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Christians, Black And White, Will Picket Soviet Dancers While Jews Observe Sabbath

FLINT, Mich., March 18 (JTA)--The Siberian Dancers and Singers of Omsk will be greeted by a different type of protest when they appear here in concert tomorrow evening - the Sabbath - when Jews cannot picket. The ministers of the Interfaith Action Council in this city, representing Catholics and all Protestant denominations both black and white, have chosen to stand up at this time for their Jewish brothers and friends. According to a statement by the Flint Jewish Community Council, Jewish teenagers have contacted their friends who understand the importance of the Sabbath and the need for protest. The members of the Interfaith Action Council, teenagers and others, "will maintain a vigil in place of those Jews who could otherwise have protested the cruel Soviet Jewish policies at this time," the JCC statement reported.

WJC Charges Ruthless Persecution Of Syrian Jews; Appeals To UN Human Rights Body

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--In a letter to Ambassador Andres Aguilar, chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission now meeting in Geneva, the World Jewish Congress called on the Commission to give priority to the issue of the rights of Jews in Syria, dealing with the right to emigrate and to ensure that it will be reached before the meeting adjourns. In the letter, Dr. Maurice L. Perlsweig, who is representing the WJC at the meeting, charged that in some Arab states "the pitiful and defenseless remnants of once great communities are subjected to brutalities which would be incredible if the facts were not fully attested by eye-witnesses." He declared, further, "The most ruthless persecution is today visited on the few thousand Jews who remain in Syria. They are restricted in their movements, and are not allowed on the streets at night. They are subject to arbitrary arrest and to interrogation accompanied by torture which often results in paralysis or insanity." Syrian Jews, said Dr. Perlsweig, "maintain a precarious existence in an atmosphere of sustained hostility, stimulated by an educational system whose textbooks are disfigured by the ancient and irrational prejudices of a vicious anti-Semitism. And by a special refinement of cruelty the Jewish children are compelled to use these textbooks." The appeal took the form of a letter to the chairman of the Commission because under existing arrangements, representatives of non-governmental organizations are not permitted in oral statements or written submissions to make critical references to a specific government.

Nixon's Order To Withhold Public Criticism Of Israel Violated By Rogers

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--President Richard M. Nixon's order to the administration, particularly the State Department, not to make any adverse statements in public about Israel's unwillingness to make a total withdrawal from Egyptian territory, was violated by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, according to a well informed source. Although Nixon took no action against Rogers, the order continues in effect. It was learned here that Nixon is determined not to exert any pressure on Israel and also to avoid any actions or statements that could be interpreted as pressure. (In Washington, this was confirmed today. See separate story.) The violation by Rogers referred to his statement that Israel's security does not depend on geography. Nixon, it was also learned, has in addition given orders to continue the sale of military equipment to Israel. However, he continues to hold the view that Israel should make a total withdrawal and accept a military guarantee from the U.S. for her security. Israeli diplomats, in conversations with American diplomats, have pointed out that guarantees have a way of being ignored when the time came for action. In view of this, American diplomats have been hinting that they would be willing to extend the meaning and applicability of such a guarantee to a very large extent in an attempt to overcome Israel's hesitations.

Although the word "alliance" was not used by the Americans, Israeli diplomats believe that this is what they mean and that the U.S. would like to probe Israel's reaction to the idea without committing herself. However, Nixon has instructed his officials to launch a public information campaign in order to convince the American public that Israel would be wise to accept his offer of a military guarantee in exchange for a withdrawal. This campaign is already underway although there is no apparent hurry. The U.S. is reportedly worried about the development of the situation after the forthcoming Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. Until then, they believe, the Soviet Union will continue to put the brakes on Egypt's war machine. Afterwards, the fighting may break out again. President Anwar Sadat, it is learned, received the army's assent to the continuation of the factual cease-fire for one further attempt to get Israel to withdraw. When Israel still refused to go back to the lines of June 4, 1967, Sadat was forced to give in. The U.S., it is learned by reliable quarters, is now trying to make Sadat desist from his threat to resume the war. As far as Israel is concerned, she would now, in the opinion of her experts, be able to conduct a war even for an extended period under conditions of total boycott and siege.

