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KISSINGER'S EARLIER OPTIMISM ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT APPEARS TO BE WANING

Returns To Jerusalem From Damascus;
Some Progress Made, No Agreement Reached

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger returned here tonight after a five-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus today apparently less optimistic about a disengagement accord than he was when he left for Damascus this morning. It was his third visit to the Syrian capital since he began his current Middle East mission.

Kissinger went immediately from Ben Gurion Airport to Jerusalem where the American and Israeli negotiating teams were awaiting his arrival to begin a working session that is expected to last well into the night. Kissinger said nothing on his return to Israel. Reporters who accompanied him to Damascus quoted the Secretary of State as saying of his latest meeting with Assad: "We have made some progress but no agreement was reached." He added, "We had a very comprehensive review of the situation.... We passed from the stage of general considerations to the stage of detailed and complete examination."

Observers took this to mean that the Syrians are refusing to budge from their positions on territories, buffer zones and limited forces zones. One high level U.S. official in the Kissinger party reportedly told newsmen that the Secretary of State was not sure he could achieve a breakthrough this week. He now knows what concessions the Israelis and Syrians will have to make to reach disengagement but he is not sure they will make them, the official was reported to have said.

Detect Readiness For Accord

According to the official, Kissinger can do no more until the Israelis consider the latest Syrian response to their proposals. He has delayed his return to Damascus until Tuesday to give both sides more time, the official said.

Observers here have been watching the rise and fall of Kissinger optimism like a fever chart. Early last week he conceded privately that his chances to promote a disengagement accord were slim. Then Israel came up with a new map containing certain territorial concessions which Kissinger took to Damascus last Tuesday. His optimism soared when Assad did not reject the Israeli proposals out of hand. Arriving in Israel from Cairo Friday, a senior official aboard Kissinger's plane said the odds were 52-48 in favor of obtaining an accord--the first time any American official ventured a better than even chance.

Last night Information Minister Shimon Peres, a member of the Israeli negotiating team, told newsmen that today's meeting in Damascus would test Kissinger's optimistic prognosis. Peres said Israel felt that Syria's position was still "basically tough" although "we have detected for the first time a readiness for an agreement." (By Tuvia Mendelson)

NEW COALITION MOVES STILL STALLED

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA)--Efforts to form a new government continued to mark time today as the Labor Alignment put off until Tuesday a decision on whether to form a minority regime or a narrow coalition with a bare majority of one vote

in the Knesset. The "Hobson's Choice" faced by Labor Party leader Yitzhak Rabin is expected to be resolved in favor of a minority Cabinet in partnership with the Independent Liberal Party. The problem of forming a new coalition government was exacerbated when the National Religious Party announced Thursday that it would not join the government because the Labor Party refused to amend the Who is a Jew law as the NRP had demanded.

Such a regime would command only 58 Knesset votes, less than a parliamentary majority. But Rabin's alternative, a coalition with the ILP and Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights Party that would give the government 61 out of the 120 Knesset seats, is regarded by observers as too high a price to pay for too little.

There is considerable aversion to the outspoken Ms. Aloni and her left-of-center faction within the Labor Alignment, stemming in part from her defection from the Labor Party before the last elections. Premier Golda Meir angrily stalked out of a Labor Party meeting late Thursday night after Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin refused to put to a vote her demand that Ms. Aloni's party be excluded from a new government. Rabin and Yadin met with the ILP and CRP leaders Friday afternoon to discuss the formation of a narrowly based coalition.

Deadline Set For Next Friday

Ms. Aloni reportedly agreed to join a coalition on the basis of the present care-taker government's policy platforms. Mrs. Meir and other Labor Party leaders have warned that such a coalition would be too "dove-ish" and would force the National Religious Party into the arms of Likud.

Mapam, meanwhile, has proposed a Rabin-led government without the NRP but with the ILP and possibly the CRP. The suggestion was raised by Mapam Secretary General Meir Talmi at a meeting today of the party's central committee. Mapam urged a quick decision on grounds that delay undermines Israel's political stability. Talmi warned that Likud leaders are trying to create the impression that a civil war is imminent over the question of territorial withdrawals. He urged the ILP to agree to join a Rabin Cabinet and said the CRP should be included but that was not a must. Some political observers said today that Rabin was still holding the door open for the NRP to reconsider its decision not to join a Labor coalition.

