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KISSINGER DENIES U.S.-SOVIET ACCORD ON PALESTINIAN ROLE IN GENEVA TALKS

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger emphatically denied yesterday that the United States and the Soviet Union had agreed on the participation of Palestinians in the Geneva Middle East peace conference when it reconvenes. Speaking at a press conference in Moscow, recorded by the State Department here, Kissinger insisted that U.S. policy toward the Palestinians was "absolutely" unchanged.

He rejected a reporter's statement that the superpowers, at their third summit conference, had agreed to the entry of Palestinians into the Geneva conference as "the Russians wanted." The reporter apparently based his assertion on the joint Nixon-Brezhnev communique which, in its section on the Middle East, referred to "the legitimate interests of all peoples in the Middle East, including the Palestinians."

"Absolutely not," Kissinger said with regard to an alleged agreement on Palestinian participation. The participants in the Geneva conference, to which invitations were extended by the United Nations six months ago, are Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan with the USSR and U.S. serving as co-chairmen.

(Arriving in Tel Aviv today, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.) hailed Kissinger's recent disengagement mission in the Middle East and said American friendship toward Israel remained unchanged. Javits assured Israelis that the reference to the rights of the Palestinians in the Nixon-Brezhnev communique was not a euphemism for the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan. Nor does it symbolize international status for Palestinian terror organizations, he said. According to Javits, the term "legitimate interests" can be interpreted in various ways. He stressed that Israel recognized some rights of the Palestinians such as monetary compensation and freedom to leave refugee camps and lead a normal life. Javits welcomed America's renewed friendship with the Arab states and said it was beneficial to Israel as well.)

According to the text of the Nixon-Brezhnev communique received in Washington, the section on the Middle East said: "Both sides believe that the removal of the danger of war and tension in the Middle East is a task of paramount importance and urgency, and therefore, the only alternative is the achievement, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 338, of a just and lasting settlement in which should be taken into account the legitimate interests of all peoples in the Middle East including the Palestinian people, and the right of existence of all states in the area." Resolution 338, adopted last Oct. 22, established the cease-fire that halted the Yom Kippur War and reaffirmed the quest for a Mideast peace settlement based on Resolution 242.

The communique also declared that, as co-chairmen of the Geneva conference, the United States and the Soviet Union "consider it important that the conference resume its work as soon as possible, with the question of other participants from the Middle East area to be discussed at the conference."

(UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said in

Geneva today that major differences between the parties involved would prevent an early resumption of the Geneva conference. Speaking at his annual press conference at the UN European office in Geneva, Waldheim said wide differences of opinion among the participants barred any early renewal of the conferences, certainly not before the fall. He did not mention any specific example of disagreement.)

Some sources in Washington indicated today that pressure would probably be brought to bear on Israel to admit a Palestinian delegation to the Geneva peace conference some time after it reconvenes later this year.

(Israeli officials in Jerusalem withheld reaction to the communique and its Mideast references pending a special Cabinet session scheduled for tomorrow. The session had been called to discuss Israel's battle against terrorism but the agenda was broadened to include a discussion of the Moscow summit conference and particularly the communique reference to the "Palestinian people" and their "legitimate interests.") (By Joseph Polakoff)

PARIS CONCLAVE APPEALS TO U.S., USSR, SYRIA TO SAVE SYRIAN JEWS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 4 (JTA)—The International Conference for the Deliverance of Jews in the Middle East appealed yesterday to President Nixon, Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and Syrian President Hafez Assad on behalf of Syria's long suffering Jews.

The conference, which held a one-day meeting here under the presidency of French Senate President Alain Poher, called on the three leaders to take "humanitarian action" and relieve the plight of Syria's Jews who live in fear for their lives and suffer countless acts of discrimination. The conference unanimously voted the appeals which stressed that speedy action was needed if Syria's 4500 Jews were to be saved.

The conference was attended by some 60 delegates and observers from some 20 countries. These included a number of former Cabinet ministers, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

(The Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry in New York sent a message to Poher yesterday stating that "the Syrian Jewish community of the United States, which numbers 25,000 people, wishes to express its deep gratitude and applaud your humanitarian efforts for the liberation of Syrian Jewry.")