Administration Mum On Mrs. Meir's Criticism Of State Department

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA)--The Nixon administration has put a clamp on public comment on Israeli Premier Golda Meir's statements this week attacking the State Department's attitude toward a guarantee of secure borders, informed sources said today. Privately, the sources said, the administration is irritated by Mrs. Meir's public comments on the matter, and feels she should be more discreet in them. State Department spokesman Charles Bray declined comment on all Middle East questions at his noon briefing today. Secretary of State William P. Rogers, emerging from a two-hour appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, would say only that the matter was one for "discussion with the government of Israel, with which we have friendly relations." On another issue, the State Department rejected a Soviet protest against peaceful anti-Soviet activities here by the Jewish Defense League. One high Department source termed the protest a "red herring."

McCarthy Says Mrs. Meir Right in Rejecting State Department Border Guarantees

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--Former United States Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy said here today that Premier Golda Meir was right in rejecting, on the basis of previous experience, the U.S. State Department's proposal for border guarantees. Regarding an international police force, McCarthy said at Lydda Airport that while the U.S. position on that was unclear to him, such a force would be a mistake because it could precipitate a world war. McCarthy, the Minnesota Democrat who challenged President Johnson in 1968 and voluntarily left the Senate last year, warned against external pressures on the Middle East parties. As to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' statement that "geography" was unessential in a Mideast solution, the former legislator remarked curtly: "Even the American administration does not evade the question of territories when it concerns its policy in Southeast Asia." McCarthy is in Israel for a week-long visit as a guest of the Foreign Ministry. Tonight he will attend a dinner in his honor at Tel Aviv University.

Eban: UAR's Ultimatums Blocking Peace; \$7.037 Million in Pledges For Israel

CHICAGO, March 18 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel said last night that Egypt was hurting the chances for peace in the Middle East by insisting on "writing the text of peace agreements asking Israel to contribute only her signature on the dotted line." That, said Eban, "is not negotiation, and we must eliminate this element of 'ultimateness' if we are going to make progress." The Israeli diplomat spoke at a special gift dinner of the Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Appeal. A record \$7,037 million in 1971 pledges was announced. The campaign's goal is \$12.75 million. Eban said Israel's intention was "not to wage war but to prevent it." He said that "only a thin line of Israeli aircraft prevents the slaughter of every man, woman and child in Israel." The Foreign Minister stated that there could be no peace if Syria regains control of the Golan Heights, if Jerusalem is divided or if Egypt regained control of the Strait of Tiran. Presiding at the dinner were Robert L. Adler, general campaign chairman; Dr. Milton Ratner, special gifts chairman, and Irvin Swartzberg, a campaign co-chairman.

Mrs. Meir Receives Unanimous Support From Labor Party's Central Committee

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--The Labor Party's central committee rallied unanimously last night behind Premier Golda Meir declaring that it "fully endorses the policies of the Israeli government seeking a just and lasting peace in defensible borders." The committee also backed the government's position against a return to the pre-Six-Day War borders, noting that it was those lines that the Arab states and the fedayeen had found it so easy to challenge. In other action, the committee rejected any substitute for a peace pact--such as international guarantees or police forces--and supported the government's intentions to return to the Jarring talks. The committee's statements came after a long, detailed summing-up of Israel's views by Mrs. Meir. There are points, she insisted, from which Israel "most definitely and categorically" will not budge. She strongly rejected guarantees or police forces as substitute for a peace accord with the Arab states, remarking that "there are certain things beyond which our American friends have to realize we will not go." In that connection, she further criticized Secretary of State William P. Rogers' emphasis on multi-nation guarantees and de-emphasis on "geography." Mrs. Meir said "we cannot trust what Rogers offers us even if he does so with the best of intentions."

Mrs. Meir continued: "Our friends say that secure borders are not important. I have yet to see the U.S. or any other nation with friendly neighbors--not like ours--offering to cancel out their borders--say, with Canada. Why should we serve as guinea pigs for borders that are so unimportant? Why should we be the one and only country in the world that agrees to become a protectorate surrounded by a framework peopled by Americans, Russians, Yugoslavs and Indians?" What is involved, she said, "is not the borders of the U.S. but the borders of the Jewish people." Mrs. Meir reiterated that it was in the free world's interest for Israel to be strong and secure. She mentioned aid to Israel by the Nixon administration and American Jewry, but warned: "We have to ready ourselves for a very tough struggle." (Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who arrived in New York this week, is expected to discuss the impasse in the peace talks when he confers tomorrow with Secretary Rogers in Washington. The same topic was reportedly discussed today by Eban and Mideast intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring during their meeting at the home of Yosef Tekoah, Israel's ambassador to the UN. Eban also met with Thant today for more than an hour, but declined substantive answers to newsmen's questions after the meeting.)

