody fighting between Hussein's regulars and guerrilla forces. Though the King made what are considered far-reaching concessions to the guerrillas to end the fighting, many guerrilla elements are still not mollified. Ranking officials from Egypt, Algeria, Libya and the Sudan met with Jordan's new Prime Minister Abdel Moneim Rifai and are scheduled to meet with guerrilla leaders today. The major concession of the King was the formation of a new government last Saturday. Though it contains no guerrilla leaders, it includes seven Palestinians and several east bank Jordanians known to sympathize with the guerrilla movement. Observers here said the reconciliation task may make some headway on relatively minor issues but it will have to confront a fundamental rift between King Hussein and the Palestinians on the issue of a settlement with Israel.

Former Bergen-Belsen Inmates To Hold General World Meeting

TEL AVIV, July 2 (JTA) -- Fifty former concentration camp inmates arrived here today for the general world meeting of Bergen-Belsen survivors, being held to mark the 25th anniversary of the end of World War II and their liberation.

Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies Forms New Agency To Aid 125,000 Jewish College Youth

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA)--A new agency, the Jewish Association for College Youth (JACY), designed to help curtail the apparent growing alienation of campus-age Jews from their religious and communal heritages, has been established by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, it was announced today by George H. Heyman, Jr., president of Federation. In making the announcement, Mr. Heyman noted that the Jewish Federation has accepted recommendations made by its Committee on Communal Planning, chaired by David Sher, a member of the Board of Trustees, to establish JACY as a subvention agency of Federation through a grant of \$75,000. JACY will not only manage its own program, but will also enjoy latitude to seek funds beyond those received from Federation. Efforts are now under way to create a Board of Directors which will appoint an Executive Director for the new agency. The Board will consist of at least 20 members, half of whom will be appointed from the Board of Federation, its agencies (particularly those which may be involved in services on campus) and the general Jewish community and half from faculty, administration and students on campus. Mr. Heyman noted that "Federation has felt that special efforts should be undertaken to understand the needs of the college age group and to determine how best to build closer relationships between these young Jewish people and the organized Jewish community."

The work of JACY will be primarily in studying, planning and financing cooperative efforts involving the Jewish community and the college youth, including both intra- and inter-campus programs. Direct operation of programs recognized or initiated by JACY will be carried on by existing social agencies, campus or other appropriate local or national organizations. "With its vast complex of services and opportunities for meaningful participation," Mr. Heyman stated, "Federation and its agencies cannot stand aloof from the 125,000 Jewish college students in the 60 degree-granting colleges and universities in greater New York." The study, initiated more than a year ago by the Committee on Communal Planning, urged establishment of JACY in the light of the following conditions: the viewpoints of Jewish college youth toward Jewish life and the Jewish community range "from the pole of rejection to the pole of commitment--with the majority somewhere in between"; indifference to Jewish continuity is widespread among youth, but most Jewish college students do not actively reject their Jewishness; colleges and universities have only infrequently provided Jewish students with an opportunity to study Judaism on a mature and intellectually challenging level.

Orthodox Rabbis Set Up Council To Fight Influence Of New Left On Jewish Youth

FALLSBURGH, N.Y., July 2 (JTA)--A convention of Orthodox rabbis here declared war on radical extremists of the New Left whom they assailed as "tactically anarchistic, politically fascistic and morally nihilistic." Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, newly elected president of the Rabbinical Council of America, announced yesterday at the Rabbinical Council of America convention the establishment of a Council of Orthodox University Professors to "fight the negative influence of the New Left on Jewish youth on college campuses." Rabbi Berzon told the 500 rabbis the Council will "develop lines of communication with college youth" and will publish literature on the compatibility of traditional Judaism to modern life and its relevance to young Jews. The purpose of the Council is to "rescue" Jewish youths who have been wooed by the programs of the New Left and subscribe to its anti-Israel views. Rabbi Berzon said that members of the Council of Orthodox Professors, now in formation will include: Dr. Emanuel Rackman, professor of political science at Yeshiva University and coordinator of Jewish studies at New York University; Dr. Walter Wurzberger, editor of the Orthodox magazine, "Tradition" and a professor at Yeshiva University; Dr. Norman Lamm and Dr. Joseph Grunblatt, both of Yeshiva University; and Dr. Bernard Lander of Hunter College.

Greek Orthodox Primate To Submit Mideast Peace Appeal To UN, U.S., Soviet Union

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA)--Archbishop Takovos, the Greek Orthodox Primate of North and South America, said that he will present a Middle East peace appeal tomorrow to the United Nations, the United States and the Soviet Union on behalf of "the two million little people" in the Western hemisphere's Greek Orthodox Church. The 58-year-old Archbishop, who is attending a Church congress here, described his proposal as "an appeal to peace--if not a program, some opinions." He assigned great responsibility for the Mideast escalation to both the U.S. and the Soviets in remarking: "When you provide arms for the belligerents, you are not innocent of guilt."

Jewish Federation Council Endorses Right Of Peaceful Dissent

LOS ANGELES, July 2 (JTA)--The right of dissent--without violence on the part of the dissenters or law enforcement agencies--has been endorsed in a Statement of Concern adopted by the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, it was announced by Bram Goldsmith, JFC president. While deploring campus violence which has resulted in student deaths and injury throughout the United States Mr. Goldsmith said the JFC called for "an end to the use of unnecessary force or threats of force by either police or military personnel." The resolution equally condemned violence by dissenters and reaffirmed JFC's position in support of the right to engage in non-violent civil disobedience. However, the JFC said such disobedience should be "undertaken for the purpose of exposing injustice and provoking change through orderly political processes, and for which behavior the penalty imposed by law is accepted."

Rabbi Among 10 Religious Leaders Going To Saigon To Study Charges Of Repression

NEW YORK, July 2 (JTA)--Political repression, with which the Thieu-Ky government of South Vietnam has been charged by some critics, will be assessed by ten religious and lay leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths, including Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of Interfaith Activities of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The group is leaving for Saigon tomorrow night in response to an invitation from Buddhist and Roman Catholic religious leaders and student groups.