(In Washington, the B'nai B'rith asked the State Department to intercede for Yussef Shaluh and Azur Zalta, two Syrian Jews being tried in secret as the alleged murderers of four Jewish women near the Syrian-Lebanese border. Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council, in a letter to Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, urged the U.S. to appeal to the Syrian government to grant the defendants "a fair and open trial." Wexler wrote that "it is simply unbelievable that these men could be capable of murdering four of their fellow Jews.")

The conference heard reports stressing that the situation of the Jews in Syria has worsened since the October war. A Syrian witness, a 26-year-old girl who managed to escape from Syria

some months ago, said that the Jews there live in constant fear for their lives and safety. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, she said that only world pressure can help their condition and enable them to leave Syria.

Later Israeli Supreme Court Judge Haim Cohen told the conference that the Syrian authorities have decided to cancel their murder accusation against Shaluh and Zalta who were no longer charged with murder but only with having tried to help the four girls to leave Syria illegally, a "crime" which could carry a five-year prison sentence. Cohen said that the far lighter charge seemed to indicate the world pressure has had some effect on the Syrian authorities.

Pohor said that he had received a letter from the Syrian Ambassador in Paris denying charges of anti-Semitism but claiming that all this "is an internal Syrian affair in which we can accept no intervention."

Jerome J. Shestack, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, addressing the conference yesterday, stressed that "the concern here is not one with the internal affairs of another nation. What is involved is a violation of international covenants and agreements, covenants which Syria ratified and which it now blatantly violates." He noted that Syria was a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has ratified two UN treaties guaranteeing governmental actions based on human and civil rights norms. The treaties were the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. "What is ratification when Syria disregards covenants so blatantly and cynically?" Shestack asked.

KNESSET APPROVES ISRAEL'S TOUGH NEW AUSTERITY PROGRAM

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA)--The government's austerity economic program was approved in the Knesset yesterday by a 52-4 vote. All the affirmative votes came from coalition members while the four opponents were from the Rakah Communists and Moked. The two large opposition factions, Likud and the National Religious Party, abstained while the five-vote Aguda faction did not participate. Yehoshua Haftab of the NRP said the opposition would not vote against the new measures even though they were "too little and too late."

Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz had earlier told the Knesset that his new program was fair and socially equitable since it hit the upper income groups hardest. However, he said wage-earners had to undertake their fair share of the burden and renewed his call on the Histadrut to agree to a 50 percent reduction in a 20 percent cost-of-living allowance due this month. But Histadrut Secretary Yeruham Meshel again said that the labor federation would continue to insist on the full 20 percent. He warned that the credibility of both the government and the Histadrut would suffer with the workers if the COL agreement was modified. He predicted labor unrest.

Meanwhile, Police Minister Sholom Hillel revealed that he was the only minister who did not support the plan in Sunday's all-night Cabinet session. He said he abstained because he feared the "bulldozer" economic plan would crush not only inflation but also efforts to close the social gap and raise the living standards of the poor. Hillel is chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Social Welfare.

While the Knesset was adopting the program, analysts and consumers were totaling up the costs of the new programs: The across-the-board 10 percent levy on imports is expected to push up the prices of imported goods three to six percent. It is also expected to cause a two to four percent increase in the prices of locally manufactured goods containing imported components.

The three percent raise on the war loan, pushing it up to 10 percent of income, will mean a considerable pinch on the take-home pay of salaried employees and on the earnings and profits of the self-employed. The one-time property tax will affect all car owners, who will now have to pay five percent of the value of their automobiles in three annual payments. Landowners and businessmen will have to pay five percent on all their holdings except for the homes in which they live and the stock and machinery in their factories and warehouses. The government has promised that within a week, welfare recipients and large families will be informed how much they are to receive from the government to compensate for the price increases caused by the new program.

