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GOLDA: ISRAEL IS 'NEUTRAL' IN U.S.

CONTROVERSY ON JACKSON AMENDMENT

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir reiterated today her government's policy of strict neutrality in the controversy between the Nixon Administration and the U.S. Congress over how to deal with the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

Replying to questions in the Knesset, Mrs. Meir said that Israel valued the efforts of Sen. Henry M. Jackson but "cannot and should not take a stand when differences of opinion flare between Congress and the President of the U.S. on how to deal with the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration."

Sen. Jackson, a Washington Democrat, is author of an amendment that would deny Moscow U.S. trade concessions unless obstacles to emigration are removed. Mrs. Meir said, "We hold in esteem the efforts of the U.S. government on behalf of Soviet Jews."

She said that in her meetings last March with Administration and Congressional leaders "whose efforts we value, I stressed the seriousness of Soviet Jewry's plight." She said there has been "a certain easing of the situation as regards the diploma tax" but "difficulties attached to the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union still exist, to my sorrow."

In reply to another question, Premier Meir said the government's controversial 1970 decision to build a residential suburb at Nebi Samwil in former Jordanian territory north of Jerusalem still stands despite delays in starting construction. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem has opposed the project as unnecessary and unwise. His principal objection is that it will encourage creeping urbanization in a naturally beautiful area just outside Jerusalem.

BREZHNEV IN PARIS - POMPIDOU WILL NOT RAISE SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE

PARIS, June 26 (JTA)--French government officials said today the Middle East would not be a major topic of discussion between President Georges Pompidou and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev who arrived here yesterday for two days of talks.

The problem of Soviet Jews who wish to leave the USSR has not even been considered as a possible topic. A French official said the talks will center around international political and economic affairs and not on internal problems in the Soviet Union.

Parisian Jews will march through the center of the city on Tuesday and participate in a hunger strike for the duration of Brezhnev's visit in an attempt to get Pompidou to bring up the topic with the Soviet leader, according to the Defense Committee for Soviet Jews which organized both protests.

Government officials said, however, that Pompidou would not be pressured into taking up the topic.

Government sources said Pompidou and his Foreign Minister Michel Jobert, are primarily concerned with off-setting some of the deals made last week between Brezhnev and Nixon which the French government fears consolidated the supremacy of Moscow and Washington in the

world-political structure.

Specifically, the two leaders will discuss the importance of the Common Market to world trade and the general strength of Europe both politically and economically, a Foreign Ministry official said.

TRADE UNIONS BACK PRICE FREEZE

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--Histadrut is 100 percent behind the government's price freeze and will cooperate in making it effective. That was the upshot of a meeting here yesterday between leaders of the trade union federation and Cabinet ministers.

Histadrut secretary general Yitzhak Ben Aharon, an outspoken critic of government economic policies in the past, said the government should be thanked for ordering the freeze and predicted that a turn for the better was at hand after five months of an unhappy economic situation.

Labor Minister Yosef Almog, a prime mover behind the government's decision to freeze the prices of basic commodities and services for a 90-day period, praised what he called a more positive attitude by Histadrut. He said he hoped it augured well for future cooperation.

Deputy Premier Yigal Alon said at the meeting that the price freeze was only a first step to let the economy cool down while the government attacked the more basic problem of inflation. Welfare Minister Michael Hazani of the National Religious Party said that according to the Talmud, persons guilty of price offenses should be imprisoned. (See analysis P. 4.)

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTARIAN SAYS JEWS 'SWING TO THE RIGHT'

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--A leading American civil libertarian deplores "the slow but perceptible swinging of the Jewish community to the right," a move which, he says, places Jews and Jewish organizations "largely on the wrong side of the great civil rights issues of the day."

Joseph Rauh Jr., general counsel of the Leadership Council on Civil Rights and a former national chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, will elaborate on his views tonight in an address to the Jewish Community Council of Milwaukee, Wisc., an umbrella group encompassing major local and national Jewish organizations.

