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REACTION IN ISRAEL TO ROGERS' SPEECH: NOTHING NEW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israel's reaction to U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers' address last night in New York at a farewell dinner for Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin was that it contained nothing new. The closest thing to an official Israeli reaction came from Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Addressing Labor Party youth leaders at Kfar Saba he observed that "There was not a single phrase or expression in Rogers' statement that was not made in a similar or identical way during the last year."

Eban said that Rogers conveyed no message of a new American initiative in the Middle East although he may have indicated some additional American activity in connection with its original initiative that resulted in the Aug. 1970 cease-fire. (A State Department spokesman said today in Washington that Rogers' address was "an important re-statement of our position and an assessment of where we stand.")

Rogers appealed to Israelis and Arabs to enter into some kind of "genuine, meaningful negotiating process." He said the U.S. regarded negotiations for an interim Suez agreement to be "the most realistic approach" to an overall settlement. He said a final settlement must take into consideration the rights of Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians.

Israeli political circles seemed to agree with Eban's assessment of Rogers' remarks. They said his references to the possibility of proximity talks on a Suez accord confirmed Israel's expectation that after a cease-fire is achieved in Vietnam, Washington will resume its efforts to bring Israel and Egypt into the negotiating process. The circles stressed Israel's readiness to take part in proximity talks and noted that Israel advised the U.S. of this in Jan. 1972, but the Egyptians refused to participate.

BRANDT: ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IS INCONTTESTABLE

BONN, Jan. 18 (JTA)--West German Chancellor Willy Brandt today re-affirmed his country's support of Israel's existence and said that the Middle East conflict does not leave West Germany "indifferent." In a policy statement to the Bundestag the Chancellor said that West Germany "wishes to cultivate the traditional friendship with all Arab states" but he added: "The Arabs are beginning to understand that for us Israel's right to exist is incontestable."

In his reply, opposition leader Dr. Rainer Barzel of the Christian Democratic Union noted that reconciliation and cooperation with Israel and the Jewish people were an important element of CDU policy from the beginning. He made no mention of the Arabs. Herbert Wehner, Social Democratic Party floor leader, attacked Barzel for implying in his remarks on Israel that the SPD had failed to respect Germany's obligation towards Israel, and that only the CDU had done so. Wehner also criticized Barzel for stating in last autumn's election campaign that Jews and Israelis could live in security in West Germany only under a CDU government.

In his 1969 policy statement, Brandt did not mention Israel specifically. This led to sharp criticism from the Israeli public and press. This

time, Brandt's statement seemed to imply that, against the background of Nazi atrocities, West Germany supports and defends Israel's right to existence against aggression.

Meanwhile, Israel government circles here said that diplomatic contacts have been reopened in connection with a visit by Brandt to Israel. Brandt had reportedly dropped his plans to visit Israel following sharp criticism in some Israeli quarters over West Germany's release of three Arab terrorists involved in the Sept. Munich massacre. The circles said that a date for the visit is expected to be announced soon and that Brandt would go to Israel as head of the German government, not simply as chairman of the Social Democratic Party.

ISRAELI EXPERTS GOING TO MANAGUA TO AID VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--A team of Israeli experts will go to Managua, Nicaragua shortly to formulate plans to aid the victims of the earthquake that devastated that city last month, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday. The mission will be headed by MK Arie Eliav and several other experts who worked with him on earthquake relief in Iran ten years ago.

The Tal water planning company plans to send an expert of its own, Arie Patrakis, who will leave for Nicaragua early next week. He will be accompanied by several other Talah executives, including Rafael Gurevitch who was a deputy to Eliav in Iran and in a regional development scheme in Israel's Lachish region. Before going to Nicaragua, Eliav will be serving on behalf of the Knesset as an observer at the inter-parliamentary conference on European security in Helsinki, Finland.

NEW LABOR TROUBLES ERUPT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA)--A new spate of labor troubles hit Israel today. Customs officials in Tel Aviv went on strike for extra pay, some 1200 El Al clerks staged a two-hour work stoppage at Lod Airport, and maintenance workers at the port of Ashdod resumed a rule-book slow-down that they had ended last week. The Tel Aviv customs house officials are demanding compensation for extra work they say they are forced to do because of a manpower shortage and which they say is paid to customs officials at Lod Airport.