Although the Labor Party's central committee hailed Mrs. Meir's speech unanimously, there is dissension on territorial concessions within her own party. Seven leaders of a new "Circle for the Indivisibility of the Country" met with Mrs. Meir yesterday and told her they were planning to recruit 3,000 young men and women who have completed their army service to help establish new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. "The Land of Israel Movement," a non-party organization opposed to Israeli withdrawal, is headed by a leading Laborite, Dr. Haim Yahil, chairman of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. Dr. Yahil, 65, is a former ambassador to Sweden, Norway and Iceland and a former director general of the Foreign Ministry. His second son was killed in the Six-Day War. Meanwhile, opposition leader Menachem Begin left this morning for a series of speeches in the U.S. on what he considers the "dangers" of the Rogers territorial plan. He said here that he would not discuss in his speeches his differences of opinion with the Meir government. "On the contrary," he said, "I will stress the unanimous opposition to the Rogers plan. To wave off the Rogers plan we will work together. There is a real danger in the American attitude."

Rabin Tells Students Peace In Mideast Does Not Require U.S. Troops

BROOKLYN, N.Y., March 18 (JTA)--Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, today issued a call for a "peace in the Middle East that does not call for the presence of American forces in the area to neutralize Soviet forces, but rather complete the evacuation of all Soviet troops and facilities." Sneaking before more than 800 students and faculty members at Brooklyn College, he declared: "We will never accept the premise that national suicide is an international obligation."

Ruling Sought On Whether Inter-Marriage Performed By Rabbi Is Valid In Civil Law

BOSTON, March 18 (JTA)--A spokesman for the Rabbinical Court of the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts disclosed today that the court is seeking a ruling from the State Attorney General on whether a marriage performed by a rabbi in which one of the partners is non-Jewish is valid in civil law. The synagogue body represents all three branches of Judaism. Such marriages are automatically invalid in Jewish Religious Law (Halacha), a position reaffirmed earlier in the week by the Rabbinical Court. The spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Rabbinical Court had issued the statement because there had been a sudden increase in such marriages in Massachusetts. The reaffirmation followed consideration by the Rabbinical Court of three disputed ceremonies. One was a marriage of a Jew and a non-Jew with a rabbi officiating; a similar marriage with a non-Jewish clergyman participating, and a divorce under similar conditions. Rabbi Samuel Korff, head of the Rabbinical Court, told the JTA previously that all six partners in the disputed rites were under 25 years of age and that two of the couples lived in Massachusetts and one in Maine.

Rabbi Korff said the Maine couple had submitted its case to the Massachusetts Rabbinical Court because it is the only one of its kind in the United States. He said the Rabbinical Court had ruled that the two marriages and the divorce had "no validity whatsoever" under Jewish Religious Law. The spokesman, in explaining the request to Attorney General Robert Quinn, said that under Massachusetts law, religious organizations are authorized to determine the qualifications of their religious officials to perform duties related to their religious requirements and thus they authorize ministers, priests and rabbis to perform marriages and grant divorces, except for the Catholic Church, which bans divorces. The specific request to the Attorney General, the spokesman said, was for a ruling on whether a marriage performed by a rabbi which is invalid under Jewish Religious Law is valid under civil law. The spokesman said that if the Attorney General rules that such a marriage is invalid under civil law, it would apply to future marriages and not be retroactive. The spokesman said there had never been a court test of that issue in Massachusetts.