Rauh, who is Jewish, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that his address would mark "The first time I've spelled out my concern in such detail." He said he was "speaking as an individual Jew who has devoted his life to civil rights."

In the advance text of his Milwaukee address which he made available to the JTA, Rauh attacks "The brigade of wealthy Jews who chose to forsake their long-time allegiance to the liberal Democratic Party last fall and gave vast sums to defeat a candidate (Sen. George McGovern) whose crime was to propose some modicum of redistribution of wealth."

Rauh was a strong supporter of Sen. McGovern who received about two-thirds of the Jewish vote, considerably less than previous Democratic Presidential candidates.

Rauh also scores "those who, in the misguided view that they were helping Israel, supported the outrageous military assaults on Asia" and "those

who today lead the cheers for the chief Senatorial spokesman for the military-industrial complex, Henry Jackson, in the hopeful expectation that he will one day be their Presidential candidate."

Blasts Those Who Support Jackson

Sen. Jackson, a Washington Democrat, is the author of the Jackson Amendment that would deny U.S. trade benefits and credits to the Soviet Union until it removes restrictions on emigration.

Rauh also criticizes the influential magazine "Commentary," published by the American Jewish Committee. Quoting the view of John Mossell, a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Rauh says in his address that "Commentary" is "dampening the receptivity of liberal whites to the thesis that race is as critical an issue as it ever was."

As examples of "current Jewish reaction" Rauh cites cases involving housing, busing and employment. He observes that "No one in America" is "in favor of quotas" which are "at best confusing and at worst deliberately misleading." But he backs the concepts of goals and time-tables advanced by Vernon Jordan, a leader of the National Urban League.

"Goals and time-tables," Rauh says, "are simply standards for the measurement of progress of government and other employers in overcoming past discrimination against Blacks and other minorities and women. They are a means of measuring progress and, unlike quotas, they are flexible."

"No one is suggesting that anybody hire or promote unqualified people," Rauh says. "But just like the preference for veterans among qualified applicants in the civil service, so goals and time-tables support Black preference among qualified applicants in order to remedy past discrimination."

Rauh concludes that "The descendants of Jewish ghettos upon whom American democracy has shone, so brightly and to whom it has brought so much prosperity and happiness must not be found wanting when the rights of the less fortunate are at stake."

'UNIVERSAL' PLANS NO CUTS OR CHANGES IN 'JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR'

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA)--A Universal Pictures spokesman said today that his company is satisfied with its controversial film "Jesus Christ Superstar" and does not intend to make any changes in it.

The spokesman, Dick Delson, who described himself as "a Jew," told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that neither he nor Universal "felt concerned" over charges that the film is anti-Semitic.

Universal Films issued a statement today responding to the concern expressed by the American Jewish Committee that the film, due to be released tomorrow, is "insidious" and that it "dramatized old falsehoods about the Jews."

The statement said the film was conceived and recorded as a "rock opera" and was never intended as a "religious tract." It did not reply to specific charges made by the AJ Committee in a study prepared by its Institute of Human Relations.

Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev will be one of a dozen internationally known artists who will participate in the Israel Festival opening July 16 in Caesarea.

ISRAELI LABOR AND GERMAN SPD SUD TO HOLD YEARLY CONSULTATIONS - CLASH WITH YOUNG SOCIALISTS

BONN, June 26 (JTA)--A visiting Israel Labor Party delegation concluded yesterday what it described as "satisfactory" talks with leaders of West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), including Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The Israeli group, headed by Labor Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin, is visiting Wiesbaden and Munich today for talks with party leaders of Hesse and Bavaria. They will return to Israel Wednesday.

The outcome of the talks was an agreement by the Israeli Laborites and the SPD to hold annual political consultations, to establish a direct link between their respective party headquarters and to form close contacts between Labor Party and SPD European Economic Community experts. It was also decided to send an SPD women's delegation to Israel next Dec.

Meeting With Brandt

The Israeli visitors were received by Chancellor Brandt in West Berlin yesterday. He told them that West Germany wanted to help Israel but that Israel should not overestimate its ability to do so.

