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U.S. Urges Israel To Accept Rogers' Plan; Mrs. Meir Postpones Statement Until Tuesday

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA)--The United States has told Israel that if she does not accept the Middle East peace plan proposed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers it will make it politically difficult for the U.S. to continue its support for Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. At the same time, the U.S. has reiterated its position that it will not support a demand for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories before agreement has been reached on "a just and lasting peace." This message, which it is believed came from President Nixon, was conveyed to Premier Golda Meir by U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour less than 24 hours after Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser announced Thursday in Cairo that he "accepted" the Rogers plan. The message from Ambassador Barbour to Mrs. Meir cautioned Israel that refusal to accept the U.S. initiative would play into the hands of the Soviet Union and stressed that Israel had nothing to lose by accepting the proposals.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet met here this afternoon but issued no official statement regarding either the U.S. peace initiative or President Nasser's speech. A government spokesman said "The Cabinet commenced deliberations on the situation which has arisen as a result of the recent statements by the Egyptian and Soviet governments with regard to the United States initiative. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs Minister reviewed the political developments." It was also announced that a political statement which Premier Golda Meir was expected to make in the Knesset tomorrow has been postponed until Tuesday. At the beginning of today's Cabinet meeting, Mrs. Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported on their 90-minute conversation on Friday with Mr. Barbour about President Nixon's message to Mrs. Meir regarding U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers' plan. The initial unofficial response by Israelis toward President Nasser's "acceptance" was one of skepticism. Many characterized it as a booby trap and trickery. Israel Galili, Minister Without Portfolio, said Egypt's response was aimed at preventing Israel from acquiring new weapons. Israelis also continued to voice opposition to a limited cease-fire because it would give Egypt and the Soviet Union respite to build up their military sources. The limited 90-day ceasefire proposed by Mr. Rogers and accepted by Pres. Nasser has been countered by Israelis calling for an unlimited unconditional cease-fire. Israelis have also pointed out that Pres. Nasser's acceptance of the U.S. peace initiative was conditional on Israel's recognition of the Palestinians, withdrawal from "all" territories, and indirect negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Israelis Score Nasser's Acceptance As Booby Trap, Plan For Israel's Destruction

Israelis have pointed out that the proposal for withdrawal in the U.S. plan was based on the withdrawal concept contained in the United Nations Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967 which does not call for withdrawal from "all" territories but "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent (June 1967) conflict." Several Israeli officials focused on that element in Pres. Nasser's speech which warned that "if the United States continues to supply Israel with more weapons, the situation will be very serious." Gahal Minister Ghaïm Lahdau observed that Pres. Nasser's speech indicated his plan to destroy Israel by stages - discontinuing arms deliveries by the U.S., forcing Israel to withdraw then having the Palestinians taking up the battle, and finally, Egypt entering the war in full force backed by the Russians. "It is a trap, and a dangerous one," Mr. Lahdau said. In addition, Israelis observed that while Nasser's speech dealt only with indirect negotiations, Mr. Rogers' proposal contained a provision for eventual direct talks between Israel and Egypt. In his letter to Egypt on June 19 outlining the U.S. peace proposal, Mr. Rogers wrote: "I understand the problems that direct negotiations pose for you, and we have made it clear from the beginning that we were not proposing such an arrangement to be put into effect at the onset although, depending on the progress of discussions, we believe the parties will find it necessary to meet together at some point if peace is to be established between them..."

Ambassador Barbour's message to Mrs. Meir, it was learned, stated that he understood Israel's fear of accepting a limited cease-fire on the Suez Canal because it would enable the Soviets to cram it with missile launching sites to such an extent that it would become impenetrable to Israeli aircraft. But this fear, Mr. Barbour stated in his message, was groundless because the cease-fire was understood by the U.S. to include mutual supervision by absolutely reliable bodies so that no military advantage could be gained by either side. Meanwhile, the JTA learned that the United States has made it clear to the Soviet Union that she will not tolerate a Soviet attempt to have Egyptian units cross the Suez Canal onto the Israeli held bank. Furthermore the United States has given assurances that it will adhere to her policy of maintaining the military balance of power. Israeli ambassadors to Washington, Bonn, Paris, London, and Tokyo together with Mr. Eban, are expected to discuss within the next few days moves in a diplomatic offensive designed to explain Israel's position which officials privately admit is a difficult one. Minister Shimon Peres was one of several Israeli officials who this weekend expressed the view that Israel is not compelled to offer a hasty reply to the Rogers plan. "Speed does not necessarily have to be the motivating factor in our considerations," Mr. Peres said.

