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KISSINGER, GROMYKO MEETING SEEN AS EFFORT BY U.S. TO SEEK SOVIET AID IN BREAKING DISENGAGEMENT IMPASSE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's surprise trip to Cyprus this morning for a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was seen here as an attempt by Kissinger to enlist Soviet aid in breaking the impasse that has developed over Israeli-Syrian disengagement. That view persisted despite protestations by U.S. officials that the Cyprus meeting was asked for by the Russians, that it had been, in fact "in the air" for several days, and that no new U.S.-Soviet initiative should be read into it.

Gromyko returned to Moscow after meeting with Kissinger for three hours in Nicosia. Before leaving Gromyko told reporters his talks with the Secretary had been "useful and constructive." Kissinger also met with Ashraf Marwan, information secretary of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who flew in to Nicosia earlier today. Kissinger returned to Israel this evening and went directly to Jerusalem to meet with Premier Golda Meir and other top Israeli officials. Kissinger declined to make any statement when he arrived at Ben Gurion Airport.

The belief here is that Kissinger reached the conclusion that Soviet help is needed to persuade the Syrians to end their escalation of warfare on the northern front and to relax the absolute intransigence they have demonstrated on disengagement terms since Kissinger's arrival in the region. As long as the mini-war continues on and around the Golan Heights, disengagement talks will be stalled. When he took off for Nicosia this morning, it was apparent that Kissinger had made no progress on either level.

But observers here were quick to stress that the Secretary was not coming "hat in hand" to his Russian counterpart. They expressed the belief that Kissinger would warn Gromyko that Soviet non-cooperation on the Israeli-Syrian disengagement front could have repercussions on the forthcoming Moscow summit meeting, trade issues and other bilateral matters in which the Soviets are vitally interested. When Kissinger and Gromyko met last week in Geneva both agreed "to exercise their influence towards a positive outcome and to remain in close touch with each other so as to strive to coordinate their efforts for a peaceful settlement in the area (Middle East)."

Kissinger's visit to Damascus over the weekend is believed here to have been for the most part a failure. He had tried to get a positive Syrian response to Israel's demands that the shooting stop while negotiations are in progress. But the daily artillery and air battles continued, to Kissinger's apparent surprise and chagrin.

Syria Remains Intransigent

Kissinger is known to have enlisted the aid of both President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and President Houari Boumediene of Algeria to exert their influence in Damascus for a cease-fire--but to no avail. The Syrians, meanwhile, show no will-

ingness to consider the Suez-style disengagement accord that Israel reached successfully with Egypt last Jan. and which it seeks to duplicate on the Syrian front. Israel's demand for a broad limited forces zone behind the proposed United Nations buffer zone which would keep Golan Heights settlements out of artillery range has been dismissed out of hand by Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Israel maintains that as long as acts of war continue and the Syrians show no willingness to compromise on disengagement terms, it would be premature for Israel to offer territorial concessions. It was widely reported today, nevertheless, that Israeli negotiators have assured Kissinger that they were willing to make some sort of compromise over the town of Kuneitra and even some of the areas surrounding it, provided that the security of Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights was not imperiled. The offer, however, was believed intended to impress Kissinger with Israel's desire for a disengagement settlement rather than to constitute a serious negotiating approach to Syria at this time.

Pessimism Over Kissinger's Diplomacy

Highly placed Israeli officials were frankly pessimistic today over the outcome of Kissinger's current round of diplomacy in the Mideast. But, like Kissinger and members of his entourage, they professed to be convinced that an acceptable disengagement accord will be reached eventually, if only because it is in the interests of both sides. No one can predict whether Soviet influence in Damascus is sufficient to break the present impasse. Observers here believe the next 24 hours will tell the tale. They believe that Kissinger will decide, after his visit to Damascus tomorrow, whether it is worth while to continue his current mission or return to Washington.

What is clear is that a Syrian shift away from intransigence would have to be followed by Israeli territorial concessions. It remains doubtful, however, whether Israeli flexibility on Kuneitra and its environs would satisfy President Assad. This doubt was strengthened in the wake of communiqués issued jointly today in Moscow and Syria in which both countries reaffirmed that a lasting peace in the Mideast should be based on Israel's withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied since the Six-Day War and on ensuring the rights of the Palestinians. This communique was issued as Gromyko left for Nicosia after a three-day visit to Syria.

