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Nixon: Parties Must Negotiate Peace, Final Borders Linked To Peace Accord

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--President Nixon stressed today in his second annual foreign policy message to Congress, that United States policy in the Middle East is firmly bound to the principle that a peace settlement must be negotiated by the parties to the conflict. Reaffirming Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Dec. 9, 1969, proclamation, Nixon said the U.S. "has recognized that any changes in the pre-war borders should be insubstantial," but he added that "we insist that any agreement to fix final borders must be directly linked in a peace agreement to mutually agreed, practical arrangements that would make them secure." Nixon emphasized that "No lasting settlement can be achieved in the Middle East without addressing the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people." Nixon warned the Soviet Union that the U.S. will allow no power to establish a dominant position in the Mideast. The "immediate task," he declared, is "to help the belligerents construct an agreement that will achieve a workable balance between the security and recognition that Israel seeks and a just resolution which the Arab states seek of the territorial and Palestinian issues," as "only in such a balance can peace be found." The section of the President's message on U.S. relations with the Soviet Union contained no reference to the situation of Jews in that country.

The closest it came to the subject was a passage that said, "The internal order of the USSR, as such, is not an object of our policy, although we do not hide our rejection of many of its features." The President's speech lasted 25 minutes and was carried over nationwide radio. Nixon did not, as he has before, single out the Mideast as the "most dangerous" area in the world. He did, however, link the area to Indochina when he stated: "Other nations know that we are ready to protect (our) vital interests (in the Mideast), and one good reason why other nations take us at our word in the Mideast is because the U.S. has kept its word in Southeast Asia." Nixon charged the USSR with insisting that the major powers "impose" a settlement between Israel and her Arab neighbors, an approach he said the U.S. has consistently rejected. The Soviets, he continued, "have persistently called for an Israeli commitment to total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories" and "have also called for a refugee settlement which inadequately reflects the practical, human and security problems involved on both sides." The U.S., he said, "continues to welcome Soviet suggestions for a settlement, but to be serious they must meet the legitimate concerns of not one but both sides."

Nixon recommended a reduction of armaments by both sides in the Mideast and a limitation on external arms supplied to them. He stressed, too, the principle of Big Power guarantees of a peace settlement once the latter is achieved. "The lack of mutual confidence between Israel and the Arab countries is so deep," he observed, "that supplementary major-power guarantees could add an element of assurance. Such guarantees could, in time, with a reduction of the armed strength of both sides, give the agreement permanence." Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Soviet Union have "vital...important" interests in the Mideast, the President noted, yet "despite the depths of these interests, and perhaps to some extent because of them, the major powers have not established a pattern of relationships with the Middle East which accommodates the interests of all." He added that "The concern caused by that fact is magnified by the instability and volatility of the region." The U.S., he said, is pursuing "friendly and constructive relations with all nations in the area," and all of them must make "painful compromises" in the cause of peace. Referring to the Palestinian people, Nixon stated: "For over two decades they have been the victims of conditions that command sympathy. Peace requires fruitful lives for them and their children and a just settlement of their claims."

Conference Affirms Solidarity With Soviet Jews; Kahane Episode Leaves Bitter Residue

BRUSSELS, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The world conference on Soviet Jewry got back to normal business on its final day. At the closing session late this afternoon the 800 delegates adopted a declaration affirming their solidarity "with our Jewish brothers in the Soviet Union" and urged Soviet authorities "to recognize the right of Jews who so desire to return to Israel" and to let those who stay "exercise fully their right to live in accord with their Jewish cultural and religious heritage." The declaration was adopted without debate. But the fraternal mood in which the conference convened here last Tuesday remained badly shaken in the aftermath of yesterday's appearance of Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the Jewish Defense League; the conference's refusal to admit him; and his subsequent arrest and expulsion from Belgium. While conference spokesmen and many delegation leaders hailed the gathering as a "memorable historic experience" that would go far toward aiding Soviet Jews, the Kahane episode left a residue of bitterness among Kahane's ardent supporters and among many delegates who reject the JDL's tactics but feel the conference erred in barring its leader from speaking. On the other hand, many delegates felt the action of the conference presidium was fully justified on the grounds that Kahane came to Brussels as a "spoiler." Many delegates resented a speech by Menachem Begin, leader of the Herut faction of Israel's Gahal opposition party, who declared that the "time was passed when Jews denounced other Jews." That remark was taken as a slap at the conference leadership who issued a statement yesterday castigating the JDL and its leader.