The Rabbinical Court statement said that, in a free democracy, in which church and state are completely separated, "it is conceivable for two young people of different faiths to unite in marriage in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a civil ceremony. But to have such a union solemnized by a rabbi in order to give it religious status and religious identity constitutes a sham and a fraud which that Hebrew clergyman would be perpetrating on the parties concerned." In the statement, the Rabbinical Court called on rabbinic organizations in the area to take disciplinary action to expel from membership rabbis involved in the performance of such marriages "to indicate to the Jewish community and the public at large the solidarity of the rabbinate--Orthodox, Conservative and Reform--in exercising its responsibility of safeguarding the entity of the Jewish people and preserving the survival of the peoplehood of Israel." The Rabbinical Court spokesman was asked whether the call for excommunication was aimed only at the Reform rabbinate, since only Reform rabbis perform the disputed weddings. He declined to comment, declaring that the call for excommunication action was aimed at offending rabbis.

L.A., Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh Rabbinic Boards Join AZF As Groups

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Four of the largest rabbinical associations in the United States--Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh--with a total membership of over 500 rabbis have joined the American Zionist Federation as organizational members as a part of the campaign to enroll a million Zionists in the United States and Canada before the next World Zionist Congress in December 1971, it was announced by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation which will celebrate its first anniversary this May. In making the announcement, which he said was only a beginning of the affiliations of the rabbinical groups, Rabbi Miller said: "The corporate affiliation with the American Zionist Federation of the local rabbinical associations of four of the largest and most influential American Jewish communities, is an affirmative expression of the solidarity of the American Jewish community in the cause of Israel and the acceptance of the Jerusalem Program."

11 Jenin Residents, Including Year-Old Baby, Injured By Grenade; Probe Under Way

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--Eleven residents in Jenin in northern Samaria were injured today when a hand grenade was thrown onto a street. One of the injured was a one-year-old infant. Security forces are investigating the incident.

Drive Opens To Establish Yiddish Repertory Theatre By Fall

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--A drive for \$100,000 to open a Yiddish repertory theatre in New York by this fall was launched tonight by the Friends of the Ida Kaminska Theatre Foundation at a news conference and reception in the Greenwich Village townhouse of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bikel. The Ida Kaminska Yiddish Art Theatre, to be created and operated by the Foundation, will be a non-profit repertory theatre based in New York. Mme. Kaminska, the world-renowned Polish actress and former head of the Jewish State Theatre in Warsaw who is now a U.S. resident, will be the director. The repertory group will travel to major Jewish communities throughout the country, according to B.Z. Goldberg, chairman of the Foundation, and will present plays from classical Yiddish literature as well as translations of works of major international playwrights. Performances will be in Yiddish with simultaneous translation into English. At the news conference, Bikel said the purpose of the Foundation--of which he is a director--was "to safeguard a vital and vibrant Yiddish theatre." He declared: "For years now, every time a headstone went up in the Jewish cemetery, they took away one chair from the Jewish theatre. This is an attempt to reverse the trend."

AJC Congress Warns That Israel Faces Another Munich Without Secure Borders

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress called on President Nixon today to reject pressures aimed at forcing Israel to rely on international guarantees instead of defensible borders for her security. In a telegram to the White House, the Congress warned of "another Munich" if Israel did not have secure boundaries. "Certainly Israel cannot again be called upon to risk destruction because of the promises of government spokesmen."

SPECIAL NEWS ANALYSIS

ISRAEL AND U.S. AT THE CROSSROADS: TERRITORIAL SECURITY OR BIG POWER GUARANTEES
By WILLIAM B. SAPHIRE, JTA Staff Reporter

Israeli officials have always maintained that differences in approach were the main cause of their periodic disputes with Washington over Middle East policy. They held that these differences, though serious, did not really matter in the long run because Israel and the United States are both committed to the basic goal of a peaceful Middle East free from foreign domination, with a strong, secure, sovereign Israeli state in its midst. But Washington's attitude on the territorial nature of a Mideast peace settlement reflects more than a different approach to the problem. It touches the fundamental question of what constitutes security. In the words of Secretary of State William P. Rogers this week, "We don't think geography is essential for security... In large measure, a political arrangement, an agreement understood by the parties and a willingness by the parties to maintain them, are an equal consideration." Unless Rogers, the top American foreign policy officer after the President, does not speak for the government, the U.S. is firmly committed to a position diametrically opposed to Israel's. Israel is convinced that not only peace but its very survival, depends on its permanent retention of certain territories and geographical strongpoints it secured during the Six-Day war. Israel has been begging for years for a formal peace treaty with its Arab neighbors. But apparently it has little faith in any treaty that is not backed up by an Israeli military presence in such strategic sites as the Golan Heights, Sharm el-Sheikh, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and at least some parts of the West Bank and the Sinai Peninsula.

