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ISRAELI-IVORY COAST LEADERS' MEETING FOR 3 1/2 HOURS DESCRIBED AS CONGENIAL

By Melville Mark, JTA Geneva Correspondent

GENEVA, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir of Israel and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast met today for three-and-a-half hours at the President's villa on the outskirts of Geneva. The meeting, billed officially as "a general review of relations between the two countries and the Middle East situation" was shrouded in secrecy and little information was disclosed after it ended.

A joint communique issued here this evening stated that "The Ivory Coast President used the opportunity of his and Mrs. Meir's stay in Europe in order to invite her and her suite for a meeting and lunch at his villa." The communique stated that the two leaders expressed their "keen desire for peace in the Middle East."

(Sources in Jerusalem said today that Mrs. Meir did not ask the African leader "to pull Israel's chestnuts out of the fire." The meeting was described by the sources as merely "consultations" between the two leaders.)

Mrs. Meir was scheduled to return to Israel this evening, ending a five-day European visit during which she attended the Socialist International meeting in Paris Saturday and Sunday and met with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican in Rome Monday. She held no other meetings during her 24-hour stay in Geneva.

Highly Satisfied With Results

An announcement yesterday in Jerusalem that Mrs. Meir was going to Geneva to meet Houphouet-Boigny came as a surprise since she was expected to return directly to Israel from Rome. Mrs. Meir's meeting with the African leader was in fact unknown in advance to the Ivory Coast Ambassador in Switzerland.

Even as Mrs. Meir was landing last night in Geneva the Ambassador was stating publicly in Bern that no such meeting was planned and that Houphouet-Boigny had left Geneva before meeting with the Israeli Premier. Israeli circles said the misunderstanding was due to the meeting having been arranged in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast capital. Referring to the meeting, the circles here declared that they were "highly satisfied" with the results, but gave no details.

Ivory Coast is considered to have excellent relations with Israel and its President is a personal friend of Mrs. Meir. Sources in Jerusalem indicated yesterday that Mrs. Meir wanted to consult with Houphouet-Boigny in light of Israel's serious diplomatic setbacks on the African continent during the past year. The Israeli Premier was accompanied by Simha Dinitz, director general of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, and Mrs. Lou Kadar, her personal assistant.

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT'S VISIT TO FINLAND NOT AIMED AT MAKING CONTACTS WITH RUSSIANS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Ehud Avriel, a veteran Israeli diplomat, has reportedly gone to Helsinki, Finland, as an observer at the second round of the European Security Conference, it was learned today. There was no official confirmation of Avriel's trip, and Foreign Ministry sources said the diplomat was being considered for an assignment

in Europe but "no decision has been reached yet."

Sources here stressed that Avriel's mission was not aimed at making contact with the Soviets and said he would make no effort to meet with Russian officials. That possibility was the subject of speculation in view of Avriel's past role as an advisor on Soviet affairs to the Foreign Ministry.

Sources also said that Israel's interest in the Helsinki conference centered on its security aspects relating to the Eastern Mediterranean, although that issue has not been put on the agenda because several states are opposed.

Israel also wants to know if the European governments mean to include Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel when they recently raised the issue of free travel for the peoples of Western Europe, the sources said.

RIGHT-WING GROUP HOLDS FIRST CONGRESS

BONN, Jan. 17 (JTA)--West Germany's newest extreme right-wing organization, "Aktion Neue Rechte," has just held its first national congress here behind closed doors. About 500 members and sympathizers attended, most of them former members of the moribund National Democratic Party (NPD) which was regarded by many as neo-Nazi.

The ANR was founded in 1972 by the former NPD national chairman Siegfried Poehlmann in Munich. It espouses a policy of European "liberation," extreme nationalism and a Nazi-type socialism. The congress re-elected Poehlmann as party chairman and decided to break with Gerhard Frey, chairman of the right-wing Deutsche Volksunion and publisher of the right-wing, frequently anti-Israeli "Deutsch National-Zeitung."

DEBATE FLARES OVER MEIR-POPE VISIT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA)--A serious debate developed today over whether the positive aspects of Premier Golda Meir's meeting with Pope Paul VI in the Vatican Monday were not negated by the Vatican's press spokesman, Frederico Allessandrini, whose verbal statement immediately after the meeting denigrated its importance. Official sources here termed Mrs. Meir's audience with the Pope a notable success.