Begin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later, "I don't know why this uproar. I did not agree with the way the Kahane incident was handled and it was my good right to say so." He told the JTA further that he "was not referring in any direct way to anybody at the conference when I spoke of denouncing Jews. You can denounce people in many ways but not necessarily by running to the police." The JTA correspondent here found no evidence to support charges by some factions that the conference was responsible for Kahane's arrest. The Belgian Ministry of Justice issued a communique about the Kahane affair today. It noted that Kahane had come to Belgium to attend the conference on Soviet Jewry

but the conference organizers made it known that he was not a delegate and ushers at the conference had orders not to admit him. Nevertheless, the statement went on, Kahane told Belgian authorities that he wanted to speak at the gathering and to avoid a disturbance, the Minister of Justice was obliged to remove him temporarily from Belgian territory. Support for Kahane's right to speak, though not for his tactics was expressed by several delegates who participated in a symposium of writers and artists on Soviet Jewry last night. Among them were the American playwright Paddy Chayefsky, and producer-director Otto Preminger who made the movie version of the Leon Uris novel "Exodus." Preminger created a stir when he told the conference that its treatment of Kahane was "just as contemptible and wrong as what the Nazis and the Soviet Communists have done."

Ben-Gurion Unites Participants; Lelyveld Says No Moderation In Call For Emigration

Preminger was applauded from some parts of the hall but his analogy drew a storm of protest from most delegates. Preminger said he apologized because he didn't want to give the Russians the satisfaction of seeing Jews at loggerheads, but he added that the conference owed an apology to Kahane. Chayefsky supported Kahane's plea for more action and fewer words. "We should put together something more than a cry of pain and an appeal to the conscience of the world which never has worked very well," he said. (The Kahane episode had repercussions in Israel. Addressing a dinner for a group of Pioneer Women leaders from the United States last night, Premier Golda Meir described the JDL as a "tragedy" and said "no small group can assume that it knows better than the organized Jewish world and use methods that play into the hands of our enemies.") The delegates put aside their differences when the closing session of the conference was addressed late today by Israel's former Premier David Ben-Gurion. The 83-year-old elder statesman had been confined to bed with bronchitis, and was unable to attend the earlier sessions. He received an ovation that lasted several minutes. Speaking in Hebrew, he said, "This conference bears witness to the devotion of the Jewish people to Russian Jews. Observing that Soviet Jews are denied the right to teach or speak Hebrew, Ben-Gurion said, "We have many complaints against the Soviet authorities, but we fight for the rights of Soviet Jews by clean means. The Russians themselves--and there are millions and millions of decent Russians--will understand our struggle."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Conference, told a conference here yesterday that "whatever the considerations of world politics may be, we cannot and shall not moderate our insistence on the right of our brothers to leave the Soviet Union." Rabbi Lelyveld said that "no one in his right mind seeks to worsen or exacerbate the relationship between the Soviet Union and the Western powers." However, he went on, "this is just one horn of our dilemma. The other is that no one of moral sensibility and moral conviction believes that human rights are any less sacrosanct in the USSR than they are in Israel or anywhere else." Rabbi Lelyveld observed that the Soviet Union "can be so sensitive to criticism. The sensitivity of its leaders can be seen in the fact that this conference itself caused the Kremlin to 'blow its cool.' They have even revived the ancient and discredited charge of 'international conspiracy'--a charge reminiscent of the infamous protocols--against us. We say to them in turn, that if this open and democratic assemblage dedicated to freedom and the rights of man is a conspiracy, then let them make the most of it." Some practical decisions emerged from the conference such as coordination of the work for Soviet Jews with governments, the United Nations, non-governmental bodies and the mass media. The conference had the wholehearted support of the Israel government expressed in a message from Premier Golda Meir and was supported by the Jewish Agency, one of the conference sponsors.