Nasser Hedges Acceptance With Qualifications And Warnings To U.S., Great Britain

On Friday, apparently in response to pressure from delegates at the Congress of the Arab Socialist Union and to assuage the feelings of Arab leaders and guerrilla organizations, Pres. Nasser hedged

his "acceptance" with a number of further qualifications and warnings to the U.S. and Great Britain. He said he had "absolutely no hope for peace" and threatened a major confrontation between the Arab nations and the U.S. if Israel continued to receive military aid. The Egyptian leader warned that if the U.S. and Great Britain "continue arming Israel even if she refused the United States plan they will both face severe consequences from the Arab world." Turning his attention to Israel, Pres. Nasser said: "I have absolutely no hope for a settlement because I read all the statements made by Israeli officials and they all want expansion. I also read the statements by American congressmen and governors and they all want modification of Israel's borders, in other words, expansion." The Egyptian President then vowed that "I will never surrender one inch of Arab territory, whether in Egypt, Syria or Jordan because this is not my right and it is not possible." Pres. Nasser also warned that Egypt would ask for Soviet nuclear protection if there was any indication that Egypt faced atomic attack by Israel. Referring to negotiations, he stated: "We did not speak of a time limit for Israel to accept or for the duration of the negotiations. But if Israel makes reservations in her answer, if she says she must keep part of the Arab territory, Jerusalem, for instance, this would mean that the American initiative has failed."

White House, State Department Pressuring Israel To Accept U.S. Peace Proposal

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA)--The White House and the State Department are putting pressure on Israel, both here and in Jerusalem, to accept the American peace proposal for the Middle East, sources here said this weekend. Officials are telling Israel not to fear an Egyptian military buildup during a three-month cease-fire, as a military freeze along the Suez Canal is built into the plan devised by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and accepted last Thursday by Egypt. Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, reportedly has made that point personally to Israeli officials here. Administration officials are telling the Israelis that Egypt and the Soviet Union have been advised that military-freeze conditions apply, by implication, under a temporary cease-fire even though the Rogers proposal did not mention it. The administration's ace is expected to be threats of delays in the approval of jet-purchase requests. Western sources believe the administration will consider as an Israeli acceptance of its proposal anything short of outright rejection.

The most immediate aim, in conjunction with a temporary cease-fire, is the reactivation of the peace mediation efforts of United Nations envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. Any Egyptian or Israeli qualms about aspects of the U.S. initiative, the administration feels, can be negotiated under Dr. Jarring's auspices during the three-month fighting pause. American officials are saying their optimism over Egypt's acceptance of the U.S. plan has not been dulled by his description of it as "nothing new" beyond the Security Council resolution and his insistence on three conditions--Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the "safeguarding of the Palestinian peoples' rights" and an end to U.S. military assistance to Israel. The American officials say President Gamal Abdel Nasser's detailing of his position in private has led them to retain their optimism for a peace settlement. Some sources say Col. Nasser's acceptance of the U.S. plan was designed and timed to put all the pressure for implementation of the plan on Israel. If Israel rejected the proposal, Cairo could claim Israel sabotaged the peace effort.

Jordan Falls Into Line With Egypt On U.S. Initiative: Guerrillas Girding For Fight

LONDON, July 26 (JTA)--Premier Abdel Monem Rifai of Jordan said today that his government has replied to the American peace initiative for the Middle East in a manner that was "positive and in line with the answer given by the United Arab Republic" according to reports from Amman late this afternoon. Premier Rifai spoke with newsmen after the fifth Cabinet meeting in three days. The Jordanian acceptance put the shaky truce between the government and the Palestinian guerrillas in danger of collapse. King Hussein had postponed yesterday's Cabinet meeting when the Palestinian minority insisted on guerrilla exemption from the U.S. plan's provisions. The monarch had been awaiting Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's acceptance of the plan which was announced last Thursday. King Hussein's latest crisis has arisen from the threats of El Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the largest guerrilla organizations, to subvert implementation of the U.S. plan. El Fatah said it would use all means necessary to "foil the American conspiracy," and Popular Front leader Dr. George Habash declared: "We are determined to use all our strength and all our means to frustrate any attempt at a peaceful solution. We will make this area another Vietnam, and no force, Arab or international can stop it. A political solution will be achieved only over the dead bodies of our fighters."