CONSERVATIVE, REFORM RABBIS OPPOSE CHANGE IN LAW OF RETURN THAT WOULD WEAKEN THEIR STATUS IN ISRAEL

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 7 (JTA)--The heads of both the Conservative and Reform rabbinical groups agreed here today that both organizations should oppose changes in Israel's Law of Return that would further weaken the status of Conservative and Reform rabbis, particularly in the areas of conversion.

Speaking at a session of the 74th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Judah Nadich of New York, president of the Conservative RA, and Rabbi Robert I. Kahn of Houston, Texas, president of the Reform Central Conference of American Rabbis, agreed that the Orthodox rab-

binate in Israel was attempting to use the present Israeli internal political crisis to create a religious monopoly, excluding the Conservative and Reform rabbis. The present Israeli Law of Return automatically gives Israeli citizenship to all Jews emigrating to Israel, including those converted to Judaism. The proposed amendment would limit this citizenship and right of return to those converted only under Orthodox auspices.

Rabbi Nadich, stating that Conservative Judaism recognizes the validity of halacha, noted, however, that "the flaw lies in the fact that the Israel Orthodox establishment would place in their hands the right to determine whether conversion by a rabbi in the country, or outside of it, had actually converted the candidate in accordance with Jewish law. If the rabbi were not Orthodox, the fact would have at once stamped his conversion procedure as invalid. Our position continues to be--that the conversion be performed only in accordance with the Jewish law but let the action be decisive, not the deed of the action."

Continuing, Rabbi Nadich declared: "But one thing we will never agree to--no one has the right to run us out of the halachic household of Judaism. We take no back seat on the vehicle carrying the defenders and promoters of traditional Judaism."

Diaspora Will Fight Changes

Rabbi Kahn accused the Orthodox establishment in Israel of challenging "the right to be non-Orthodox and still be a member of the Jewish faith and people. That right has not been granted to our Reform and Conservative colleagues in Israel, and if the change proposed by the National Religious Party in Israel on the Law of Return is passed by the Knesset, that right will ultimately be denied in the diaspora. If it succeeds, it may ultimately, in effect, defrock us."

He added, "Our converts will no longer be converts, our marriage contracts will not be evidence of valid marriages, nor will our religious divorces be valid divorces." Rabbi Kahn asked his Orthodox colleagues: "Do you expect if you push hard enough and use the political power of the State of Israel to outlaw our rights, that Reform and Conservative Jews will return to Orthodoxy? Or are you trying to push us out from Jewish life?"

Rabbi Kahn asserted: "We are not going to disappear. We, too, want Israel, the people and the State, to survive. We are Jews, and those we have converted are Jews and will remain so. These attempts on your part will fragment our people all over the world, and bring harm to the State of Israel."

BRANDT'S SUCCESSOR EXPECTED TO CONTINUE MIDEAST 'BALANCED POLICY'

BONN, May 7 (JTA)--Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt has been nominated to succeed Willy Brandt as West Germany's next Chancellor. Brandt resigned late last night after accepting political responsibility for negligence in the Bonn espionage scandal, in which a Brandt aide, Guenter Guillaume, was arrested on April 24 on charges of spying for East Germany.

Schmidt is a tough hard-liner in the right wing of the Social Democratic Party. Some observers fear his election, expected on May 16, will encourage a drift to the right in German politics, and that Brandt's departure could bring internal political instability. Like Brandt, Schmidt is a good friend of Israel. He is expected to continue Brandt's "balanced policy" in the Middle East, developing relations with the Arabs, but not at Is-

rael's expense. This has been the hallmark of Brandt's Middle East policy since 1969.

Bonn was stunned by Brandt's resignation. Shock has also come from behind the Iron Curtain, with Communist countries blaming his departure on a personal campaign from the extreme right in West Germany, especially from the Bavarian Christian Socialist Union. Others see Brandt's resignation as an education in democracy and courage for West German politicians who normally prefer to cling to their seats. (By Allan Ritchie)

MRS. MEIR: ISRAEL WILL DECIDE OWN FATE

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir declared here last night that Israel alone would determine its own fate and warned against the expression of doubts and "unjustified guilt feelings" that she said would only encourage Israel's enemies bent on its destruction. Mrs. Meir addressed 3000 women attending the 11th national convention of the Moetzet Hapaolet (Working Women's Council) which represents nearly 600,000 women members of Histadrut.