Kahane Terms Conference Platitudinous; Won't Name Those Who Urged His Expulsion

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the Jewish Defense League, today predicted that the world conference on Soviet Jewry, from which he was ousted yesterday, would achieve nothing concrete, end only "with platitudes," and assailed those people who "argue for dissent in the Soviet Union, but won't tolerate dissent among their own people." Arriving at Kennedy Airport this morning from London, the JDL leader told newsmen that yesterday could be marked as "a day of shame for all Jews," and that the Jewish leaders presiding at the conference had committed "an act of disgrace by turning over a Jew" to the Belgian authorities. Rabbi Kahane also charged that it was the Jewish leadership in Brussels which had "pressured the government" to expel him, and that a top Belgian official had disclosed to him that his government had been requested to classify him as an "undesirable." He told newsmen that he knew the names of those Jews who had urged the action, but declined to name them.

Rabbi Kahane said he had sought to present to the conference a 10-point program of action for Soviet Jewry which, he said, "calls for non-violent civil disobedience during the little time Soviet Jews have left." Asked by newsmen to elaborate on this pessimistic note, Rabbi Kahane asserted that the Kremlin "might change hands" within the next year or two, and that he felt the new regime would be emphatically more anti-Semitic and employ "physical abuse" against the Jews. He added that the program would be initiated with a mass rally March 21 in Washington. He maintained that yesterday's events had angered hundreds of conference delegates who had wanted to "hear his side." Rabbi Kahane declared that "only through dialogue can people see who is right on an issue." All the major Jewish organizations have refused to sit down and talk with us. This is not democratic nor was there democracy in Belgium yesterday." At the close of the news conference, Rabbi Kahane said, with a wry grin, that he still intended to emigrate to Israel "after all the courts try me, find me innocent and free me."

Kollek Hopes That When Peace Is Achieved Arabs Born In Jerusalem Will Return

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Mayor Teddy Kollek said last night that ethnic minorities living in the city do not take full advantage of the rights offered them, such as municipal employment. He predicted that "the day will come when they will do so, when we have succeeded in creating a climate of mutual adjustment between Jew and Arab." Kollek said that when peace is finally achieved he would like to see every Arab born in Jerusalem return to live there.

Prime Minister's Office Confirms Committees Working On Aspects Of Peace Settlement

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Prime Minister's office last night confirmed that a number of special high level committees were at work on "various aspects of the peace settlement with the Arab countries." The disclosure was made through the political correspondent of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. He quoted the Prime Minister's office as saying that several "working teams" had been preparing background material, researching problems, and putting forward ideas and suggestions for eventual submission to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet ministers. The confirmation followed a report this week in Time magazine on this subject. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency had earlier reported that a special team headed by a "senior security personality" was drafting a map indicating secure borders for a peace settlement. The government has, meanwhile, released no further details. But JTA has learned that the committee dealing with the borders of which, according to Time magazine, Premier Golda Meir is the nominal chairman and chief of military intelligence, Major General Aharon Yariv, is its coordinator, has submitted to Mrs. Meir a number of alternative plans. One runs roughly from El Arish in the north down to Sharm el Sheikh in the south.