The action by the El Al clerks delayed five flights to the U.S. and Europe this morning. El Al officials expressed surprise at the work stoppage because negotiations have been underway for some time and a negotiating session had been scheduled for this afternoon. Several hundred El Al passengers were affected by the delay. The Ashdod slow-down suspended repairs to dock machinery and equipment. The workers said that despite promised negotiations their demands have not been met.

MRS. MEIR: MEETING WITH POPE WAS SERIOUS; FRANK; RECOMMENDS CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH VATICAN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir returned home last night and described her meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican

Monday as "highly respectable, serious and frank." She said her meeting yesterday with President Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast in Geneva was nothing more than a visit to an old friend to "talk things over" and chided the press for making "a sensation" out of it. Mrs. Meir, surrounded by members of her Cabinet as she left her plane at Lod Airport, read a prepared statement and answered reporters' questions.

She said the Pope told her he wanted to help find a peaceful solution in the Middle East but he did not speak of mediation. "He would like to be helpful in the question of seeking peace in the Middle East," Mrs. Meir said. She reiterated that her meeting with the Pope was held at the Vatican's initiative, contrary to an oral statement by Vatican press spokesman Frederico Alessandrini. Referring to Alessandrini's remarks, Mrs. Meir said, "Apparently our meeting was not viewed favorably by some people in the Vatican."

The Israeli Premier said the Pope thanked her a number of times for the way Israel is safeguarding the holy sites in Jerusalem. She stated she found no signs of any misunderstanding by the Pontiff of Israel's position with regard to Jerusalem--namely that the unified city is Israel's capital. "I am not sure whether I changed his mind on some subjects, but what was important was that he heard our point of view and we his," she said. Mrs. Meir added she would recommend to future Israeli Prime Ministers that they continue the dialogue with the Vatican.

Decries Sensational Reports

Mrs. Meir appeared nettled when asked by reporters if Houphouët-Boigny was prepared to use his influence in Africa on behalf of Israel which has suffered diplomatic set-backs there lately. She replied, "Your colleagues (of the press) in Europe have decided to make a sensation out of this meeting." She said, "When I was on my trip I learned that a great friend and a wonderful personality was spending his annual holiday in Switzerland and I thought that it would be the right thing to meet him and talk things over. He was very nice and he is a very wise man."

(The Ivory Coast Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, said in a communique issued today that Mrs. Meir's meeting with Houphouët-Boigny was a "warm and open conversation." The communique denied reports from some quarters that the Israeli Premier had asked the President to undertake a good will mission in Africa on Israel's behalf. "No such request was made," the communique said, adding "All the world knows with what anxieties African chiefs of state are guarding their countries' sovereign rights.")

Meanwhile, rumors persisted today that Black September terrorists had planned an attempt on Mrs. Meir's life when she landed in Paris last Friday but were deterred by the security precautions taken by French authorities. According to the rumors, terrorist assassins from neighboring European countries were to attack Mrs. Meir at Orly Airport. Israeli security services learned of the plot and notified the French authorities who instituted special precautionary measures, the reports said.

FORMER NAZIS GO ON TRIAL

BONN, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Four former members of the notorious Nazi execution squad, Einsatzgruppe D have gone on trial in Munich for abetting the murder of about 4000 Jewish men, women and children in southern Russia in the summer of 1941. More than 40 witnesses will be called to testify in the trial which is expected to last until the end of

Feb. The defendants are Erich Bock, 61, a business salesman; Hans Discar, 61, an engineer; Otto Ernst Prast, 59, an industrial consultant; and Wilhelm Spiekermann, 60, a sales agent. Prast and Discar are also accused of direct murder in one instance.

U.S. DISAPPOINTED WITH ICAO FOR REJECTING AIR TERROR RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The State Department expressed disappointment today over the International Civil Aviation Organization's rejection of a proposal to take action against countries that refuse to cooperate in international agreements against civil aviation violence, including skyjacking. Meeting yesterday in Montreal, the ICAO's legal committee representing 58 nations voted that recommendations for action against offending nations would be allowed, but ruled out ICAO investigation of alleged offenders or joint action against them.