Rabin's efforts to form a new government have been slowed down by the high level negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on Syrian disengagement in which Rabin is participating. But the Labor Party leader was said today to be determined to have a new Cabinet to present to the Knesset no later than next Friday.

ZIONIST LEADER CALLS FOR RE-ESTABLISHING ISRAEL-USSR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)--A noted Zionist leader said today that "it is very important that diplomatic relations be re-established between the Soviet Union and Israel" in order to give Israel an opportunity to discuss Middle East solutions directly with the second superpower instead of having to go through third parties, namely the United States. This statement was made by Jacques Torczyner,

chairman of the administrative board of the Zionist Organization of America and chairman of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress.

Addressing several hundred delegates attending the Manhattan region of the ZOA, Torczyner observed that although Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "is making heroic efforts" to bring about a disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights, "the weakness of the present situation of Israel is that it can only act through the United States." He noted:

"In the same way that the talks in the Middle East have improved the relations of the United States with Arab countries, the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel will improve relations between those two countries and give an opportunity to the Israelis to discuss directly the solutions without having to go through third parties, however friendly they might be."

Torczyner stated that the USSR appears "eager for diplomatic relations with Israel because they don't want to leave all the initiative to the U.S." He recalled that Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, backed the United Nations partition plan of 1947 for the establishment of a Jewish State and that the USSR recognized Israel immediately after the U.S. announced diplomatic recognition in May 1948.

The former president of the ZOA added: "In the world we live in, it is very important to have direct communications between states and that the breaking of diplomatic relations make it more difficult to find solutions to problems than through direct contact."

TIMES, CBS-TV CLAIM NIXON USED EPITHET 'JEWBOY' SEVERAL TIMES IN TAPED CONVERSATIONS WITH DEAN

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)--Two news media claimed over the weekend to have had corroboration from reliable sources of reports that President Nixon used anti-Semitic slurs and other ethnic epithets during private conversations with aides in Feb. and March 1973. The New York Times said the epithet, "Jewboy," was used several times by Nixon in taped conversations with John W. Dean 3d on Feb. 28 and March 20 and that Nixon also referred to "those Jews" in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington and accused Jews in government of leaking material to "Jewish liberals" in the media.

CBS-TV news broadcast Friday night a report that anti-Semitic remarks by President Nixon were among comments deleted from transcriptions of his taped Watergate conversations. The report was by CBS correspondent Fred Graham who quoted an "authoritative source" as saying that Nixon referred to Daniel Ellsberg as a "Jewboy." CBS deleted the Graham report from subsequent newscasts.

According to CBS officials it was withdrawn after White House Chief of Staff Alexander Haig told the network that special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski had said the tapes did not contain what Graham said they had. A CBS source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Graham was checking out his report and that his findings would be broadcast on a later program. CBS said it pulled the story because Jaworski could not be reached for comment.

Counsel To Nixon Denies Allegation

A statement by Fred J. Buzhardt, Counsel to the President, issued yesterday in Stillwater, Okla. where Nixon was on a speaking engagement,

asserted: "The tapes of recorded conversations do not contain racial slurs by the President. I have listened to them a number of times and know this to be a fact. The allegations by The New York Times that the President used the reference 'Jewboys' is just not true. It is a fabrication... unfounded and malicious."

The first allegation that Nixon used the term "Jewboy" in his private conversations in the Oval Office was made two weeks ago by syndicated Washington columnist Robert Novak who was a panelist on a national network television interview program. The Times said it had conducted an inquiry into "rumors spreading through Washington" that Nixon had used racial epithets. The Times said such epithets were in tape recordings the White House turned over early this year to Judge Lee P. Gagliardi of the U.S. District Court in New York for use in the trial of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans.

According to the Times, "One of the President's most sharply critical remarks about Jews in the Mitchell-Stans tapes came during the March 20 meeting with Mr. Dean, all sources agreed." The Times said, "According to the sources, the President complained to Mr. Dean that 'those Jew boys (in the Security and Exchange Commission investigation of Robert L. Vesco) are all over everybody. You can't stop them!'"