Referring to the latest political developments, she said that the current diplomacy of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger should be neither underestimated nor overrated. Kissinger's talks will not be the decisive factor, she said. "What will decide is our determination to live in this country free from the threat of annihilation." She said she feared that if the Arabs gained the impression that Israel has lost its convictions and will, "there will be no limit to what they will demand of us."

In that connection she voiced regret "that there are some young people in Israel today who cast a doubt on Israel's right to exist. We must beware," she said, "of endangering our very existence or of illusions that will lead to threats against our existence." She called on the delegates and Israeli women in general "to explain and free the nation of unjustified guilt feelings. No army can do that better than you, the mothers and teachers, can," Mrs. Meir said.

Split On Territorial Issues

The Moetzet Hapaolet convention had some stormy moments when it came to drafting resolutions on the political situation. Even Labor Alignment delegates were split on territorial issues. MK Shoshana Arbely-Almoslino wanted the convention to endorse Premier Meir's statement that the Golan Heights are an integral part of Israel. But another Alignment MK, Chaika Grossman of Mapam, demanded a resolution against "the other Zionism which regards every line established as the result of victory over aggression as an historic line from which there can be no withdrawal."

The convention unanimously adopted a resolution of solidarity with Mrs. Beate Klarsfeld, whose personal efforts to track down wanted Nazi war criminals has landed her in a Bavarian jail. The working women's movement decided to send a delegation to the West German Ambassador demanding the immediate release of Mrs. Klarsfeld. Other resolutions will be adopted at the final session tonight.

PARIS (JTA)--Strict security will be provided for the Israelis participating in the Olympic chess tournament to be held in the Riviera town of Nice in June, sources here indicate. The Israel team consists of eight players, some of them recent immigrants from the Soviet Union. Some 74 countries, including East European and Arab nations, are expected to participate in the tournament which will open June 25.

ALLON ASSERTS ANY DISENGAGEMENT PLAN WOULD PROVIDE FOR SECURITY OF ALL SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS But Retreat On Territory Indicated

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA)--The Knesset voted 58-35 today to refer debate on Israeli-Syrian disengagement to its foreign affairs and security committee where the matter will be discussed behind closed doors. The vote came after a tense, emotion-charged session during which Likud leader Menachem Begin alleged that the care-taker government was about to retreat from the Golan Heights and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, speaking for the government, gave assurances that any Israeli plan would provide for the continued existence, security and development of all settlements on the Heights.

Allon, claiming that much of what the news media has published in recent days was incorrect, gave the Knesset six points which he said constituted basic government policy on disengagement. But he did not categorically deny Begin's charge that the map the government will give Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to take to Damascus tomorrow is not the same map Defense Minister Moshe Dayan gave Kissinger in Washington a month ago, and, in fact, represents an Israeli retreat from its position that no territory captured in the 1967 Six-Day War would be surrendered to Syria, in the interests of disengagement.

Allon told the Knesset he could not guarantee the success of the current round of talks. Syrian intransigence is well known, he said. But even if the current efforts fail, there will be renewed efforts in the future and the Israeli people and the army should be aware of the government's tireless efforts to achieve peace or, at the very least, a stable cease-fire.

He noted that there might be "tactical changes" in Israel's negotiating position during the talks but he promised that these would be reported to the Knesset committees and pledged that no government action would be binding unless it was approved first by the full Knesset. Allon said that if the disengagement efforts fail, at least the U.S., the "constructive" Arab governments and the world would know that the responsibility rests with Syria.

Disengagement Policy Outlined

Allon said the government's policy on disengagement was the following: There must be a signed agreement stabilizing the cease-fire and facilitating further peace efforts; the buffer zone and Israeli withdrawal must not adversely affect the army's overall defensive strategy; the existence, security and development of all Golan Heights settlements will be guaranteed; disengagement must be constructed to thwart the dangerous designs of "various external elements"; disengagement must strengthen the constructive elements in the Arab world and weaken irresponsible elements; disengagement, achieved by the efforts of Kissinger, would foster mutual relations between the U.S. and Israel.

