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KISSINGER ASSURES ISRAEL HE CAME TO DISCUSS SECURITY, NOT CONCESSIONS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 2 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger arrived in Israel early this morning to begin what is expected to be the most difficult phase of his Middle East diplomacy--negotiation of a disengagement accord between Israel and Syria. Significantly, his first words on landing from a U.S. Air Force jet at Ben Gurion Airport, were aimed at calming Israeli fears that he would bring pressure to bear for concessions inimical to the nation's security.

"I came here to continue discussions with the government on the same problems of peace and in the same spirit of friendship that characterized our previous discussions," Kissinger told the hordes of journalists and television reporters at the airport. "I came to discuss not concessions but security. I came not to exert pressure but to attempt to reach lasting peace which this people, courageous and learned of suffering, deserves."

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who was at the airport to greet Kissinger and his wife, Nancy, also stressed the bonds of friendship between Israel and the U.S. which he declared were strong enough to overcome differences of opinion. The mutual values shared by both countries will withstand any trials the future may bring, Eban said. The Foreign Minister expressed confidence that Kissinger's diplomatic skills, backed by American prestige, would be successful in furthering the sought for agreement with Syria.

Fear Of 'Sell Out' Mounts

Whether Kissinger's assurances and Eban's confidence will have the desired effects here remains to be seen. A group of demonstrators marched outside the airport gates this morning carrying signs protesting U.S. support of an anti-Israel resolution in the Security Council last week. But there is even greater concern in Israel that the U.S. will try to impose undesirable terms and that the care-taker government is already wavering.

Those fears were spurred by a report in the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram yesterday that Kissinger is bringing to Israel a four-point disengagement proposal that calls for the return not only of the 300 square miles of Syrian territory captured in the Yom Kippur War but a 10 square mile slice of the Golan Heights, captured in 1967, including the town of Kuneitra, as well. According to one report, members of Kissinger's entourage who initially denied the Al Ahram story, later admitted that it was substantially correct. Reports that the Israeli government has already agreed to abandon Kuneitra met with sharp denials.

(See separate story P. 3 for Kissinger's talks in Jerusalem.)

But fear of a "sell out" mounted in Israel and transcended party lines. The Labor Alignment Knesset faction demanded an urgent meeting to discuss government policy in the talks with Kissinger. Labor MK Moshe Shahal warned that the care-taker Cabinet may make decisions before explaining them to the Knesset. Another Labor MK, Uzi Finerman, demanded that the Labor Party hear the views of Golan Heights settlers

before any decision is made on the Golan's future.

Golan settlers sent a cablegram to the National Religious Party that surrender of Kuneitra would prestage the elimination of all Israeli settlements on the strategic heights. Likud leader Menachem Beigin, meanwhile, has cut short a visit to the U.S. on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization and will fly home this week. He changed his plans reportedly after receiving an urgent telephone call from Likud colleagues warning that the government was about to yield to American pressures.

14 JEWS RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP

LONDON, May 2 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today that 14 Jews went to the reception hall of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow to hand in applications to release them from Soviet citizenship on the grounds that they all wished to emigrate to Israel. They pointed out in their applications that they had been unable to obtain the necessary forms for the renunciation of citizenship from the ovir or any other government agency. They had been told the issue was not important enough.

Officials at the reception hall said they would pass the applications to the Ministry of Interior. Among those who want to renounce their Soviet citizenship are Valery Kryzhak and his wife, Valeria, Lev Kogan, Lev Gendin, Michael Goldblat, Boris Tsitlionok and Leonid Tsipin.

STUDENTS PROTEST HITLER MASS

PARIS, May 2 (JTA)--French left-wing Jewish students occupied the offices of the Argentinian airlines in downtown Paris to protest the recent celebration in Argentina of a mass commemorating the death of Adolf Hitler. The mass was organized by the Argentinian nationalist movement.

The 50 students of the Liaison Committee of the Zionist Socialist Students Organization (LCZSS) who occupied the airline offices for an hour issued a statement declaring that the LCZSS "is determined to fight anti-Semitism throughout the world and especially in Argentina where it is of a quasi-official nature." Police intervened and 10 of the demonstrators were taken to a police station for questioning, it was reported.