State Department spokesman Simone S. Poulin said the U.S. was "disappointed with the course of the voting." She noted, however, that the ICAO meeting has 10 days to go, and said "We will continue to work for a positive outcome." The proposals rejected in Montreal were included in a U.S.-Canadian program for action which calls for strong measures against nations refusing to assist in suppressing violence against civil aviation.

RABBI KILLED, 5 INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT IN BRAZIL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--An Israeli rabbi was killed and five other Israelis were injured yesterday in an automobile accident in Brazil, it was reported here this morning. The rabbi was identified as Mordechai Interna, 61, who immigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union several years ago.

According to Rabbi S. Efrati of the Religious Affairs Ministry, Rabbi Interna went to Brazil 18 months ago to serve as mashgiach in a slaughterhouse in Bello Horizonte where meat products were prepared for shipment to Israel. The accident occurred on the way to the slaughterhouse. The five injured men were identified as Shalom Safir, 20, Avraham Roseman, 24, and Shimon Katz, 24, all of Petach Tikva; Mordechai Steinberg, 20, and Gamiel Rasner, 20, both from Jerusalem.

GEN. HIRSH PLASKOV, SOVIET WAR HERO, DEAD AT AGE 73

LONDON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--According to news reaching here from Moscow, Gen. Hirsh Plaskov, one of the Soviet war heroes, has died in Moldavia. He was 73. Gen. Plaskov, the son of a poor Jewish family in Minsk, joined the Red Army as a soldier and rose to the rank of full General. He was both a military leader and a man of great personal courage. He carried on his breast a total of 22 war decorations, including three Lenin orders.

Gen. Plaskov was a facile writer in Russian and Yiddish. In his last years, he wrote his memoirs which were published in Sovietsk Heimland. He often, in his old age, lent his name to anti-Israel statements, but he was never taken seriously either as a politician or as a mentor. He was respected for his exploits in the war against the Nazis and particularly in stemming the German advance to the Soviet heartland.

Israel cut its tariffs by an average of 15 percent on some 1400 consumer items yesterday.

LEGISLATOR WARNS OF NEW TERRORIST PLOT AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Congressman John M. Murphy's office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that a formal acknowledgement from the White House had been received in reply to a letter, the New York Democrat sent to President Nixon Jan. 12 informing him of a terrorist plot to crash a hijacked airliner into the heart of Tel Aviv. The letter urged "the United States to take the world initiative to eliminate air piracy." According to an aide to Murphy, the White House reply thanked the Congressman for his letter and promised that "it will be brought to the attention of the President."

Murphy wrote to Nixon that his knowledge of the terrorist plot was "based on intelligence I have had made available to me from official U.S. and international government sources." He said "The plot involves the purposeful crashing of a hijacked airliner into downtown Tel Aviv."

The legislator noted that such a disaster, apart from its human toll, would lead to a cessation of commercial air services around the world inasmuch as the International Air Line Pilots Association has decided "to call a world-wide suspension of service on the occasion of the next serious crime of violence against civil aviation."

Decisive Time For Action

Murphy has introduced legislation that would authorize the President to institute a boycott of air services against nations that fail to extradite or punish aerial hijackers and to deny landing rights to the aircraft of countries that provide sanctuary for sky pirates. The Murphy bill also requires the President to institute a secondary boycott against any country that continues to do air business with an offending nation and to apply sanctions against any nation used by terrorists as a base of operations, training ground or sanctuary.

In his letter to Nixon, Murphy wrote: "Skyjacking is one of the most devastating crimes in modern times against the general public and I am convinced the time for decisive action has come in this Congress. The other nations of the world are watching for the United States to set an example for proper legislation, and I intend to work for the strongest law possible to stop air pirates."

Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported last Friday that a Black September plot "to hijack an airliner and crash it into the heart of bustling Tel Aviv" was discovered by "intelligence agencies which monitor the secret radio bands used by the Arab terrorists." The same sources, he wrote, intercepted "similar ominous messages" shortly before the Lod Airport massacre of May 30 and the murder of Israeli Olympic athletes at Munich last Sept. 5. The earlier messages were vague about where the terrorists would strike but the latest ones were "more specific," Anderson stated.