Brandt, who visited Israel recently, said his country wanted to maintain closer ties with Jerusalem. He said that events were moving in a favorable direction for Israel with relation to the European Common Market. He also said that West German investments in Israel with government backing were under consideration.

The Israelis and SPD leaders clashed yesterday with members of the Union of Young Socialists (JUSO), a dissident youth group within the SPD which regards the present Israeli regime as imperialistic and expansionist.

Carsten Voigt, deputy chairman of JUSO, reaffirmed its pro-Arab resolution at the Godesberg conference and alleged that Israel's policies were close to Fascism.

Michael Chasish, a Labor Party foreign affairs expert, accused Voigt of paying lip service to Israel's right to exist. He noted that JUSO has consistently refused invitations to visit Israel.

The JUSO resolution was condemned by Herbert Wehner, deputy chairman of the SPD and Holger Borne, secretary general.

In a statement here yesterday, Yadin said Israel was satisfied with Chancellor Brandt's visit but thought that no country could pursue a "balanced policy" in the Middle East such as was envisioned by Brandt. He also criticized West Germany for declaring in advance of its admission to the United Nations that it would abstain from voting on Middle East issues. Yadin said Israel did not want West Germany to undertake a role of mediator in the Mideast but to act as a "force for peace."

RESISTANCE MOVEMENT MAIN FACTOR IN BELGIAN JEWRY'S SURVIVAL UNDER NAZIS

BRUSSELS, June 26 (JTA)--A study of the Belgian Jewish Resistance movement during World War II shows that nearly half of Belgian Jewry escaped extermination at the hands of the Nazis while 90 percent of the Jewish community in neighboring Holland perished.

The study, by a French historian, Lucien Steinberg, attributes the survival of Belgian Jews to the fact that they had an organized resistance movement which was lacking among Dutch Jews. The study was prepared for the University of Brussels' National Center for Jewish Studies.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH LEADER CALLS COMMUNITY 'SELF-CENTERED'

CAPE TOWN, June 26 (JTA)--A Jewish community leader has warned here that South African Jewry is less vulnerable to anti-Semitism than to criticism that it is parochial and "self-centered." Hymie Wolfe, outgoing chairman of the Cape Committee of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies said at its biennial general meeting that there was a need for the Jewish community to re-think its attitudes on South Africa's racial problem.

"As part of the white population, we no longer face anti-Semitism to any extent," he said. "The new threat that faces us is the criticism that Jews and Jewish organizations are self-centered, self-defensive and self-promoting--that we are only interested in Jewish problems and that we are not participating in the solution of the human and social problems of our time, that we remain aloof from all those movements which are trying to combat racism wherever it appears."

Wolfe said that the country is undergoing a period of rapid political and socio-economic changes and Jewish organizations should be more alive to them.

NBC AGREES TO HIRE ORTHODOX JEW AFTER COLPA COMPLAINT

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA)--The National Broadcasting Company has agreed to hire an Orthodox Jew after the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) said it would take legal action in support of the Jew's complaint he had been refused a job by NBC because he would not work on the Jewish Sabbath.

The announcement of the NBC agreement to hire the complainant was made by Howard Rhine, COLPA president. He said the Jewish complainant had filed a statement with the New York State Division of Human Rights in which he charged that when he applied for a post as a studio technician, he was told he would be on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day and that he would have to work on Friday evenings and Saturdays on a rotating basis with other employees. He asserted that when he said he could not work on those weekend periods, he was refused the job.

Rhine said that conversations with the NBC personnel department confirmed that Sabbath observance "was the reason for the refusal to hire." He said that under state law, an employer must accommodate to the religious needs of Sabbath observers unless to do so would cause "undue economic hardship." He added that "as a matter of law, the exigencies of a rotating schedule are certainly insufficient to meet this standard."

AMERICAN BETAR MEMBERS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN RUSSIA - ACCUSE FBI OF COOPERATING WITH KGB

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA)--Five American Jewish students who claim they were kept under virtual house arrest for two days during a visit to Russia last week, accused the FBI today of trying to block their trip to the USSR and said the KGB (Soviet secret police) "cooperated with the FBI."