MRS. MEIR HEADS WEIZMANN CENTENARY

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir will be world chairman of the Weizmann Centenary, it was announced by Meyer W. Weisgal, chancellor of the Weizmann Institute of Science and chairman of Yad Chaim Weizmann, prior to his departure from Rehovot for Europe and the U.S. on matters connected with preparations for the Centenary program.

JACKSON: THE USSR CAN SHOW DESIRE FOR PEACE IN MIDEAST BY WITHDRAWING 2000 MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM SYRIA

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA)--The Soviet Union would demonstrate its desire to cooperate in achieving stability in the Middle East by withdrawing Soviet military personnel from Syria and joining in a proposal to forbid the passage of warships of all great powers through the Suez Canal, Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) said last night. Speaking to some 500 persons attending a B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League dinner honoring its associate director and general counsel, Arnold Forster, on

his 35th anniversary with the ADL, Jackson declared: "At this very moment there are over 2000 Soviet military personnel in Syria, 500 of them operating a dense network of surface-to-air missiles. Soviet diplomats have been urging Syria to continue its military operations and cultivating distrust of American diplomatic efforts aimed at a partial settlement."

The Senator observed that if Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who met with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger earlier this week in Geneva, "wishes to demonstrate that his government will cooperate in bringing about a disengagement, he might well begin by disengaging the Russian army and air force from Israel's northern border." Jackson's speech followed a huge May Day demonstration in Damascus where an estimated 200,000 Syrians derided Kissinger as a "cheap American" and a "Jewish conspirator," for his efforts to achieve a Syrian-Israeli disengagement on the Golan Heights.

"For the long term," Jackson said in urging demilitarization of the Suez, "the shift of Soviet activity to Iraq, Syria, Aden, South Yemen and Somalia, combined with the reopening of the Suez Canal, poses a great and growing threat to Western interests in the Persian Gulf."

Jackson also warned that the United States is in a position of dependence on foreign oil for as much as one-third of its oil needs and observed that "drifting into greater dependence on Arab oil could be disastrous." He urged establishment of a "real strategic reserve, capable of replacing imports for an extensive period in the event of supply interruptions" and in this connection advocated a three-point national energy policy for development of energy sources; a massive research and development program or alternate energy sources, and renewed conservation efforts.

Forster, who began with the ADL as a volunteer in the mid-1930s, appointed the ADL's general counsel in 1946 and named associate director in 1962, received messages of tribute from American and Israeli officials, and a host of public figures. Among the dignitaries on the dais were Israeli Ambassador to the UN Yosef Tekoah, and Ambassador David Rivlin, Israeli Consul General in New York.

GEORGE BACKER DEAD AT AGE 71

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA)—George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation from 1938 to 1950 and a president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from 1935 to 1950, died last night at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital after a long illness. Mr. Backer, who was 71, was a novelist, playwright and a former publisher of the New York Post. During the 1930s, Mr. Backer went to Europe several times to help Jewish refugees flee from Hitlerism. For this he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government in 1936.

From 1932 to 1942 Mr. Backer was married to Dorothy Schiff. They bought the New York Post in 1939 and Mr. Backer, then a New York City Councilman chosen by the American Labor Party, became publisher. He was with the Office of War Information during World War II as propaganda policy director.

Mr. Backer was also a national vice-president of the Joint Distribution Committee; president of the central board of World ORT Union from 1946 to 1949; a director of the Palestine Economic Corp. and the Refugee Economic Corp. and was associated with the American Jewish

Committee. During the 1930s he wrote with S.N. Behrman, a play called "The Scant P. it," and with Samuel Chotzinoff a play called "Honey-moon." In 1966 he had published a novel, "Appearance of a Man."

A MAZEL TOV FROM GOLDA TO NANCY

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who arrived here today for the new round of peace talks between Israel and Syria, took his wife Nancy, to meet Premier Golda Meir who will be celebrating her 76th birthday tomorrow. Mrs. Meir, receiving the couple at her residence, congratulated them and gave Nancy a wedding gift of two ancient glass bottles, one for perfume and the other for tears.

The Premier explained that according to ancient custom, every wife must have a bottle to collect her tears of sorrow whenever her husband was away—a seemingly appropriate gift in view of Nancy Kissinger's husband. Mrs. Kissinger spent the afternoon sightseeing in Jerusalem while her husband continued discussions of Israeli and Syrian disengagement on the Golan Heights.