Other terrorist groups have followed suit. A spokesman for El Saiqa, the Syrian organization, said he opposed the U.S. initiative "to the end." At least two guerrilla spokesmen condemned President Nasser. One, representing the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the Egyptian leader "is surrendering to imperialist interests and handicapping the development of Arab revolutionary forces." Another, who chose not to publicize his organization's name, asserted: "The acceptance of the American plan by Nasser proves he is not fit to be an Arab leader. If Hussein accepts it, he will not last." (Meanwhile, in Baghdad, the authoritative newspaper Al Jumhuriya rejected the American proposal and the Security Council resolution on which it is based. Iraqi president, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, said last week that the Arab's "only course" is "armed struggle by all means to liberate usurped Arab territory." Syria also turned down the U.S. plan. Iraq, Syria and the Palestinian commandos have never accepted the UN resolution.)

Increasing Expenditures For Security Have Made Tax Increases Inevitable

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA)--The chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, Israel Kragmann, said in Haifa over the weekend that increasing expenditures for security have made tax increases inevitable. He called for an urgent decision on the nature of such taxation. Possibilities include higher fuel prices and higher taxes on airline and ship tickets.

Two Terrorists, Accused Of Killing A Two-Year Old Boy In Attack On El Al, Sentenced

LONDON, July 26 (JTA)--The two Jordanian terrorists accused of the murder of a two-year-old Greek boy in last November's grenade attack on El Al's Athens office were convicted yesterday in that city. Elias De-Garbedian, 24, was sentenced to 18 years and four months in prison and Mansour Mourad Zugzge, 21, was sentenced to 11 years and three months. The convictions and penalties are moot, however, because under last Wednesday's agreement between the Greek government and six Arab hijackers of a Greek airliner, the two prisoners and five others convicted earlier are to be freed and turned over to the International Red Cross by Aug. 29. Greek government sources rebuffed, over the weekend, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's plea that the Papadopoulos regime renounce the agreement as having been made under duress. Der-Garbedian admitted throwing the grenade that killed the boy and injured 14 other persons, but testified that he had been assured the grenade would do nothing more than make a loud noise. The defendants are members of the small Popular Struggle Front, which said in Cairo that it would continue to attack Israelis in Western countries. Abou Hakam, a Front official, said "It is the right of the Palestinian revolution, even its duty, to aim blows at international Zionism wherever it is." The National Liberal Party Council here condemned today Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's praise for the hijackers, calling it "an encouragement to piracy."

Chief Rabbi Of Britain Predicts Resurgence Of Jewish Identification

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)--The Chief Rabbi of Britain, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, said in a recorded interview today that Judaism is "hard put to respond to the constant search for relevance, especially among our youth." But he foresaw "a tremendous resurgence" of Jewish identification, "particularly among our young," and noted that "countless thousands" of young British Jews are practicing their religion "far more than their parents ever did." He predicted that the "restlessness of society" that produced these "groping and searching youngsters" would soon pass. Dr. Jakobovits was seen on CBS-TV's "Lamp Unto My Feet" in an interview taped in London. The Chief Rabbi contended that "If there is to be a massive revival it will come from the school rather than from the synagogue." He noted in that connection the "grave problem" of the shortage in Britain of rabbis, who are finding their "rewards, excitement and sense of fulfillment" in other professions. If "we pay more for them," he said, they will return, as "eventually, I believe, it's the demand that creates the supply." He said he had "little doubt" of the "intense revival and regeneration of Jewish life" as the number of Jews "detached" from their religion is "on the decline" as Israel continues to be the "new focal point" for many of them. He added that the age of "disillusionment" had made the "mysticism" of Hassidism attractive to many Jews, who will become "very sizable in the coming generation."