The Times reported further that according to its sources, Nixon referred to three prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington as "those Jews down there." The references were to Earl J. Silbert, Seymour Glanzer and Donald E. Campbell. Silbert and Glanzer are Jewish. Campbell is a Presbyterian, the Times reported. The source, according to the Times, said Nixon talked about "stopping those Jews over in the U.S. Attorney's Office" and specifically recalled a complaint by Nixon "about the difficulty of 'sitting down there with a bunch of Jews.'" According to the Times, Nixon referred to Judge John J. Sirica, former Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington as "that wop."

FIGHTING CONTINUES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA)--Syrian artillery and tanks continued to shell Israeli positions today as U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Syrian President Hafez Assad conferred in Damascus on disengagement terms. Syrian fire this morning was aimed at Israeli positions in the northern section of the Yom Kippur War enclave and in the Mt. Hermon area. A number of shells fell in the Mt. Dov region. The Yom Kippur War enclave was hit again during the afternoon. Israeli artillery returned the fire. No Israeli casualties were reported today.

Artillery exchanges yesterday were less intense than on Friday when the shelling was heavy and the air forces of both sides were in action. Shells fell sporadically throughout the day on Ramat Magshimim settlement on the Golan Heights. The settlers spent most of the day in shelters. There were no casualties. Terrorists attacked Zarif settlement near the Lebanese border Friday night with bazookas and small arms fire. Border police and army units returned the fire. There were no casualties or damage.

Friday afternoon Israeli aircraft strafed terrorist bases in the "Fatahland" region of southeastern Lebanon for about a half hour and returned safely to their bases. An Israeli soldier was killed on the northern front Thursday.

U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF MIDEAST BASED ON STEREOTYPES OF ISRAELIS, ARABS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)—The coverage of the Middle East by the American press was today called sensational and based on stereotypes of both Arabs and Israelis. This was the consensus of a panel discussing, "Is There A Jewish Bias? Coverage of the Middle East," during the Third Annual A. J. Liebling Convention, sponsored by "More," a journalism review magazine, and attended by some 1300 writers and journalists.

Paul Jacobs, a writer and member of the Institute of Policy Studies, said that American press coverage is based on a general American and Western bias toward the Arabs and reporters generally write to fit the stereotypes they have of the Arabs. He said that while there is no Jewish pressure in the United States on reporters there is on editors. He said all criticism of Israel in American press only comes from Israelis and not Americans. In addition, he charged that since 1948 Israel had been an ally of the U.S. in the Cold War and the press, therefore, favors friends over enemies.

Noam Chomsky, an M.I.T. linguist and left-wing critic of Israel, said the press has not provided a forum to explain the reasons for Palestinian antagonism toward Israel and a discussion of Israel's security problems. He said the media view of Israel is that of an "embattled democracy," but it is actually a democracy for Jews but not for Israeli Arabs.

Chomsky said the greatest failure of the American press is that up to Oct. 1973 it had not adequately described the criticism by Israelis of Israeli security policies, particularly that of creating Jewish settlements in occupied territory. He said there had been a great deal of criticism within Israel but this could not have any influence without support from the U.S. He said the people who prevented this criticism from appearing in the U.S. press must share some responsibility for the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War which, he asserted, was due to the policy of settlement for security reasons which nevertheless left Israel even more insecure.

Criticism Of Israel Gets Good Press Coverage

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, called for a less sensational reporting of both sides in the Middle East. He said most of the reporting that comes out of Israel is sensational and is tending now to be more partisan against Israel. He said the only time he and other American Zionists receive great coverage in the press is when they make critical statements about Israel. He said the coverage of the Palestinians romanticize them.

Amos Alon, an Israeli journalist and author, criticized most of the coverage in the American press of foreign countries as sensational and as "tourist reports." He said there was no Jewish bias in the U.S. press, but a bias against both Israelis and Arabs which doesn't show how they actually live and feel. He said the Israelis depicted in the press are "not real Israelis but stage Israelis" which he said followed the stereotype two-dimensional characters portrayed by Leon Uris' "Exodus" both as a book and a film.