Premier Golda Meir drew Israel's "peace map" in a surprising interview she granted Louis Heren of the London Times, published last Saturday. Some observers said it was "an act of desperation" to place Israel's minimum bargaining position on the forum of world opinion. They noted that only several weeks earlier she had refused bluntly to draw any "maps" for Newsweek magazine's senior editor Arnaud de Borchgrave. The State Department acknowledges that it has been aware for some time of the territorial position suggested by Mrs. Meir in the London Times interview. Secretary Rogers apparently decided that the time had come to state publicly the U.S. position that doubtlessly was conveyed to Jerusalem through diplomatic channels. Rogers and other American officials are growing impatient with Israel's failure to grasp the fact--as they see it--that geography is obsolete in an age of rockets, missiles, jets and sophisticated electronic weaponry. They believe that a firm will to peace by both sides, backed up by iron-clad treaties and sharp surveillance by the United Nations, the Big Powers--or both--are the best guarantees of security in an admittedly imperfect world.

Israel's Fear Not Paranoic; International Guarantees Have Fallen Apart Before

The U.S. believes there is sincerity on the Egyptian side and in Jerusalem too, if only the Israelis would face reality. The Israelis do not consider their fears paranoic. They look with profound distrust on international guarantees which they accepted in 1957 only to see them fall apart ten years later. They refuse to believe that the Big Powers may have learned from past mistakes. All of this puts Israel and the U.S. on sharply diverging courses. The Israelis still have hopes that they can get the American ship of state to come about. They suspect that the course charted by Rogers may not be the one entirely favored by his commander-in-chief, Nixon. They believe the State Department is overly influenced by its "Arabist" faction for whom Israel was a bete noire even before it came into existence. But the "Arabists" have been frustrated before, by the administration, by friendly Congressmen, by pressures from the influential American Jewish community which a recent Gallup Poll placed at nearly 100 percent pro-Israel. Time is short, however. The Suez cease-fire has expired and though it remains in de facto force, shooting can start any time. The Jarring talks, which Israel accepted only reluctantly last summer are stalled. A new war on the Suez would wreck them. The Middle East would be thrown back to the dangerous state it was in seven months ago when a confrontation between Israel and Soviet forces deployed in Egypt seemed imminent. Secretary Rogers doubtlessly had this in mind when he warned at his Tuesday press conference, "If we don't make a settlement now, we'll be laying the seeds for a future war...A dangerous situation could develop that could lead to World War III." This view leads to the conclusion that should there be a regression in the Middle East, the onus clearly would be on Israel.

But a comparison of the pre-June 5, 1967 map with the present one seems to make a strong case for Israel's reliance on geography for security. On the old map, Jordanian forces were within ten miles of Israel's Mediterranean coast and could, theoretically, shell Tel Aviv and Lydda Airport. Syria, on the Golan Heights, dominated the Huleh Valley with its guns. Egypt, in occupation of the Gaza Strip, pointed a spear at Tel Aviv only a few score miles to the north across the flat coastal plain. And East Jerusalem in Jordanian hands, surrounded Israel's capital with a semi-circle of hostile territory. A settlement based on such a map, with only "insubstantial" border changes, as suggested by both Secretary Rogers and President Nixon, would not last long, Israel says. It argues that the Arabs are still committed to destroy the Jewish State and that "indefensible" borders would tempt them to try again. The American rebuttal in essence is that security is a state of mind. It lies in trusting, not in tactical geographical advantages which, in an age of electronic warfare, may only be temporary. The next few weeks may tell whether Israel has indeed become a nation that can put its trust only in guns.

ZOA Members Express Anxiety On Pressure On Israel; Boggs Sympathetic To ZOA Views

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA)--A high-level delegation of Zionist Organization of America leaders--headed by the group's president, Herman L. Weisman--met with Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Rep. Hale Boggs on Wednesday and told him that the stationing of a Four Power peace-keeping force in the Middle East, including American and Soviet troops, cannot be a substitute for defensible and secure boundaries for Israel. Boggs was sympathetic with the views expressed by the delegation and promised to give them full consideration. The delegation also apprised the Congressional leader of the plight of Soviet Jews who are not permitted to go to Israel.