ISRAELIS HIT SYRIAN, TERRORIST POSITIONS; 4 ISRAELIS KILLED

TEL AVIV, May 2 (JTA)—Israeli planes attacked Syrian positions in the Mount Hermon region today and also hit terrorist enclaves on the western slopes of the mountain in the terrorist area known as "Fatah land." The Syrians, meanwhile, have intensified their attacks. This morning they renewed their artillery and tank fire and from time to time directed Katyusha rocket salvos at Israeli forces in the enclave region and in the Nafah village area. The Israeli artillery returned the fire.

The targets today were deeper in Syrian and Israeli territories and therefore Golan Heights roads were closed to civilian traffic and settlers were ordered into shelters for many hours. All Israeli planes returned safely to base after their attacks. The Syrians have continued shelling Israeli forces in the enclave, the Kuneitra region, Nafah village (central Golan) and from time to time also on Mount Hermon. One soldier was injured as a result of the shelling.

Israeli sources see the intensification of Syrian attacks as a way of trying to impress upon Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that unless Israel is made to accept the Syrian plan for disengagement the situation could deteriorate to a point endangering all of the Middle East agreements achieved so far.

Meanwhile, it was reported that as a result of yesterday's shelling by the Syrians, four Israeli soldiers were killed. They were identified as 2nd Lt. Gershon Blau, 21, of Afuleh; Pvt. Daniel Ohanon, 20, of Netanya; Pvt. Ron Hochmann, 20, of Herzliya, and Pvt. Yoram Prisant, 20, of Haifa.

BUDAPEST (JTA)—The Hungarian government has decided to finance the excavation of one of the world's oldest synagogues. Experts estimate the synagogue may date back 700 years and say it is constructed in a special Oriental style found nowhere else in Europe. The synagogue ruins stand opposite another synagogue dating back to 1359 and both are found in the Hungarian town of Sopron in the west of Hungary. Sopron was the last stronghold of the Nazis and its Jewish population was exterminated. Only a few Jews live in Sopron now, those who returned from concentration camps.

KISSINGER'S TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS MAY LAY GROUNDWORK FOR RENEWED ROUND OF GENEVA TALKS

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger began discussions with Israeli leaders immediately on his arrival here today. He and his aides went directly to Premier Golda Meir's residence for lunch and the first round of talks on a disengagement agreement with Syria. Kissinger reportedly met privately with Mrs. Meir before the luncheon session which lasted about three hours. A further three-hour working session was held late this afternoon at the Prime Minister's office.

Mrs. Meir and key ministers, including Abba Eban, Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin, Yigal Allon, Shimon Peres, and Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur and the Prime Minister's Office Director General Mordechai Gazit participated on the Israeli side along with Simcha Dinitz, the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., American officials who participated included Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Kenneth Keating.

There was no immediate information as to the nature of the talks at this meeting, merely speculations based mainly on leaks from the American delegation and transmitted through American reporters accompanying Kissinger and his entourage. According to some sources, however, there was little hope on the part of Kissinger that the present round of talks would lead to substantive results. But hope was expressed that enough of a groundwork will have been laid to set in motion a renewed round of talks in Geneva.

Talks To Include Plight Of Syrian Jews

Kissinger and his entourage will dine at the home of Foreign Minister Abba Eban tonight. It was described as a "working dinner" to which other ministers in the care-taker Cabinet have been invited. Discussions with Kissinger are expected to include the problem of the 4000 Syrian Jews, the reported murders of Jews in Syria and the arrests of two Jews who were accused of the murders on what Israel considers trumped-up charges. Kissinger is expected to be asked to raise these questions with President Hafez Assad in Damascus and to ask Assad to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate.

Meanwhile, according to reports coming here from Damascus, thousands of persons marched through the streets, chanting slogans urging Assad to remain firm by rejecting all peace proposals that do not meet Syria's terms. The terms Syria wants included in the peace plan are an Israeli commitment to withdraw completely from all occupied Syrian territory and a guarantee to all Palestinians of national rights. Prime Minister Mahmoud Ayoubi said in an interview yesterday in Beirut that Syria would not sign any disengagement agreement with Israel unless it included pledges on these two vital issues.