Alon said that whenever an Israeli criticizes his government he receives good coverage. He noted that his own book, "The Israelis: Founders and Sons," which was critical of the Israeli establishment, was reviewed on the front page of the New York Times Book Review Section while hun-

reds of books praising Israel do not get this coverage. He said the real story of Israel is not that it made a desert bloom, which, he noted, others can do, but that as a nation facing war and the fear of extermination for 26 years it has remained a democracy.

Richard Smith of Newsweek said there was a Jewish bias in the press but the reasons are that the Jewish community demands news from Israel, so there is more news about it; Israel's public relations techniques are more effective than the Arabs; Israel is an open society, so more people are willing to talk to journalists than in Arab countries, and until recently the Arabs have had a credibility gap because for years Arab spokesmen have exaggerated widely the true situation.

HUNGER STRIKE BECOMES MASS PRAY-IN

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA)—The five-day long anti-Golan-withdrawal hunger strike, led by Moshe Shamir and other intellectuals outside Premier Golda Meir's Jerusalem home, ended today. Most of the strikers had disobeyed doctors orders to break their fast Friday or Saturday. On Friday, before the Shabbat, the strikers were joined by some 30 religious settlers from the Golan Heights and West Bank kibbutzim who spent the Shabbat praying, studying and singing in the special tents that the Jerusalem municipality put up for the comfort of the strikers. The municipality also provided a mobile latrine.

By Friday night the group of demonstrators swelled to nearly 2000 as Jerusalemites from several synagogues held their Sabbath eve services on the street outside the Premier's home in solidarity with the demonstrators. Thousands more visited them throughout the day—including National Religious Party Knesseter and erstwhile Minister Zerach Warhaftig.

Before dawn today, police moved in to break up the demonstration upon complaints from neighbors that noise and dirt were mounting to alarming proportions. But the strikers' leaders returned to the site midday to hold a pre-arranged news conference marking the formal end of their vigil.

LONDON (JTA)—Sixty tombstones at Edmondton Cemetery, in North London, have been smashed by vandals, who also set fire to a waiting-room by igniting pages torn from prayer books. The police are looking for the vandals, who were able to gain access to the grounds by swinging on ropes from nearby trees.

BONN (JTA)—The allied powers in West Berlin have banned a congress of the Berlin neo-Nazi NPD scheduled for May 18 and 19, and a rally on May 19. Similar congresses have been banned in the past on the grounds that they were threats to public order.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)—A Danish-Israeli exchange of professors and research assistants will soon be underway as a result of the cultural and scientific agreement the two countries signed in Denmark in 1972. Denmark is to send to Israel two professors and two Danish researchers. In exchange, Israel is to send seven researchers who will spend three months in Denmark.

MONTREAL (JTA)—The Montreal Committee for Jewish-Catholic Relations urged the Syrian government, in a statement Thursday, to abide by the Geneva Convention in its treatment of Israeli POWs and asked the Canadian government to exert pressure on Syria to repatriate immediately all wounded POWs and to enter into an unconditional exchange of prisoners with Israel.

JEWISH ANTI-POVERTY GROUP ACCUSES HEW OF FAILING TO QUALIFY YIDDISH-SPEAKING JEWS FOR FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)--The New York Metropolitan Coordinating Council accused the Department of Health, Education and Welfare of failing to respond directly to a coordinating council request to qualify Jews whose primary language is Yiddish to benefit from government programs to aid minority groups. Jerome M. Becker, coordinating council president, said he had made a specific request in a March 25 letter to HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Becker said he had asked the city's Human Resources Administration, which disburses federal anti-poverty funds, to issue a directive that Yiddish-speaking persons be included in guidelines for grants to minority groups, and that in all future regulations for legislation, HEW should specifically include the Yiddish language in its definitions of minority group status, as it had done with the Spanish language. Such a step, he added, "would reap benefits for thousands of Yiddish-speaking citizens throughout the country."