Begin Assails Government Policy

Begin charged that the government was retracting Dayan's map and substituting a new one. "Who will take any Israel government statement seriously in the future?" he asked. The one consolation, he said, is that the Syrians themselves will not accept the new map. But according to Begin, the pressure on Israel will continue. He said the danger of damaging relations with the

U.S. would always be present but he was convinced this would not happen if Israel stood firm and told the U.S. government, Congress and the people, "For you this is diplomacy, for us a matter of life or death." Turning to the Labor benches on the Knesset floor, Begin appealed: "I beg you at this last moment, do not give the new map to Kissinger."

While the Knesset debated, more than 100 demonstrators, including prominent Israeli writers and academicians, marched outside the Prime Minister's Office to protest against what they termed the government's territorial surrender. Author Moshe Shamir, Israel Eldad and Prof. Henry Zelig, announced that they would go on a hunger strike. (By David Landau)

PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--Lev Gendin, a 33-year-old Jewish activist from Moscow was beaten by hooligans who provoked him while he was standing in line for a drink of water, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. As he was being beaten around his head he called for help, but no one came to his aid. Bleeding from the head, he went to the local clinic where his cuts were stitched, the NCJS said. Gendin has been provoked previously by hooligans but this was the first time he was beaten. An electronics engineer, he applied in April, 1971 for an exit-visa. The beating occurred last Thursday.

In another incident, the NCSJ reported that 25 Kishinev Jews, who had lost their jobs because they applied for exit visas, were warned against participating in a May Day parade in that city. The group had gone to the Kishinev municipal building to ask how they could participate in the parade for workers when they were unemployed. The deputy mayor told them that if they left their homes on May Day they might not return.

The NCSJ also reported that Eitan Finkelshtein, a 32-year-old scientist, was taken off a plane in Vilna as he was about to leave for Moscow reportedly to press his case for an exit visa.

Meanwhile, Alexander Feldman's second lawyer, who has been trying to find documents to support his efforts to appeal the 3 1/2-year prison sentence at hard labor Feldman received last Nov., has been told by Soviet authorities that she can no longer represent the 26-year-old engineer, it was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Feldman's first lawyer, I.S. Ezhov, who accused the Soviet government of railroading the Kiev activist to jail on trumped up charges of "malicious hooliganism," was also forcibly "retired" from practice while trying to make an appeal. The second lawyer had tried to arrange a meeting between Feldman and his family but at the last moment the prison commandant refused, the SSSJ said.

TWO BOSTONIANS WIN ISRAELI PRIZES

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA)--Two former Bostonians took first prize awards in a new competition for immigrant photographers, "Israel Through the Immigrant's Camera," conducted by the ZOA House here. The winning entries were those of Mrs. Alexandra Dornier, 27, of Jerusalem, and Rabbi Yoel Ornat, 44, also of Jerusalem and former Hebrew teacher in Boston. Mrs. Dornier's entry was the humorous portrayal of a camel's head. Rabbi Ornat's prize winner was a study of the venerable Rabbi Ben-Zion Brock. Each received a prize of IL500. Of the 78 contenders, winners also included Heter Rachman of South Africa, now a Jerusalem resident, second prize; and Lex Diamond formerly from Sierra Madre, Calif., who won third prize.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR JEWISH POOR

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--A federally funded program to provide legal aid to Jewish poor and elderly got underway this week with the opening of an office in downtown Brooklyn of the Community Action for Legal Services. According to Steven M. Bernstein, the attorney in charge of the new office at 130 Clinton Street, the service is operating under a \$300,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity and is especially designed to assist Yiddish-speaking clients.

Its staff includes 10 attorneys, half of whom are Yiddish-speaking, and the program will engage in outreach activities directed at Hasidic and elderly Jews who meet the federal eligibility criteria and who may not have been served by existing programs.

Under federal funding, the CALS office is non-sectarian and will also serve poor and elderly from other minority groups. In establishing the new office, CALS worked closely with the Advisory Board for Legal Assistance to the Jewish Poor, Bernstein said. Its primary geographical focus will be on Williamsburg, Crown Heights and Boro Park, areas of large Jewish residents.

According to Bernstein, a former Legal Aid Society staff attorney, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY) played a major role in securing the OEO grant which was first announced last Aug. Javits, a ranking minority member of the Senate Labor Committee, was a cosponsor of an amendment to the Economic Opportunity Act which requires the OEO to consider the needs of poor persons who have not been previously served by anti-poverty programs.