The sources cited two statements by the Pontiff to Mrs. Meir which they said were of "cardinal importance." The Pope called their meeting an "historic occasion" and expressed thanks to the Israel government for its protection of religious rights and the holy places in Jerusalem.

The sources dismissed Allessandrini's negative statement as an effort to ease the extreme anxiety felt by the Arab states over Mrs. Meir's audience with the Pope. They said it was far less significant than the official communique issued jointly by the Vatican Secretariate of State and Israeli officials which constituted the "authoritative" position of the Vatican.

'Ringing Slap In Israel's Face'

But two prominent Israeli journalists writing for rival afternoon dailies described the after-

math of Mrs. Meir's audience at the Vatican as a "ringing slap in Israel's face." Moshe Shamir, writing in Maariv, said the most important fact of the meeting was that it was not important. "The official spokesman of the Holy See rushed to inform the world immediately after the meeting that nothing has been changed in the Vatican's attitude toward Israel," Shamir wrote.

That oral statement, he noted, was "a well-aimed slap in the face intended to echo far and wide.... It has an especially strong echo because it was given immediately after the visit, before the smoke of the Italian police motorcyclists (Mrs. Meir's escort) faded away." Shamir recalled that during the meeting between Theodor Herzl and Pope Pius X in Jan. 1904, the Pope said, "The Jews did not recognize our Lord, we cannot recognize the Jews." This time, Shamir wrote, "we should say, the Catholics did not recognize our State, we cannot recognize the Catholics."

Yeshayahu Ben Porat, writing in Yediot Achronot, criticized the Israeli press for creating "an historic atmosphere" around the meeting which turned out not to be historic and was followed by a demonstration of "impoliteness that borders on a slap in the face."

Ben Porat also questioned the wisdom of Premier Meir's trip to Paris to attend the meeting of the Socialist International after President Georges Pompidou's denunciation of the visiting ministers. Commenting on her trip to Geneva to meet President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, the journalist observed, "Blessed be he who believes that this meeting will help Israel's position in Africa."

(Chief Rabbi Elto Toaff of Rome, charged in an interview yesterday that the Vatican had committed a "grave discourtesy" by allowing its spokesman to play down the meeting. Rabbi Toaff said he was convinced that Allesandrini had been instructed by superiors to make his negative comments because "the Vatican wanted to prove its equidistance from Israel and the Arabs.")

Only Handful Knew Of Meeting

It was learned today that only a handful of people were aware of Mrs. Meir's intention to visit the Pope before it was announced last Sunday. These included Foreign Minister Abba Eban and his senior advisor, Arthur Lourie; Deputy Premier Yigal Allon; Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapir and one or two other ministers. Mrs. Meir did not advise her full Cabinet of her plans, because she feared a leak to the press. Religious Affairs Minister Zerach Warhaftig, whose duties would seem to make him privy to such information, was kept in the dark.

In the Knesset today, the Gahal and Free Center factions called for an urgent debate on Allesandrini's statement which MK Shmuel Tamir of the Free Center called "an insult to Israel and the Jewish people."

TEKOAHS CITES IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF GAZA STRIP, RAFFAH AREA

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 17 (JTA)--The improved living standards, economy and educational facilities in the Gaza Strip and Raffah areas under Israeli administration were contrasted today with the squalid conditions that existed during 19 years of Egyptian rule. The comparison was made by Israel's UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah in a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Tekoah's letter was in response to charges of Israeli misrule contained in a Jan. 4 letter to the Secretary General from the Egyptian Ambassador.

Tekoah said that under the Egyptian regime, "The

Gaza inhabitants were deprived of their political rights and of their freedom of movement" and the refugees among them "confined to wretched camps." Under Israeli rule, he said, "There is now freedom of movement and a marked rise in the standard of living." He cited the expansion of agricultural and industrial production in the Gaza Strip, the increase of employment in workshops and the construction and enlargement of vocational schools for the local populace.