The five students are members of the militant Betar youth group of the Zionists-Revisionists movement and are believed to be sympathizers of the Jewish Defense League. Their trip to Russia and to Israel where they arrived today, was financed by the United Zionists-Revisionists which is ideologically linked to Israel's Herut Party.

Gordon Soldar, 23, of New York, leader of the group, said the FBI tried to persuade them not to go to Russia. He said he and his fellow students "felt this is legal, to go and demonstrate there for the rights of Russian Jews." He said FBI agents were at Kennedy Airport when they left New York and "tried to dissuade us from going, but we went."

Soldar said that at the Moscow airport they were separated from other passengers while their luggage was thoroughly inspected and then taken to the airport hotel where they were confined to a single room "almost as prisoners." He said, "We could not even get in touch with the American Embassy for two days. He said the Russians finally allowed them to contact the Embassy. They were finally taken to the airport and put on a plane for Istanbul. Soldar said the Russians who searched their luggage claimed they were looking for narcotics.

HILLEL: JERUSALEM TESTING GROUND FOR ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--Jerusalem was depicted yesterday as a testing ground for Arab-Jewish relations that will have a great bearing on whether or not Israel can eventually co-exist with its Arab neighbors.

Police Minister Shlomo Hillel, addressing the Jerusalem Economic Club, said that never before in Israel's history have Jews and Arabs lived so closely together and in such large numbers as in Jerusalem since the Six-Day War. "The closest we came is Nazareth, but we didn't succeed there," he said.

Hillel disclosed that among the 130 East Jerusalem Arabs serving as full members of the Israeli Police Force, there were several officers who had Israeli policemen under their command. These Arab policemen hold Jordanian citizenship as do almost all East Jerusalem Arabs, he said. "I don't ask them if they like the political situation. I presume they don't," Hillel said. But when the political situation is resolved, the day-to-day relationships that have developed will provide the basis for real co-existence, he added.

Hillel said that relationships between Jews and Arabs in Israel proper immediately after Israel's independence in 1948 were marked by fears and tensions which only gradually worked themselves out. He said the lessons learned in this evolving relationship have enabled Israel to deal naturally with the Arabs in East Jerusalem and the administered territories after the Six-Day War. He said that the new relations now being worked out in East Jerusalem will determine "our ability to live with Arabs across the border."

Hillel, who is the government's unofficial liaison with Jerusalem and West Bank Arabs, expressed the hope that an Arab candidate will stand for election to the Jerusalem City Council this year.

Hillel said that some 23,000 Arabs have been permitted to return to the administered territories and East Jerusalem since the Six-Day War, most of them under the family reunion plan. For the past three years, virtually no Arab has emigrated from the West Bank, the first time since the second World War that substantial emigration from the West Bank has stopped, Hillel said.

Edward Trepper, son of former Red Orchestra chief Leopold Trepper, said today in Jerusalem that he would not end his ten-day fast at the Walling Wall until Soviet Communist Party Secretary, Leonid Brezhnev ends his two-day visit to France. Trepper is protesting against the refusal of Polish authorities to issue an exit visa to his father.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

ISRAELI PRICE FREEZE: CONSUMERS
REJOICE, MANUFACTURERS WORRY AND
ECONOMISTS TRY TO STUDY EFFECTS

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--When the Cabinet announced Sunday that a three month price freeze was to come into force at once, the Israeli man in the street, and more important, his wife, naturally rejoiced. Prices have risen by an almost incredible 11 percent in the first five months of this year and very many Israeli families are finding it increasingly difficult to balance their budgets.

True, the government has agreed to the Histadrut's demand for employed persons to be compensated by a midyear cost of living allowance. But the maximum monthly wage rise which the COL allowance will provide is about IL 70 (to be paid from the beginning of July) and a great many families, especially large families, will not find this adequate.