INTERFAITH DELEGATION PROTESTS CONDITIONS OF SOVIET JEWS

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Five local clergymen and a nun representing the Philadelphia area's major faiths met Wednesday morning at the docking berth of the Russian ship "Novogradok" in an attempt to present to the ship's captain a letter protesting the Soviet Union's treatment of Jews. The letter, translated into Russian, protested the "American subsidies of trade with a Soviet government which places on the head of its Jewish citizens an extortionate exit tax."

Organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council, the project was aimed at the first Soviet

cargo ship to dock here since 1948. The six did not succeed in boarding the ship, because of security guards, but they did leave their letter and statement with the ship's transfer agent, who promised to deliver it to the captain.

Taking part were: Rev. Rufus Cornelison, executive director of the Metropolitan Christian Council; Rev. Donald Clifford, professor of theology at St. Joseph's College; Rabbi Maurice Corson, of JERC; Rev. Richard Firger, director of Judeo-Christian Relations for the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware; Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, executive director of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis; and Sister Regina Ryan, ecumenical liaison for the national staff of Opportunities Industrialization Center.

"We're here to ask the Soviet captain and crew to take a message back to their government," Rabbi Corson told the press. "We want the Soviets to know that not only does the Jewish community of Philadelphia deplore their treatment of Jews, but so do these important representatives of the Catholic and Protestant faiths."

In their statement, the six criticized the upcoming trial of Lazar Lubarsky, 45-year-old engineer from Rostov, who could receive up to five years for "slandering the Soviet system." The six also said they will urge U.S. Senators and Congressmen to vote for the Jackson amendment, which is scheduled to be reintroduced this term. The amendment to a trade bill would deny the USSR most favored nation status until the education tax is lifted.

PINCUS, UJA LEADERS ON NATIONAL PHONE APPEAL TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Paul Zuckerman, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, will address American Jewish community leadership in a special telephone conference call tomorrow reaching some 75 cities across the country, Irving Bernstein, UJA executive vice-chairman, announced today. Speaking from Washington, Pincus will brief the leaders on the current trends of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the urgent need for providing properly for absorption of these immigrants.

"This year, with the anticipated arrival of 70,000 new immigrants to Israel, including a large number from the Soviet Union, the immediate expansion of UJA supported programs is a matter of vital necessity," Bernstein said. Zuckerman will address the national hookup from Miami and will report to the country on the status of the current UJA fund-raising campaign. "We must insure that all newcomers to Israel will have the way of life they so desperately want and deserve," Zuckerman said. "They willingly risk all they have to start a new life in freedom. The cost of that freedom is high. Tens of thousands of Jews have applied for exit visas in the Soviet Union, and we must do all we can to match their courage."

Belgrade's largest concert hall was packed for the 20th anniversary concert of the Brothers Baruch Choir, the principal Jewish choir in Yugoslavia. The composer, Slobodan Kistic, conducted and the opera prima donna, Breda Kalev, was soloist in the first part of the program which was devoted to synagogal, Hebrew and Yiddish music. The second part of the program, a performance of Prokofiev's "Alexander Nevsky," was conducted by the Jewish maestro, Oscar Danon, with the participation of 70 singers of the Belgrade Opera and the Army Philharmonic Orchestra.

RABBI SAYS 'Key 73' LEADERS REPUDIATE ANTI-SEMITISM, COERCION

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The leaders of "Key 73," the nationwide Christian evangelical campaign to call "the continent to Christ," have given assurances to Jews that they repudiate anti-Semitism and any evangelical resort to coercion. This was reported by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the American Jewish Committee's interreligious affairs department who has been corresponding with the "Key 73" leadership in order to convey to them the serious concerns of the American Jewish community over the multi-media evangelical drive.

Rabbi Tanenbaum made public a letter he received from Dr. Theodore Raedeke of St. Louis, executive director of "Key 73" in which he stated, "We do not wish to persecute, pressure or force Jews to believe or do anything against their will." Dr. Raedeke insisted that "There is no anti-Semitism in either the ideology or the thrust of 'Key 73.'"

He added, however, "We are confident that the Jews do not wish to undermine our holy faith or deprive us of our rights to propagate our faith--the privilege we enjoy in America." Rabbi Tanenbaum said the statement was a "welcome clarification" although it does "not respond to all the questions that the Jewish community would want clarified."