The Advisory Board for Legal Assistance to the Jewish Poor will work with CALS to ensure that other legal services offices take appropriate steps to meet the needs of the Jewish poor in the city, Bernstein said.

FRIEDKIN MAKES MAJOR GIFT OF \$50,000 TO CHICAGO'S JUF-IEF

CHICAGO, May 7 (JTA)--Academy award-winning film director, William Friedkin, in accepting the Communicator of the Year Award at a Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Fund dinner, electrified an audience of 300 Chicago communicators and amusements executives by announcing a gift to the 1974 JUF-IEF campaign of \$50,000. Friedkin, who directed "Boys in the Band," "The French Connection" and "The Exorcist," is a native Chicagoan who subsequently moved to Hollywood. He indicated, in making his announcement, that growing up within the Chicago Jewish community, had "taught me to care about other people and to make every human contact meaningful." The gift was made in honor of his mother.

The award is given annually by television producer, Walter Schwimmer. Schwimmer's stepson, Rafi Bar-Am, is director of public relations for the UJA in Israel. Guest speaker at the annual event was Moshe Arad, Minister-Counselor, in charge of information at the Embassy of Israel in Washington. Gifts totalling \$1,098,000 were announced at the meeting.

COLOMBIA EXPELS ARAB TERRORIST

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--The Arab terrorist, Fuad Habash Ansara, has been expelled from Colombia as a dangerous person. It was reported by the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League. Habash, a cousin of the leader of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habash, came

to Colombia from Chile, where he has been active since 1960. In Chile, he edited the magazine "Patria Martir" and also directed a radio program "The Voice of Palestine." His propaganda activities, frequently anti-Semitic, were funded by the Arab League of which he was the press representative in Chile. In Sept. 1970, he led a group of 30 Arabs which took control of the Jordanian Embassy for a day to protest the treatment of terrorists in Jordan.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Dutch war criminal Jacobus Philippa, sentenced to death for committing Nazi war crimes, has appealed to Queen Juliana for mercy. Philippa's lawyer announced his client's appeal this weekend as thousands of Dutchmen remembered their war dead of World War II in annual commemoration ceremonies. Philippa, 65, was discovered a few weeks ago in his parents' home in The Hague where he had been hiding for the last 29 years. In 1950, a Dutch court sentenced him to death in absentia.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the Jewish National Fund and former Israel Ambassador to Argentina and France, will represent Israel at the inauguration of Daniel Oduber this month as Costa Rica's new President. Other Israel delegates will be Ambassador Eli Nevo and Zev Shoham of the Foreign Ministry. The outgoing President, Jose Figueres Ferrer, was known as a staunch friend of Israel, having visited the country several times. His wife is active on behalf of Soviet "Prisoners of Zion." Tsur left Israel on the mission Sunday.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--Fifty-five Israeli soldiers wounded in the Yom Kippur War were welcomed Monday into homes of Belgian Jewish families where they have been invited to spend two weeks vacation. The host families, located mainly in Brussels and Antwerp, are expected to offer various receptions in honor of their Israeli guests as well as accompany them on short excursion trips within Belgium.

BUDAPEST (JTA)--Articles on the persecution of Hungarian Jews during the Nazi years appear more frequently in the Hungarian press, observers here note. The Hungarian literary weekly, "Elet es Irodalom" (Life and Literature), recently devoted an article to the life of the Jewish writer Bela Illes who died here last Jan. The article recounts how in 1937 Illes escaped to Moscow where he became a member of the Soviet army. He later returned to Hungary as a Soviet army officer during the Soviet liberation of Hungary. He found his mother in the Budapest ghetto where the Nazis had confined Hungarian Jews eventually to be sent to German concentration camps.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The American Sephardi Federation, the all-embracing organization for Sephardic Jews in the U.S., has been accepted into membership of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress. In welcoming the action of the American Section of the WJC, Haim Eliachar, ASF board chairman, said that the ASF looks forward especially to working on educational projects of the American Section of the WJC.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--A Japanese press report received here said that about 400 stevedores and other port workers in Yokohama have refused to handle cargoes involving Israeli ships until the Japanese government installs measures to counter "harbor accidents."