The "price stabilization" (it is not a blanket freeze) provides the following: 1) Prices of 14 staple commodities such as bread, milk, fish, eggs, chicken, oil, sugar, will remain totally frozen until Sept. 30. Any overseas price rises in these imported items will be covered by increased government subsidies; 2) Utilities such as electricity, water, telephones and personal services such as dry cleaners, hairdressers and restaurants will also be totally frozen; 4) All other commodities will be frozen unless the producer can prove that overseas prices have risen to such an extent as to cause an increase in the price of his own finished product of over two percent. He will also have to absorb the COL allowance calculated at 1.5 percent of his production costs, so in all he must absorb 3.5 percent before he can apply for a price rise.

Manufacturers Step Up Pressure

While the consumers rejoiced, the manufacturers decried the freeze. It had been their intense pressure which persuaded Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir to reduce the originally intended six month freeze to three months. But even three months was, in the manufacturers' view, merely an election year stunt, not a serious effort to fight inflation.

Abraham Shavit, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, complained that the freeze would hit the only productive sector of the economy--industry. There was to be no parallel legal freeze on wages, and more important, no hard hitting government steps to curb public spending and drain the economy of surplus buying power.

The manufacturers' reaction could be dismissed as the predictable response of an interested party were it not for the fact that it has been widely echoed by academic economists, newspaper analysts and others who can assess the government's policies objectively.

The basic question is whether the price freeze is to be part of a broad frontal attack on the root causes of inflation, or whether it is only a vote-catching stopgap measure. The top level government committee which recommended the freeze stressed that it must be "integrated into an overall economic anti-inflation policy, and will itself increase the chances of success of such a policy...The freeze is not a substitute for

a long-term policy."

But is there to be such a long-term assault on inflation? On Sunday the government decided to cut public buildings and the building of luxury apartments. These were moves in the right direction--but by no means far enough. The question of whether to raise interest rates--at present laughably low--on government development and export loans is to be decided only when Sapir returns from abroad. Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Sanbar is demanding this seriously deflationary step as effective and necessary, but the politicians, conscious of the elections ahead, are more cautious.

Danger Of Inflation

This is even more true of other wider hitting deflationary measures which the situation calls for but which the oncoming elections preclude. In the words of a Jerusalem Post editorial, "All the current talk about checking inflation has a hollow ring. With elections around the corner unpopular policies won't be adopted. Suggestions to reduce purchasing power by imposing new taxes, by advancing the value added tax slated for next year, by reducing subsidies or by putting an end to public overspending have been dismissed not on their merits but because they are considered untimely. Attempts to avoid or cut the midyear COL allowance have not been pursued in order not to clash with the trade unions, and the proposal to raise interest rates on development loans and export credits has been rejected for fear of annoying investors."

The editorial was written two days before the government's freeze, but the Post and most other papers expressed the same doubts the day after the freeze was announced. Furthermore, experts are expressing doubts about the effectiveness of a price freeze in doing the very thing it is aimed to do--calm the consumer, who sees prices rising before his eyes and therefore engages in panic buying, adding fuel to the flames of inflation. Commerce Minister Haim Barlev was confident that this effect would be achieved, but many economists feel the opposite is more likely. People will buy more than ever during the freeze period because they will feel certain that prices will leap as soon as it ends.

Also, the enforceability of the freeze is doubted by some. The Commerce Ministry has only a tiny staff of inspectors and the real enforcement officers will have to be the public themselves. Yet the public is notoriously lax when it is required to assemble comparative evidence such as bills and receipts from before the freeze and after and then register a formal complaint with the Ministry or the police.

Only time will tell whether the government is right and the analysts wrong about the merits of the freeze itself. And only time will tell whether the government--despite the oncoming elections--will use the time it has gained by imposing the freeze to assault the more basic causes of Israel's inflation.

A plan for the establishment of 20 new settlements and two new regional centers in the Arava district of the Negev during the next seven years was disclosed in Jerusalem today by Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department. Weitz said the plan called for intensive agricultural projects in the region. He said a population of close to 10,000 was expected in the sparsely inhabited Arava region once the plan materialized.