Tekoah also noted that terrorism has been almost entirely eliminated through security measures by the Israeli authorities and the construction of access roads to towns and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and Raffah areas. "The government of Israel does not consider itself obliged to pursue the Egyptian policy of excluding refugees from the normal course of life and development," Tekoah's letter said.

JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS CAN REGISTER CLAIMS TO PROPERTY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Israel will counter the claims for lost property by Arab refugees who fled Israel with similar claims by Jews who have come to Israel from the Arab states, Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapir said today. He announced that his Ministry was prepared to register the claims of Jews from Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Yemen for the property they left behind, in preparation for an eventual peace settlement.

The final claims of Jews who came to Israel and Arabs who left Israel will be balanced on the basis of "property," not "refugee vs. refugee," Shapir told the Labor Alignment Knesset faction. He said Israel did not consider Jewish arrivals from Arab states to be refugees as the Arab governments classify Arabs who left Israel. The Knesset is in the process of voting on an amendment to the absentee property law which will compensate East Jerusalem Arabs for property left behind in Israel. The measure passed its first reading last week.

JUF RECEIVES PLEDGES OF \$6.6M FOR 1973

CHICAGO, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Pledges totalling \$6.6 million to the 1973 campaign of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago were announced at the JUF special gifts inaugural dinner here. In making the announcement, Raymond Epstein, 1973 JUF general campaign chairman, said that the figure represents the largest amount ever reached by the JUF at this early stage of the campaign. More than 400 leaders of the Chicago Jewish community attended the dinner at the Palmer House.

Guest Speaker, Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, cited the continuing need for aid to immigrants in Israel as the single most important factor affecting the pattern of humanitarian services there. He stressed the absolute dependence of Israel on help from Jewry abroad in providing such services to immigrants and to all Israelis in the face of heavy defense expenditures which absorb 40 percent of the country's budget.

Abram D. Davis, JUF general co-chairman, outlined the urgency of local needs to serve youth, the aged, Jewish poor, and Jewish education. Epstein, who is also vice-president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency board of directors, chaired the meeting as a last minute substitute for Alvin W. Cohen, JUF special guest chairman, who was hospitalized just prior to the event, but is recuperating satisfactorily.

ROGERS APPEALS TO ISRAELIS, ARABS, TO CONDUCT GENUINE, MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO ACHIEVE MIDEAST PEACE

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers made an almost prayerful appeal to Israelis and Arabs tonight to enter into some kind of "a genuine, meaningful negotiating process, direct or indirect," to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In a speech prepared for delivery at a farewell dinner to Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin of Israel at the Hotel Pierre, Rogers said the United States was "convinced that both Arabs and Israelis want a settlement" based on the Security Council's Resolution 242 and that "the doors of diplomacy remain open."

Rogers said that "The most realistic approach" would be to negotiate an interim Suez Canal agreement which would be "not the end of the process but a first decisive step facilitating negotiations to carry out Resolution 242 in its entirety." The dinner honoring Rabin was sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In his own remarks prepared for delivery tonight, addressed directly to Rogers, Rabin praised the Secretary of State for his initiative which brought about the present Middle East cease-fire. He termed the cease-fire "the central factor that has dominated the Middle East in a positive way since Aug. 1970."

Jacob Stein, chairman of the Presidents Conference, in his prepared speech, called for a crash program along the lines of the "Manhattan Project" to develop alternative sources of energy so that the U.S. will not become "dependent on the oil producing countries of the Middle East."

Responsibility To Future Generations

Rogers' speech, though delivered to a Jewish and Israeli audience, appeared to be addressed to the Arab states as much as to Israel. Inasmuch as Israel has already accepted in principle the U.S. call to negotiate an interim Suez accord, that portion of Rogers' remarks appeared to observers to be directed specifically to Egypt.

Referring to President Nixon's public statement that he gives the highest priority to finding a Middle East settlement, Rogers declared: "We will be active in ascertaining if and how we can help the parties initiate a general negotiating process." He described the bonds between the U.S. and Israel and the U.S. and "many of the Arab states" as "excellent."

Appealing to the leaders of the Middle East to recognize their obligations to future generations, Rogers said, "Our era must hand on the settlement of peace" that will "take into account the interests of Israel, of the Arab states and of the Palestinians as well."

