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Historic Meeting In Vatican

MRS. MEIR, POPE, MEET FOR 80 MINUTES

Vatican Statement After Meeting Says
Its Attitude Not Changed On Mideast

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

ROME, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Pope Paul VI today received Mrs. Golda Meir for a one hour and twenty minute audience, the first ever to be granted to an Israeli Prime Minister in the Vatican. Immediately afterwards, however, a Vatican spokesman issued a blunt statement to say that "The Holy See has not changed its attitude over the Middle East and there was no reason whatsoever for such a change."

The Vatican statement, which was issued by Vatican spokesman Prof. Federico Alessandrini, was considered to be unusually harsh and blunt by most diplomatic observers here. It specified that the meeting was not "A gesture of preference or of exclusivity as the Pope has received King Hussein of Jordan and other persons of the Arab world." It also noted that the Vatican has cordial relations with Egypt, Lebanon and Syria and has diplomatic relations with various other Arab countries.

The statement--verbal rather than a formal written one--said that the attitude of the Vatican on the Middle East was made known by the Pope in his speech to the Cardinals of Dec. 22, 1972. In that speech, the Pope called for the internationalization of the holy places in Jerusalem and for the rights of the Palestinian refugees.

(In New York, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, co-secretary of the joint Vatican-International Jewish Committee, contended today that the "grudging" and "harsh" statement issued by Vatican spokesman Federico Alessandrini following today's meeting between Pope Paul VI and Premier Golda Meir of Israel did not alter the fact that the meeting amounted to "nothing less than de facto diplomatic recognition of Israel" by the Vatican.) (See Page 3 for separate story.)

Claim Mrs. Meir Sought Meeting

Prof. Alessandrini went out of his way to stress that Mrs. Meir had asked for the audience, contradicting Israeli government statements which had said that the invitation had come from the Holy See. He further specified that the audience was granted "because the Holy Father feels his duty not to miss any occasion to act in favor of peace and in the defense of the rights of human persons and especially of those who are the weakest and the most defenseless, namely the refugees from Palestine."

The Vatican spokesman said that Mrs. Meir's visit had not been the object of any previous negotiations or confrontations and had only taken advantage of her trip to Paris--Mrs. Meir attended a two-day conference of the Socialist International in Paris.

The Israeli Premier, who was accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador in Rome, Amiel Najar, spent nearly 80 minutes with the Holy Father in his private library. A Vatican statement said that she outlined Israel's desire for peace and illustrated Israel's attempts at reaching a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict through negotiations. She also discussed the upsurge of terrorism and mentioned the plight of various

Jewish communities in certain parts of the world.

Earlier today Mrs. Meir called on the Italian President Giovanni Leone, at the Quirinal Palace. This visit was described as a "courtesy call." Mrs. Meir was also due to meet with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti. Strict security measures were taken by the Italian police but these seemed far less spectacular than those adopted by the French during Mrs. Meir's two-day stay in Paris. Mrs. Meir arrived last night and is due to return to Israel tomorrow.

UN OBSERVERS MISLED BY SYRIANS

THAT ISRAELI AIR FORCE ATTACKS CAUSED CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA)--An Army spokesman contended today that United Nations observers were misled into accepting Syrian allegations that civilian casualties were caused by Israeli Air Force attacks in the region of Dael village on Jan. 8. Dael was one of a number of targets hit by Israeli jets in retaliatory air raids against Syrian Army positions and terrorist strongholds.

The UN observers reported that there were no military or para-military installations in the Dael area. The Army spokesman charged that the observers based their report on the word of a Syrian translator at a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission whose objectivity was highly doubtful.

The spokesman said the UN report contradicted a broadcast on the terrorist "Voice of Palestine" radio which stated that "On the morning of Jan. 8 enemy aircraft attacked our positions in the Dael area. Our forces suffered no casualties." The radio announced later in the day that "enemy aircraft attacked again in the same area. Two of our fighters were injured."

The broadcasts were a clear admission that terrorist bases existed in the area, the Israeli spokesman said. He noted that on Dec. 27, following a previous Israeli air attack on Dael, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported from Cairo that "Fedayeen sources report that Israeli raids aimed against a Fedayeen supply base (at Dael) caused no casualties."

SUBJECT OF SOVIET JEWRY DOMINATES EUROPEAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

LONDON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The subject of Soviet Jewry continued to dominate the Conference of European Jewish Communities here today. Prof. Richard Lowenthal, professor of international relations at the Free University of Berlin, took indirect issue with a statement by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, which stressed the need to fight for the rights of Soviet Jews to live as Jews in the USSR.

"Only when the struggle for Jewish emigration has been finally won will the time be ripe to assert the demands for the rights of Jews as Jews within the Soviet Union," Prof. Lowenthal said. Prof. Lowenthal did not refer directly to Dr. Goldmann's speech which was delivered Saturday night. His main point was that the international situation was an important factor but not a decisive one in the treatment of Soviet Jews.