Israeli Soldier Killed, One Wounded By Terrorists; Two Guerrillas Killed By Israeli Patrol

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier--Cpl. Yossef Mansur, 20, of Rishon L'Tzion--was killed yesterday by terrorist fire near Ein Zivan in the Golan Heights. Another Israeli soldier was injured in the incident. Two Arab guerrillas were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol Friday night south of the Damiyah Bridge on the Jordan River. There were no Israeli casualties. Israeli planes hit Egyptian fortifications and artillery positions along the Suez Canal for the 64th, 65th and 66th consecutive days Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with all planes returning safely. An Israeli soldier was injured Friday in canal firings. Katyusha rockets were fired from Jordanian territory at Beth Yosef on Friday night, and mortar fire aimed at Kfar Ruppin and Yardenia caused slight damage. Military observers believe that the Soviets have already decided to employ Soviet pilots in active combat against Israel in the Suez Canal zone, an area from which the Soviets have so far carefully kept their pilots out, the military correspondent of the Tel Aviv evening paper, Maariv reports. The observers believe the Russians want not only to prevent Israelis from inflicting further heavy blows on the Egyptians but also to put military pressure on Israel. They think, therefore, that it is only a matter of time before dogfights between Israeli and Soviet pilots take place. (In Cairo, a military spokesman reported that two Egyptian soldiers were injured today during a two hour air raid by Israeli planes that lasted for two hours in the northern and southern sections of the Suez Canal.)

Religious Jews Scuffle With Police, Bystanders In Protest Over Sabbath Bus Service

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA)--Nearly 1,000 religious Jews of Herzliya, the sea resort north of here, threw stones and scuffled yesterday with the police and bystanders in protest against Sabbath bus service to the seashore. Although the municipal transportation authorities stationed their buses at various points instead of at the main terminal in an attempt to foil the impending demonstration, the protesters located the vehicles, stoned them and blocked them by lying in the streets. There were clashes between the demonstrators, the police and weekend vacationers. The demonstration, led by several rabbis, was supposed to have been peaceful. The police, hoping to avoid making Sabbath arrests, asked nine of the demonstrators to appear in court today.

23-Year Old Belorussian Jew Asks Shazar For Aid To Return 'To My Fatherland - Israel'

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA)--A 23-year-old Belorussian Jew has written to President Zalman Shazar for "all possible aid in the matter of my return to the land of my ancestors, to my fatherland--Israel." He asked President Shazar to bring his plea to the attention of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Secretary General U Thant and "Jewish communities throughout the world." The Russian, Isaak Markovich Zhimnitsky, wrote that "for a long time I have been unsuccessfully trying to obtain permission to emigrate to the State of Israel for reunification with my relatives and with my people in the Jewish land." He found, he said, that "the official Soviet organs, however, place various obstacles in the way of the realization of this desire of mine." He reported that his emigration application of July 23, 1969, was rejected a month later, on Aug. 25, and that "this was followed by my expulsion from the Belorussian Polytechnical Institute." All of his subsequent "complaints and applications," he said, "remain unanswered."

Denial By Japanese Motor Firm Of Boycotting Israel Termed Double-Talk By Jewish Group

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has described as "fabricated double-talk" a denial by the Nissan Motor Corp. of Japan that it was participating in the Arab boycott of Israel. According to Arnold Forster, chairman of the Presidents' Conference anti-boycott committee and general counsel of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Nissan, which produces Datsun vehicles, "is afraid of American public opinion and is trying to wriggle out of a documented fact--that the firm has indeed capitulated to the Arab boycott." The denial, by Yukata Katayama, president of the Nissan Motor Corp. in the United States, was in reply to a July 14 press conference charge by the Presidents' Conference that Nissan, the Toyota Motor Corp. and Japan Air Lines all refuse to do business with Israel because of Arab boycott threats.