Start Releasing Activists

KISSINGER REPORTS EMIGRATION OF JEWS DISCUSSED AT SUMMIT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 4 (JTA)--Soviet authorities began releasing yesterday Jewish activists taken into custody during the Moscow summit meeting, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today. Soviet emigration policy and the harassment of Jews seeking exit visas for Israel were discussed by President Nixon and Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev at their summit meeting, according to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who made the report at a press conference in Moscow yesterday recorded by the State Department here. An estimated 100 Soviet Jewish dissidents were rounded up in advance of Nixon's arrival.

Kissinger declined to provide details of those discussions but said he would take up the subject with pertinent members of Congress when he returns to Washington. Kissinger has met frequently on the issue of Soviet Jews with Sens. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) and Jacob K. Javits (R.N.Y.). It is presumed here that he will have a post summit meeting with them next week after Congress returns from its July 4 recess.

The Soviet government made informal expressions of regret to the three major American television networks yesterday for the blackout of transmissions regarding the treatment of Jews and dissidents in the USSR. The telecasts by NBC, CBS and ABC were cut off in mid-sentence Tuesday. Kissinger said at his press conference yesterday that he lacked "details" of the interruptions but "we certainly don't approve of them." A senior Soviet broadcasting official attributed the blackouts to "hot-headed" technicians who, he said, had been told not to do it again. But a second blackout occurred after the explanation. The action is believed to be in violation of an agreement made between the U.S. and USSR on broadcasts to the U.S. of the summit talks. A spokesman for the three networks said yesterday, however, that it had been decided not to press the issue despite a White House offer to lodge a formal protest with the Russians.

BONN (JTA)--A Hamburg court has sentenced Gerhard Erren, 73, to life imprisonment for the wartime murder of 7000 Jews in Poland.

LATIN AMERICAN JEWRIES FACE GRAVE PROBLEMS, RABBIS REPORT

LONDON, July 4 (JTA)--A Philadelphia Reform rabbi declared here last night that "to require all Jews to conform to a strict and unbending interpretation of Halacha would threaten the unity of our people." Rabbi David H. Wice, acting president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, issued the warning at the opening session here of the 18th international conference of the World Union. Contending that the unity of the Jewish people was threatened by disagreements and factions, he said he was concerned "that we survive as one inclusive people and one inclusive faith."

The delegates heard a general survey of the problems of progressive Judaism in Latin America by Rabbi Roberto D. Graetz of Buenos Aires. He said the Latin American countries were either stable but under an oppressive dictatorship, or fluid in an ever-changing political scene, and that local Jewish communities reflected that situation.

He said Chile, for example, had suffered losses of its spiritual and communal Jewish leadership during the regime of President Allende because many influential Jews and all but one of its rabbis, a progressive rabbi who tried to provide some kind of leadership, had left Chile. He said the rabbis had subsequently returned and were now supporting the new regime.

Rabbi Graetz stressed that the situation in Argentina was the least clear after the death of President Peron and because of the lack of a religious tradition in Argentina. He said there were more than 400,000 Jews in Buenos Aires but that fewer than 20 percent belonged to any kind of Jewish institution. He said "We must show the younger generation that our wealth of tradition has answers to offer."

Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo said Brazil's Jewish community was among the most educated and wealthy and yet the Jewish position was far from secure. While there was no anti-Semitism, he said, the future of Jewish life in Brazil was unclear and unsure. He said he felt that the Jewish communities in Latin America, and especially in Brazil, were in more danger than Jews in any other part of the world, because Latin American Jews were "afraid to make up their minds as to their place and role in their societies." He said Jewish tradition is progressive but in Brazil, Jews were "non-committal," and they will not be "supported by the totality of the community," if and when the government changes."

MRS. JACOBSON CHALLENGES REPORT OF CLASH OVER JACKSON AMENDMENT

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA)--Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson described as "inaccurate" and "certainly not based on first-hand information" a magazine report in the U.S. that two key Senate supporters of the Jackson Amendment had clashed with American Jewish leaders. Mrs. Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section said she was amazed at the story published earlier this week in "The Times of Israel." The American periodical which specializes in news of Israel and Jewish interest, claimed that Sens. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) and Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) had accused American Jewish leaders of inaction for Soviet Jews because of Nixon Administration pressure.