The decisive factor is the domestic situation in the USSR, he said. "We now have a regime in the Soviet Union which can be described as 'post-revolutionary' but not Stalinist. Basically, the

ISRAEL BONDS REPORTS RECORD**SALE OF \$270,404,750 FOR 1972****Plans For 1973 Campaign To Be Drawn Up At Conference Called By Mrs. Meir**

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A record-breaking total of \$270,404,750 in State of Israel Bonds for the economic development of Israel was sold in 1972 in the United States and other parts of the free world, it was reported this weekend by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. An additional \$10 million was realized through Capital for Israel, he reported to a national conference of executives and managerial representatives of the Bond Organization. The 1972 sales figure, which exceeded the 1971 results by \$19 million, brought the grand total of Israel Bond proceeds since the first issue was floated in 1951 to approximately \$2.2 billion, Rothberg asserted.

Leo Bernstein, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, announced that plans for the 1973 campaign would be drawn up at a special conference called by Prime Minister Golda Meir, who has invited 150 top local and national Israel Bond leaders to meet with her and other Israeli leaders in Jerusalem. The Israel conference will be held Jan. 28-31.

Commenting on the results of last year, Bernstein emphasized that the proceeds from Bonds have been "a bulwark of Israel's economic growth during the past twenty years. The economic development financed with the aid of Israel Bonds has made it possible for Israel to provide jobs and the opportunity for a self-sustaining existence to more than 45,000 Jews from the Soviet Union who came to Israel during the past two years."

Rothberg observed that the new sales record established in 1972 demonstrated that the Jewish community and many elements of the non-Jewish population "have confidence in Israel's future as a country of expanding economic growth and stability in spite of the crisis and tension that have been so much a part of its existence."

**JEWISH LEADERS PREDICT INCREASED
FEDERAL AID FOR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A prediction that the Nixon administration will increase its efforts to provide constitutional financial assistance to non-public schools was made jointly by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America and Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, associate director of Torah Umesorah, National Society of Hebrew Day Schools, at the conclusion of a two-day conference sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education. Both rabbis were the only Jewish representatives invited by the government to participate in a special conference of public and non-public school superintendents of major cities.

The conference Thursday, in which a combined total of 100 leaders of both sectors participated, was addressed by Assistant Secretary for Education of the Department of Health Education and Welfare Dr. Sidney Marland, as well as Congressional and White House officials.

Rabbi Goldenberg, who is also secretary of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), the national body of non-public schools, was a member of the panel which discussed "federal programs and non-public school participation." The government was represented in this panel discussion by Dr. John Ottiga, Acting Commissioner of Education and Mr. Charles Saunders, Deputy Commissioner for External Relations of HEW.

The importance of passing legislation granting federal income tax credits for non-public school parents was emphasized in the conference discussion by Rabbi Sherer, president of Citizens Relief for Education By Income Tax (CREDIT), who expressed confidence that a sound bill to this effect would pass during the early part of the current Congressional session. At the close of the conference, a national board meeting was held of the CREDIT coalition, which represents five million non-public school children, to effectively accelerate Congressional support for this bill.

This was the second such conference convened by the U.S. government (the first was held in November 1971) to enable the leaders of public and private education to share their common problems in educating America's children.

HUNGER STRIKE TERMED POLITICAL MOVE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israeli circles said today that a hunger strike by about 200 Arab inmates of the Kfar Yoma prison was a calculated political move stemming from "factors both inside and outside the prison that are interested in creating unrest."

Chief Inspector Aryeh Nir said the inmates, who are serving sentences on security charges staged the hunger strike apparently to confront the recently changed prison command with certain "accomplished facts" concerning prison routine. He said the prisoners' demands were rejected and certain trouble-makers were transferred to other prisons.

Some prisoners stopped taking their meals last week and were joined by about 200 others, comprising two-thirds of the prison population. But prison sources said the hunger strike was really a fake because the prisoners had accumulated food beforehand and also had food parcels from relatives.

APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF IRAQI PRISONERS

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The executive committee of the Netherlands Sephardic Congregation has appealed to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to "use his influence" to secure the release of 14 Jews imprisoned in Iraq. Cables were also sent to the President of Iraq and the Iraqi Ambassador to the Benelux countries. The committee expressed the hope that the Iraqi regime would "return to its humane policy of the last two years" by releasing the prisoners and permitting all Iraqi Jews to emigrate wherever they wish.

TERRORIST BURIAL REQUEST REJECTED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israeli authorities have rejected a request by the family of Mahmoud el-Hamshari to have him buried in Tulkerem. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Paris died last Tuesday night from injuries he received Dec. 8 when a bomb exploded in his home. The perpetrators have still not been found but Arab groups and some of the press in Paris have accused Zionists of his death.

Hamshari's family learned that their son's last request was to be buried in Tulkerem, his native town. Hilmi Hannoun, Mayor of Tulkerem, appealed on behalf of the dead Palestinian's family to the Military Governor but was turned down.