Rogers said that "a decision to enter negotiations does not require changes in objectives or policies. Negotiations only require a willingness to look for solutions and to seriously and thoughtfully consider positions of mutual accommodation." Addressing Rabin, Rogers said that as "one who understands this country and knows American policies and aspirations at first hand, you carry with you the same sense of purpose that we feel--that every opportunity to overcome the Middle East impasse must be seized upon in 1973 in a spirit of equity, and with forward-looking determination to make concrete progress toward a permanent peace in the Middle East."

Rabin said in his remarks that Rogers' cease-fire initiative "was summed up in one sentence:

"Stop shooting and start talking." He said that "Although the second part of this formula, that of negotiations, has not been achieved, it is still true that the cessation of hostilities remains the most hopeful development in the direction of peace that has been achieved in the Middle East."

Alternative To Oil Policy Urged

Stein, in his remarks observed that within ten years the U.S. "will be importing one-third of our oil from Persian Gulf area states." He continued that if this situation is permitted to develop "the foreign policy of our country will be under great pressure to support the political policies of oil-producing states. We feel that now is the time to undertake under forced draft a 'Manhattan Project' for research and development into the production of alternate energy sources, nuclear, solar and geothermal."

From the environmental point of view, Stein observed, "the increased use of polluting fossil fuels is not desirable, from the political point of view, a high degree of dependence for our energy on the oil-producing states could produce disastrous results." He added that "it is in America's best interests to insure the military capability and economic viability of Israel, a strong, a self-reliant, a trusted friend and ally of the United States."

DISCREPANCIES EXIST BETWEEN SHUMILIN'S STATEMENT AND JEWS SEEKING EMIGRATION

LONDON, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Michael Fidler, chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, urged that the fullest publicity be given to the discrepancies between the condition of Soviet Jews and a recent statement by Soviet Deputy Minister of Interior Boris Shumilin that most Jews who apply for emigration visas get them. Fidler recently returned from the Geneva meeting of the "Brussels Praesidium," a group established to follow through on the decisions taken at the World Conference for Soviet Jewry held in Brussels in the winter of 1971.

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Shumilin's statement was carefully examined in light of the known facts and "We came to the conclusion that the facts of the situation do not correspond at all with the Minister's statement." He said that "this should be put on the record" because "even an important journal in this country has been led to believe that a new era has dawned" in the Soviet Union. "There is nothing to indicate it at all and the struggle must continue," Fidler said. He did not name the journal.

Senator Jacob K. Javits (R.N.Y.) and Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) introduced legislation to mark April 29th in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the uprising against the Nazi occupation forces by the beleaguered and outnumbered Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto. The bill seeks a Presidential proclamation declaring April 29th to be observed "with appropriate ceremonies and activities." A similar measure was enacted 10 years ago on the 20th anniversary of the uprising.

El Al will be taking delivery of its third Boeing 747 on April 23 in Lod, it was announced in New York by Menachem Cohen, vice-president. El Al's new flight schedule, beginning April 29 will for the first time provide non-stop 747 westbound service, twice weekly, Tel Aviv-N.Y. El Al already offers five weekly non-stop flights from New York to Tel Aviv.

NAVY URGED TO DROP PLANS FOR SUPPORTING 'KEY 73'

AJ Congress Hits Missionary Activity

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today called on Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee to repudiate a Navy Personnel Bureau memorandum urging chaplains to play "a strong role" in the year-long evangelical campaign known as "Key 73." In a letter to Chafee, the AJ Congress charged that the memorandum encouraged Navy chaplains "in effect...to engage in religious proselytization." Such "missionary activity" is not part of the duties of Naval chaplains, Rabbi Yaakov Rosenberg of Philadelphia, chairman of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Jewish Affairs, wrote.

Dated Oct. 1972 and sent on Department of the Navy letterhead to "Navy Chaplains and Denominational Endorsing Agents," the memorandum was headed, "Notes from the Chief." Rear Admiral F. L. Garrett is chief of chaplains. The chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel is Vice Admiral David Bagley. The memorandum described Key 73 as a "great ecumenical evangelic emphasis calling upon Christians to reach out in obedience to the Great Commission." It added, "The participating churches will be active in promoting Key 73 within their own fellowships and we will be as supportive as possible within the Naval Service," the memorandum stated.