(The "Times of Israel" report was ridiculed

by knowledgeable sources in Washington yesterday. The sources said that the American Jewish leadership remained steadfast in its support of the Jackson Amendment that would condition U.S. trade benefits for the Soviet Union on a relaxation of its emigration restrictions. The sources conceded, however, that "a very few" figures prominent in the American Jewish community had indicated a desire to water down the Jackson Amendment.)

Mrs. Jacobson noted that American Jewish leaders met frequently with Sen. Jackson to evaluate the progress of his amendment. "Our activities are based on only one goal and that is to help Soviet Jewry," she said. "It is our responsibility to pursue every course with both the U.S. Congress and the Administration." She noted that thousands of cables were sent to Moscow during President Nixon's visit there urging him to intervene on behalf of Soviet Jews. Referring to "The Times of Israel" story, Mrs. Jacobson said, "Such articles and misstatements can only divide the Jewish community and certainly will not save the Russian Jews."

BRITISH BAR INSURANCE PAYMENTS FOR ISRAEL-WRECKED LEBANESE PLANES

LONDON, July 4 (JTA)--The House of Lords has ruled that no insurance money is payable for the destruction of three planes at Beirut Airport by Israeli commandos in Dec., 1968. The raid by helicopter-borne Israelis blew up two Coronados and a DC7, three-quarters of the fleet of Lebanese International Airways, in reprisal for an attack by Arab terrorists two days earlier on an El Al airliner in Athens.

The Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal by American Airlines Inc. of New York and Banque Sabbag, S.A.L. of Beirut, against an Appeals Court decision in Feb., 1973 that they were not entitled to insurance money from Ralph James D'Olier Hope and other underwriters. The insurance expressly excluded war risks for the planes chartered to Lebanese Airlines.

ISRAEL COMPLETES SECURITY MEASURES ON SEAFRONT NEAR LEBANESE BORDER

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA)--The Israel Defense Force has completed the installation of new security measures along the seafront from the Lebanese border southward. The new measures were taken in response to the Arab terrorist attack in Nahariya last week in which the terrorists arrived by way of the sea. Special equipment to discover terrorist penetration is included.

In addition, the army has named a special officer to be in charge of the coast area from Acre, north of Haifa, to the Lebanese border. This was revealed during a visit paid to the coastal installation by Gen. Mordechai Gur, Chief of Staff, and senior officers. The group included commanders of the various emergency units such as the police, civil defense guards, Mogen David Adom and the fire brigade.

During the visit a decision also was made to appoint an officer to investigate the handling of the terrorist attack in Nahariya. Residents have complained of the lack of information from the police or other competent authorities on how to act during such an emergency. There were also complaints of inadequate street lighting in some sections of the town. * * *

BONN (JTA)--Ninety percent of the shrinking East German Jewish communities, down to 800 now from 3320 in 1950, are in the 55-90 age category. East Berlin is the largest community, with 450 members.

63 SONS OF WAR DEAD TAKE PART IN MASS BAR MITZVAH CEREMONY

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA)--A group of 63 boys who lost their fathers in Israeli wars took part in a mass Bar Mitzvah ceremony at the Habad village near here. Some 5000 guests, headed by Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, joined in the celebration which was also attended by all the students who were injured at the recent Maalot incident. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who came specially to greet the Bar Mitzvah boys, presented each boy with a medallion. He said that their fathers gave their lives for one goal, the establishment of a peaceful future for Israel.

The Premier said to the boys, "You are part of the new history of Israel. You will also have to learn the art of war but it is my true wish that you never make use of it." He told the audience that while in the United States as ambassador, he met with the Lubavitcher Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, who told him that, according to Jewish tradition, the nation of Israel was chosen and is a nation that lives alone. It is for that reason, said Premier Rabin, that Israel fights her wars alone and will continue to do so until she has constructed a Jewish State based on Jewish values, peace and security. The widow of Col. Shlomo Alton, killed in the Six-Day War, spoke on behalf of the widows present, while Shalom Avner replied on behalf of the Bar Mitzvah boys. There were 18 Yom Kippur War orphans among the Bar Mitzvah boys. The ceremony lasted into the night as Habad youngsters sang and danced and took the Bar Mitzvah boys on their shoulders.