Kissinger's visit, his fifth since the end of the Yom Kippur War, was clouded by unconfirmed reports and speculations both as to U.S. proposals and the Israel government's policy. Some sources denied Egyptian reports that Israel has already agreed to withdraw from the Golan Heights town of Kuneitra to demonstrate its flexibility to the Syrians. Other sources claimed, however, that the reports are substantially correct.

These sources cited recent statements from official quarters playing down Kuneitra's mili-

tary importance. Reliable sources said today that the Cabinet is divided on the matter. Premier Meir and Labor Party Knesseter Aharon Yariv were said to oppose any such withdrawal particularly in the early phases of the talks; Dayan and, significantly, the Labor Party's new leader, Rabin, reportedly favor it. One unconfirmed report today said Israel was ready to yield Kuneitra if Syria accepts its demands on buffer zones and thinning out of forces. Israel is giving first priority, however, to an immediate exchange of POWs without which disengagement talks cannot move forward.

U.S. Vote In UN To Be Raised

Mrs. Meir is expected to tell Kissinger personally of Israel's dismay at the U.S. vote in the Security Council last week for a resolution condemning Israel's April 12 commando raid into Lebanon without mentioning its motivation--the massacre of 18 Israelis in Kiryat Shemona by terrorists from Lebanese territory. Observers said that Mrs. Meir would point out to Kissinger that Israel takes a very serious view of the fact that the U.S. did not simply abstain but voted in favor of a totally unjust resolution.

Late this evening U.S. Ambassador Robert McCloskey told reporters that the atmosphere at today's meetings was "characteristically friendly" and said that both sides had reviewed "all elements of a possible disengagement process." He emphasized that the U.S. did not bring a plan of its own to Israel, hinting that no plan was introduced during the talks. He confirmed that today's fighting on the Golan Heights was discussed briefly by Kissinger and Israeli leaders.

Kissinger's schedule tomorrow is uncertain and will depend on whether his first round of talks with the government are concluded tonight. The Cabinet is expected to meet tomorrow in special session, probably before Kissinger leaves for Damascus. He is expected to return here from the Syrian capital Saturday night. Egyptian sources said today, however, that the Secretary would go to Cairo after his talks in Damascus and would not return to Israel until Sunday.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--Mordechai Dayan, secretary general of the Liberal Party in Israel, charged that one of the reasons for the difficulties in absorbing new immigrants in Israel is that most absorption officials come from kibbutzim while most new immigrants go to towns and cities. He said the Liberal Party which is a member of Likud, believes new officials are needed with a different type of mentality. Dayan, here for Aliya Month, said he did not believe that the Latin American Jewish communities were in crisis but that their leaders suffered from inertia and conformism. He said aliya cannot be achieved by decree, but by inspiration.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--More than IL 2 million will be invested by the Jewish National Fund in order to enlarge the reservoirs near Kuneitra and Heitai and to dig a new reservoir near Butemia in the Golan. The JNF will increase the total capacity of the reservoirs from its present 3.9 million cubes of water to 6.8 million cubes. In another project the JNF has erected a 12 meter-high windmill near Beer Menucha, north of Eilat to utilize the strong Arava winds for the purpose of drawing water from underground wells for irrigation of the desert. Five of the windmills were the gift of an Argentinian industrialist who manufactured them by thousands for use in Argentina.

RABBI NADICH TO RECOMMEND THAT THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY ACCEPT ORDAINED WOMEN FOR MEMBERSHIP

KIAMESHA LAKE, NY, May 2 (JTA)—A recommendation that the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical organization of Conservative Judaism, accept ordained women for membership will be made by Dr. Judah Nadich, in his presidential report to be delivered at the RA's 74th Annual Convention. The convention, to be attended by 1100 Conservative rabbis, will be held at the Concord Hotel here May 5-9.

The recommendation is consonant with the convention's theme which is Judaism's reactions to contemporary and future ethical issues. In announcing this emphasis of the convention, Rabbi Nadich pointed out that the three initial sessions, "Grappling with a Theology for our Lives" will provide a framework for all subsequent discussions as well.

"The convention this year will confront the radical challenges to Jewish life in teaching and contemporary culture, science and technology," Rabbi Nadich said. He acknowledged that his recommendation for the acceptance of ordained women by the RA was revolutionary, especially as the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the training institution for most Conservative rabbis, does not admit women for rabbinical training.