Key 73 is a nationwide campaign scheduled to run through 1973 and involving some 130 church groups, including mainline Protestants, Evangelicals, Pentecostals and a number of Roman Catholic dioceses. The campaign's theme is "Calling Our Continent to Christ in 73." Its stated purpose is "to share with every person in North America more fully and more forcefully the claims and message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to confront people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by proclamation and demonstration, by witness and ministry, by word and deed."

Not Proper Role For Government

The Navy memorandum speaks of a "professional packet" of Key 73 materials, including "the major resource manual for Key 73," and adds: "I strongly urge you to study these materials with devotion and a genuine evangelical concern for your own people. Unless there should be denominational reasons preventing your participation, I commend to you a strong role in this effort to make the person and Gospel of Christ more meaningful to those we serve."

In his letter to Chafee, Rabbi Rosenberg declared, in part: "This memorandum, and the message it conveys, are completely at odds with the proper function of the Navy chaplaincy. You are no doubt aware that it is sometimes argued that maintenance of a chaplaincy by the Armed Forces violates the constitutional prohibition of religious activity by the government...The answer has been that the function--the sole function--of the chaplaincy is to supply the spiritual needs of those American citizens who are serving in the Armed Forces."

The October memorandum, Rabbi Rosenberg continued, "is entirely at odds with that assumption. It converts the chaplaincy from a role of service to one of advocacy. It says with respect to Key 73 that 'we will be as supportive as possible within the Naval Service.' Support of missionary activity is not, under our constitutional system, a proper role for government."

RABBI MAGNIN TO PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP SERVICES AT WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles, will participate in worship services at the White House Sunday, it was learned today. Rabbi Magnin, a Reform rabbi, will be the third Jewish clergyman to participate in White House worship services since President Nixon took office in 1969.

The others were Dr. Louis Finkelstein, who was Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America when he participated in June, 1969, and Rabbi Joshua Haberman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation who participated last year. Rabbi Magnin delivered the invocation at President Nixon's first inauguration in Jan. 1969. At this Sunday's services he will join the Rev. Billy Graham and Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati.

NCSJ TO FOCUS ON U.S.-USSR TRADE

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Richard Maass, who was today reelected chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry at a meeting of the group's Board of Governors, said that "the success of the Jewish community's work during the past year is measurable, not only in the continued flow of emigration from the Soviet Union but in the increased sensitivity to the problems of Soviet Jews."

In regard to activities of the NCSJ at this time, Maass noted that while the NCSJ is opposed to boycott "at this time," efforts during the coming months will focus "on the potential which increased trade with the Soviet Union offers. Both American and Soviet business officials will be notified that for the millions of Jews and non-Jews who view with alarm and distaste the policies of the Soviet Union towards its Jewish citizens detente, both economic and cultural, must not obscure human rights."

RETRIAL OF FORMER NAZI JUDGE

BONN, Jan. 17 (JTA)--The retrial of former Nazi court Judge Heinz-Hugo Hoffmann, 66, began in Nuremberg this week. Hoffmann, accused of murdering former Nuremberg Jewish community chairman Leo Katzenbach, was assistant to Nazi Judge Oswald Rothaug at Katzenbach's trial in 1942 in Nuremberg. Katzenbach was tried for having had intimate relations with a 32-year-old "Aryan," Irene Soller. He was sentenced to death and hanged in Munich on June 3, 1942. In 1968, Hoffmann was tried for manslaughter and sentenced to two-year's imprisonment. The federal criminal court in Karlsruhe later quashed the sentence, however, and ordered a retrial.

Israel's Labor Party has re-instated its plans to send a delegation to West Germany this spring. The plans were frozen in the aftermath of the Munich slayings of Israeli Olympic athletes last Sept. and the subsequent release of three Arab terrorists as ransom for a hijacked Lufthansa jet. The Labor Party announced that the party's general secretary Aharon Yadin, would head the delegation which will be the guests of the West German Social-Democratic Party.

Gideon Rafael, a senior advisor in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, will be named Ambassador to Britain at the end of the year, succeeding Michael Comay, it was reported in Jerusalem.