FUTURE ISRAELI COLLECTIVES TO BE LIMITED TO INDUSTRY

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA)--Aryeh Nehamkin, secretary of the Moshavim Movement, declared that future settlements will be based chiefly on industry with agriculture playing only a minor part. Speaking at the 12th Agricultural Convention at Beit Berl at Kfar Saba, he explained that Israel had come to the end of its ability to use its limited water resources. Nehamkin noted that kibbutz income is already half from industry and half from agriculture and he said the moshavim collectives should follow their example and base their economic development on industry. He said more settlements would be established throughout the Galilee and the southern Negev.

The Ichud Hakvutzot Vehakibutzim Movement will establish seven new settlements in the next five years, two in the Raffah approach in the northern Sinai, two along the Dead Sea, one in the Golan Heights, and two in the Negev, according to the movement's secretary, Nahman Raz.

ISRAEL SENDS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT PERON

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir has sent Mrs. Isabel Peron condolences in his own name and from the people of Israel on the death of the President of Argentina, Gen. Juan D. Peron. In his message, President Katzir said that Gen. Peron would be remembered in Israel for the friendly relations between Argentina and Israel. The Israel government's condolences were expressed in a cable to Argentine Foreign Minister Alberto Vigel from Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

(The Latin American Jewish Congress sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Peron. The Buenos Aires cable, signed by Dr. Nehemia Res-

nizky, acting president, and Marc Turkow, general secretary, expressed the sorrow of Latin American Jews at Peron's death and noted that "Latin American Jewish communities remember with emotion his preaching and action on behalf of brotherhood for all men and peoples without differences of class, race or religion, as well as his many expressions of friendship toward the Jewish people and the State of Israel.")

DIASPORA YESHIVA DISPUTE TO BE TESTED IN COURT

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA)--A dispute between the Diaspora Yeshiva and the American Institute of Holy Land Studies, a Christian institution, over a lease to a building on Mount Zion, will be settled by a court suit, the Yeshiva staff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. Meanwhile, neither institution will use the building and both have attached locks to the door at the suggestion of the police.

A fracas broke out Monday between students of the two schools over possession of the building which apparently belongs to the Anglican Church. The Yeshiva had occupied the building for several weeks until last Sunday night when the Institute took it over and barred the Yeshiva students. Police broke up the ensuing melee and arrested 14 Yeshiva students, all Americans, subsequently releasing them.

However, police said they would press assault charges against four of the Yeshiva students, Dr. S.Z. Kahane, chairman of the Mount Zion Commission, is attempting to have the charges dropped. The Institute is headed by the Rev. G. Douglas Young, who is widely considered a friend of Israel. The Yeshiva considers him a missionary and questions the right of the Anglican Church to grant the Institute a lease.

WORK FOR YOM KIPPUR WAR DEAD GETS PREMIERE IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA)--The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra performed yesterday the world premiere of a work by a Chilean immigrant dedicated to the fallen in the Yom Kippur War. The work, performed under the baton of Zubin Mehta, the orchestra's musical advisor, was composed last November in the aftermath of the war by Leon Schidlowsky, who since immigrating from Chile in 1969, has become one of Israel's foremost composers.

Schidlowsky, who is professor of composition at the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, in a preface to his work, quoted David's lament for Saul and Jonathan: "The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places. How are the mighty fallen." The war composition, which consists of one movement, expresses contrasts of mood coupling battle sounds with the traditional Kol Nidre cut off by an air raid siren.

ANOTHER DROP IN TOURISM REPORTED BY ISRAEL BUREAU

JERUSALEM, July 4 (JTA)--The Central Bureau of Statistics reported this week another drop in tourism. According to the bureau's figures, there was a drop of 14 percent in the number of tourists coming to Israel during the first half of 1974, as compared to the same period in the previous year. There were 292,600 tourists this year, as compared to 340,200 in the first half of 1973. Some 49,500 tourists arrived in Israel last month, a drop of 10 percent from April-May, and a drop of 22 percent from June, 1973, when 63,200 tourists arrived in Israel.