Becker said he based his requests on broadened guidelines on minority definition which appeared in HEW rules and regulations pertaining to an amendment to Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965. He said these regulations, promulgated by HEW in the Oct. 11, 1973 Federal Register, specifically included the term "Spanish language" in its definition of minorities. He said that term had not been included in the original 1965 act or in Public Law 92-28 of March 22, 1972 which amended it.

The coordinating council president said he had previously sent a similar communication to New York Gov. Malcolm Wilson and that he had received assurances that the matter had been referred to appropriate state agencies for investigation. Becker said favorable replies also were received from several state Senators and Representatives. He added that he had received a reply from a HEW department official which said only that the official was not familiar with all the problems of the Yiddish-speaking Jews of New York and that he was therefore instructing a local representative to contact the coordinating council on the matter.

Response Is Unsatisfactory, Demeaning

Becker said it was "astonishing" that four months after Rabbi Akiba Zilberberg, president of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park, had written to Weinberger concerning the status of non-English speaking Jews, HEW "is replying with the identically-worded form letter." Calling the response "unsatisfactory and demeaning," Becker added that more than a month had passed since he received the HEW response and that he was still waiting for contact by the local official cited in the letter.

In response to Becker's specific requests, the HEW letter said that since the minority definition was meant to identify the aged poor found in large concentrations in most states, the responsibility for this minority designation rested with each state agency concerned; and that most of the HEW programs for the disadvantaged were designed not for minorities but for low income groups.

Becker commented that "the plight of the Yiddish-speaking poor is not a local issue but a matter of national concern." He said it was "unconscionable that HEW should skirt the issue by directing that requests be made of each and every state in which these minorities reside in large numbers."

AFL-CIO URGES CONTINUED U.S. FRIENDSHIP, SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA)--The AFL-CIO Executive Council demanded, in a resolution adopted here, that the United States government do nothing, in its expanding relationships with the Arab countries, "that would in any way diminish America's friendship for and support of Israel" and that U.S. aid to Arab countries "must be of a nature that will not increase their military potential and encourage a new aggression against Israel."

The labor leaders also declared that "the breach of the cease-fire and the continuous fighting which has been launched repeatedly by Syria in the past two months has had the all-out support of the Soviet Union and its satellites." This "aggressive course by the Kremlin provokes tension and conflicts" and "is the very opposite of détente and sets new cruel barriers to peace," the resolution added. The resolution declared that hopes for more peaceful and stable conditions "in this war-ridden area" could be achieved "only if the parties recognize and respect the sovereignty of each other and create conditions for living together."

Disappointment Over U.S. Vote In UN

The labor leaders also said that "Syrian aggression" during the Yom Kippur War "painfully demonstrated, as if more proof were needed, the acute threats under which the Israeli people live." Warning that "no genuine settlement can be achieved under such threats," the delegates added that "secure and defensible borders and a strong Israel are the best answer to such threats." The resolution added that any pressure, "regardless of its source," which might violate or run counter to this principle, must be categorically rejected.

The delegates expressed "deep disappointment and disgust" over the vote of the United States in the United Nations Security Council on April 25 which condemned Israel "for a retaliatory act on bases of terrorists who perpetrated the massacre mostly of women and children in the workers suburb of Kiryat Shemona." The statement said the Security Council resolution, "which did not even mention the massacre," was "utterly unfair and inhuman" and would "encourage the worst crimes against humanity."

GOLDA IS CITED AS WORLD MOTHER OF THE DECADE

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)--The Citation of World Mother of the Decade was conferred Friday on Premier Golda Meir in a ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here. The award, given by the American Mothers Committee, was accepted by Mrs. Shoshan Shlev, wife of the charge d'affaire in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Premier Meir was chosen as the Mother of the Decade "for her great work for peace" and because she has "devoted her full spirit to the quest for international understanding...."

Mrs. Meir, in a direct telephone message from Jerusalem that was delivered on a loud speaker to more than 1000 guests, thanked the American Mothers Committee for the honor and made a plea for peace in the world. She said she has never forgotten that the soldiers who die at the battlefield are sons of mothers, and that mothers through educating their children can contribute to peace and understanding in the world. The AMC, with a membership of more than 50,000 American women, also cited Mrs. Indira Gandhi for her contribution to world peace.