Peace In The Middle East Will Not Lead To Economic Dislocation, Says Dovrat

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--An official of the Finance Ministry said today that the advent of peace in the Middle East will not lead to mass unemployment in Israel or create lasting economic problems. According to Efraim Dovrat, the ministry's assistant director general, the main problem confronting Israel's economy stems from heavy defense expenditures which create labor shortages, require heavy imports and create a foreign trade imbalance and a deficit. Dovrat, who made his remarks at a lecture in Haifa, is the third government official in recent days to refer to the impact of peace on Israel's economy. The subject was brought up by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir last week and was referred to last night by Dr. David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, at a meeting with foreign newsmen. The author of the "Horowitz Plan" for aiding underdeveloped nations, said that no more than one or two years would be needed to reconvert Israel to a peacetime economy after an establishment of peace. Dr. Horowitz said he did not share the fears of Sapir that such a process would take much longer. Horowitz noted, however, that the conversion would not be easy, considering that 25 percent of the country's gross national product is now allotted for defense and Israel's external debt comes to \$1,200 per capita. But a great deal can be done to develop and increase Israeli exports, he said. Dovrat explained that conversion to a peace-time economy would be gradual because it will take years before Israel can be certain that the peace settlement is lasting. Israel's industry is expected to supply more and more of the items needed by the defense establishment and will have to increase its labor force to provide production for export, he said. In that connection, the official mentioned that Israel's arms exports had to be cut by 18 percent in the past year due to local arms demands and the scarcity of skilled manpower.

Interpol Warns Airport. Airline Officials To Be On Alert For Seven Terrorists

LONDON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Interpol, the international police agency, has warned airport and airline officials to be on the alert for seven members of the Palestine Liberation Front known to be in Europe and believed to be planning a new series of airliner hijackings. Passengers and aircraft bound for the Middle East were rigorously checked by security personnel at the airport yesterday. Police searched passengers and their luggage while others went through the airliners and its cargo for suspicious looking objects.

Soviets May Be Tampering With Mail From Israel Addressed To Relatives In Russia

BRUSSELS, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Evidence that Soviet authorities may be tampering with mail from Israel addressed to Jews in Russia was disclosed here today by Joel Gang, a British delegate to the conference on Soviet Jewry who edits a news bulletin, "Focus on Soviet Jewry." Gang said he received a telephone call this morning from a Moscow Jew, Yuri Slapak, who informed him that he and 30 other young Jews presented a petition to the Supreme Soviet today. Gang said that according to Slapak, one of the complaints contained in the petition was that official invitation forms to come to Israel were missing from letters received by Jews from Israeli relatives although the letters all said that the forms were enclosed. Jews seeking exit visas from Soviet authorities must submit documentary proof that they have relatives in Israel and have been invited to go there.

Another complaint contained in the petition hinted that some Soviet Jewish families may be divided over going to Israel. The petitioners said that the Ovir, the office which deals with exit visas, caused them difficulty by demanding permission from their parents to go to Israel. They said the demand was irritating and involved their parents unnecessarily. According to Gang, Slapak said a high Russian official told the petitioners that their complaints would be answered through the news media at the end of March. He was apparently referring to the Communist Party Congress at which references are likely to be made to the Soviet Jewish problem, Gang said.

Tourism Ministry Making Effort To Develop Tourist Traffic From Japan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Ministry of Tourism is making a determined effort to develop tourist traffic from Japan which, while considered to have a great potential, presently amounts to no more than 1,000 visitors a year. Nine Japanese travel agents, now touring the country as guests of the Ministry, have offered some suggestions. They noted that the main inhibiting factor was the high fare between Japan and Israel. They said that Israel should stress its unique features rather than those it shared with other countries and that it should strive to acquaint Japanese visitors with its culture rather than religion. Hanoch Givton, director general of the Ministry of Tourism, suggested at a dinner given in honor of the visitors that El Al and Japan Airlines might consider opening a direct joint service between the two countries. Mr. Givton's remark was seen as a prod to long postponed negotiations between Israel and Japan for a civil aviation pact. Some Israelis have accused the Japanese carrier of stalling because of the Arab boycott of Israel.