The idea of admitting women to RA membership follows a decision announced last Sept. when the Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards ruled that women may be counted in a minyan, the quorum for prayer. Rabbi Nadich said that the status of women in Conservative Judaism must be raised to a parity being achieved by women in other fields. "In ancient times and medieval days, the status of the Jewish woman was at least as high as, and usually higher than, the status of women in contemporary cultures. It should be that again today, in all matters of law and practice," Rabbi Nadich said.

Will Influence Policies In Other Areas

He said he was aware that the JTS sets standards for admission to its Rabbinical School. "But we must now recognize that two rabbinical schools now ordain women," Rabbi Nadich said. Furthermore, he added, a decision by the Rabbinical Assembly on this matter "cannot help but influence the policies of the Seminary. I, for one, would heartily endorse such action by us," he said.

Rabbi Nadich's report to the convention will also recommend the preparation of a "complete home book of prayer" by the RA to meet "the increasing lack of Jewishness in the Jewish home today which deprives us of what used to be and can be again, the third in a triumvirate of citadels for Jewish survival, together with the synagogue and the religious schools."

Another recommendation will be support by local Jewish community Federations and Welfare Funds of communal programs carried on by synagogues such as nursery schools and senior citizen programs which are not being aided by the central community Federations at the present time.

YESHIVA U. TO LAUNCH PROJECT LEAP \$750,000 In Seed Monies For New Program

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA)—Project LEAP (Leadership through Education, Advancement, Planning), an innovative, many-sided Jewish education program designed to attract and hold Jewish youth, has been instituted by Yeshiva University. It was announced by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president. To coordinate the program, scheduled to begin in Sept., Dr.

Belkin announced the appointment of year-old Rabbi Robert S. Hirt of Monsey, N.Y., as director of university planning for Jewish education at Yeshiva University. Also announced were recently acquired gifts of \$750,000 to the university as "seed monies" to launch the effort.

Rabbi Hirt said that while Project LEAP, "which is indeed an energetic attempt to 'leap the Jewish education gap,' will work in many areas, we will be making special efforts at attracting and holding our Jewish youth so that they might provide the base for tomorrow's Jewish community." The gifts, Rabbi Hirt said, were also indicative of a new sense of concern by Jewish lay leaders. "These gifts represent a truly pioneering effort," he said, "by people who have come to the realization that survival begins in the classroom. Without our young, without teachers and administrators, there can be no Jewish continuity."

As part of the program, students will be encouraged to chart careers in Jewish education as early as high school. Plans call for the university to work directly with students, faculty, high school principals and parents. This would be followed by a broad-based college and university program planned specifically for careers in Jewish education.

Focus On Five Major Areas

The new project will focus on five specific areas: coordination of course offerings and professional education programs towards creating uniform standards throughout the university; development of interdisciplinary courses and inter-school courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels; encouragement of greater interaction between faculty and students in teacher preparation programs throughout the university; formation of a university-wide planning committee for Jewish education to include administration, faculty and students; and creation of university-wide career guidance program and placement service.

Also, in conjunction with the establishment of the new Stone-Sapirstein Chair and Center for Jewish Education at Yeshiva U., being coordinated by Rabbi Hirt, efforts will be made to attract gifted faculty, recruit promising students and identify Jewish educators currently serving in the field for further preparation for administrative and supervisory roles. * * *

BUDAPEST (JTA)—The 35th anniversary of the founding of Budapest's "Jewish Theater" is being celebrated here this week. Commenting on the occasion, the non-party paper "Magyar Nemzet" (Hungarian Nation), says that Jewish plays constitute "a real and valid culture." The paper adds that with the creation of the Jewish Theater 35 years ago, "the day when Jews had to perform their plays in a ghetto theater" in Hungary "was swept away forever." * * *

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Meir Payil, leader of Moked and member of the Knesset, currently on a tour of the U.S., told a small non-Jewish audience here at the Friends Meeting House that Israel will not perish even without U.S. military aid. Payil was reported to have told his audience that it is necessary to influence American Jews to pressure Israel to surrender all the territory it acquired in the Six-Day War. In remarks to an audience at Temple Sinai, Payil said that Israel should return, in stages, most of the lands obtained in 1967, including East Jerusalem. * * *

BASEL (JTA)—The annual assembly of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Switzerland (SIG) will be held here May 22-23, SIG announced.