Mr. Forster said this weekend that Mr. Katayama was quoted in a July 18 Associated Press story as saying that Nissan does not intentionally or accidentally support the Arab boycott. The official was quoted as saying that if Nissan "does not actually" trade with Israel, "it is because Israel will not trade with an organization which tried to be neutral, not because of a boycott." The ADL official said the statement was "in direct contradiction to past correspondence with Nissan." He cited a letter from M. Zaitsu, manager of Nissan's export division for Europe and the Middle East, to Arditi, Ltd., a Tel Aviv firm. In reply to an Arditi request for a Nissan franchise, Mr. Zaitsu declared that "we are now exporting around 10,000 units a year to the Arabic countries and have already penetrated the market. According to the boycott resolution of the Israel Boycott Committee, the transaction with your country will surely create the total ban of our export to the Arabic countries...we would unfortunately decline your proposal. Please understand our awkward situation."

Mr. Forster said that Toyota refused to comment on the boycott charge and refused also to explain the use of Toyota jeeps by El Fatah guerrillas operating on Israeli cease-fire lines. He added that the ADL had photos of Fatah Toyota jeeps captured by Israeli troops. JAL was notified earlier this week that four of the 24 groups which are members of the Presidents Conference--the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee and the Zionist Organization of America, with a total membership of more than one million--wound end use of JAL in tourist programs because of the boycott issue. Mr. Forster also reported that on July 20, a meeting of Israeli and Japanese authorities was held in Tokyo to discuss a mutual landing agreement between JAL and El Al. He said those at that meeting said it was clear that JAL had no interest in talks with Israel and was even unwilling to set a date for future discussions. Mr. Forster, who went to Japan last spring to talk to JAL officials, declared that "nothing has changed since then or since the Presidents Conference made the facts known on July 14. The three are active participants in the Arab economic boycott of Israel."

Youth End Three-Week Vigil At Soviet Photo Exhibit; Protested Plight Of Soviet Jews

SAN ANTONIO, July 26 (JTA)--A three-week vigil by Jewish youth at a Soviet photographic exhibit here, in protest against Russian mistreatment of Jews, will end tomorrow when the exhibit leaves for its last stop at New Orleans, a spokesman for the youth said today. Mike Duchin, president of the San Antonio chapter of the Reform Federation of Temple Youth, one of the project co-chairmen, said the effort was decided on July 6 at a meeting attended by leaders of the local Masada, youth affiliate of the Zionist Organization of America; the Reform Youth Federation; and the United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative youth agency. Representatives of other local groups and unaffiliated individuals also attended. The participants approved a continuing program of distributing leaflets in front of the "U.S.S.R. Photo 70" exhibit, which is a section of the United States-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Cultural Exchange program. Assignments were made at a second meeting on July 12 to cover every session of the exhibit. Protesters took up positions on the opening day at the Hemisphere Convention Center, site of the program, and have been present since throughout each period of the day when the exhibit has been open, Mr. Duchin said.

The youths have pursued members of the touring Soviet delegation whenever and wherever they have appeared in public, the co-chairman reported. Two of the Soviet members were confronted with a barrage of questions on the plight of Russian Jewry when they appeared on a radio interview program. Leaflets also were distributed at a panel on Soviet life held at Trinity University. The co-chairman complained that none of the protesters were called on during the question-and-answer session which followed the panel discussion. The demonstrators passed out more than 5,000 leaflets at the exhibition site to both local visitors and tourists from other parts of the United States and from overseas countries, he reported. The young Jews obtained financing for their materials from the San Antonio ZOA chapter and particularly from the Jewish Social Service Federation, which placed half-page advertisements in the three San Antonio daily newspapers on the plight of Russian Jews. The exhibit previously had been staged in New York, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco.

Samuel Rothberg Elected Non-Party Member Of Executive Of WZO And Jewish Agency

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)--Samuel Rothberg of Peoria, Ill., midwest business executive and national Jewish leader, has been elected as a non-party member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency. Mr. Rothberg is national campaign chairman for the State of Israel Bond Organization, of which he was a founder. He is also president of Capital for Israel, Inc. and president of Israel Investors Corp. His election makes him one of five non-party American members. The others are Rabbi Leon Feuer, Dr. Ben Halpern, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg and Rabbi Emanuel Rackman. Two members of the Executive of the American section of the Jewish Agency, who also are members of the world Executive, are Dr. Emanuel Neumann, American section chairman and Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson. Mr. Rothberg has been a key figure in the development of higher education in Israel. He is Chairman of the Board of Governors of Hebrew University, President of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and the recipient of its 1962 Scopus Award.