Among those questions, he said, were the implications of a nationwide evangelical campaign for the pluralistic character of America; will a campaign that views Christianity as a "substitute covenant" for that of Judaism feed negative and anti-Semitic attitudes among the people it reaches; will the emphasis on personal testifying for Christ through neighborhood door-to-door canvases and college and high school campus crusades lead to coercive pressures against Jewish individuals and others?

Different Views Expressed

Jews are especially sensitive to the impact "Key 73" and similar evangelical drives such as the "Campus Crusade for Christ" may have on Jewish high school and college youth. Rabbi Tanenbaum said he hoped the repudiation of coercive measures by the "Key 73" leaders will filter down to the many evangelists on campuses.

Differing views of the threat--or lack of it--of "Key 73" to Jewish youth and Jews generally were expressed by two other New York rabbis. Rabbi Jacob J. Hecht, executive vice-president of the National Committee for Furthurance of Jewish Education, declared that the well-organized, heavily-financed evangelical drive "is bad news for Jews." According to Rabbi Hecht, the target of "Key 73" is "to Christianize everyone in the United States who is not yet a Christian" and this "could not come at a less opportune time" with respect to Jewish youth which "like all youth today...are beset with many problems."

But Rabbi Charles Sheer, the Jewish Chaplain at Columbia University, believes that Jews have "over-reacted" to "Key 73" and similar crusades. He said Jews were frightened by announcements that the evangelical drives had staffs of hundreds and \$18 million in financing with which to blanket the media. But there are far more serious concerns within the Jewish fold, he declared at the Yeshiva University's midyear conference.

"Why are we not distressed when college-age Jews who are for Judaism do not know how to live, talk and think like Jews?" he asked. "Why must 'Paradise Lost' introduce Jewish students to Genesis... Couldn't this exciting awakening happen earlier and under Jewish auspices?"

INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR PEACE TO COINCIDE WITH INAUGURAL BALL

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--A vigil for peace will be conducted Saturday evening at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine led by a group of rabbis and clergymen. The vigil will coincide with the inaugural ball in Washington for President Nixon, Rabbi Robert J. Marx, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues who will be one of the participants, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the purpose of the vigil is "to express the contrast between the dancing in Washington and the continued killing in Vietnam. The vigil is an expression of our anguish that in the midst of the most immoral and barbaric time in our history, people will be dancing instead of trying to bring the agony to an end."

Rabbi Marx said that other rabbis participating in the vigil include Rabbi Robert Lehman, president of the Association of Reform Rabbis, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee. Groups sponsoring the vigil include the Association of Reform Rabbis of New York and vicinity, the Interreligious Coalition of New York, and Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam.

Rabbi Marx also said that he has been invited as the first rabbi to preach a sermon at the regular Sunday services at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The invitation, he said, was extended by Bishop Paul Moore. His topic will be "Inauguration and Terrorism."

SDS Recalls Victims Of Nazism

In preparations for a national mobilization in Washington Saturday to protest the war in Vietnam and racism in the United States, the left-wing Students for a Democratic Society issued a flyer stating that the government supports "genocide at home" against the Black people in a fashion similar to that used by Hitler against the Jews. The leaflet notes, in part:

"The Nazis began with verbal diatribes against Jews in the name of 'purifying the race.' The attacks intensified when Jews were deprived of elementary rights and culminated in Auschwitz, Treblinka, Bergen-Belsen, and the Warsaw Ghetto. But the attacks against the Jews were not confined to the Jews." By the time Hitler fell, the leaflet continues, close to 50 million people were slaughtered in the carnage.

An Israeli Army vehicle escorting road workers was fired on this morning in a bazooka ambush near Djabal Rouge on the Lebanese border. No casualties were reported. The incident was the first in three months on the Lebanese line. The workers were public works employes assigned to clear ice and snow from roads in the area.

Unidentified participants in a recent anti-Vietnam War demonstration in Amsterdam changed the street sign in front of the local Sephardic synagogue, from Lodewijk Visser to Ho Chi Minh Square. Visser, former Jewish president of the Netherlands Supreme Court, was removed from his post by the Nazis on Nov. 19, 1940.

Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Abba Eban is due in Belgium shortly to sign a new Common Market protocol.