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NIXON DENIES ALLEGATIONS

THAT HE IS ANTI-SEMITIC

Cites Support For Israel, Jews In High Administration Posts, As Evidence

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 17 (JTA)--President Nixon has publicly denied, for the first time, allegations that he was anti-Semitic, citing his vigorous political and military backing for Israel and his appointment of Jews, including Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, to key posts in his Administration, as proof to the contrary.

The allegations stemmed from news media reports in May that the President used anti-Semitic slurs and other ethnic epithets during private conversations in the White House with aides in Feb. and March, 1973, purportedly recorded in taped conversations. The report was immediately denounced by J. Fred Buzhardt, counsel to the President, as a "fabrication."

The President's rejection of the charge was made to Rabbi Baruch Korff, head of the Committee For Fairness to the President. Nixon held a lengthy interview with Rabbi Korff on May 13 and answered a series of written questions from Rabbi Korff on May 29. The President's response to both sets of inquiries was published in Rabbi Korff's new paperback book, "The Personal Nixon: Staying on the Summit," published by Fairness Publishers, which is controlled by Rabbi Korff's committee. Rabbi Korff visited the President at the Summer White House here yesterday and presented him with a copy of the book.

Nixon said in the interview that he had ordered the major airlift of weapons to Israel in the Yom Kippur War over objections of many Administration officials and also rejected objections from the "so-called Eastern elite" to his decision to name Kissinger as Secretary of State. He also cited his appointments of Dr. Herbert Stein as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Dr. Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve System, and Walter Annenberg, Jr., as Ambassador to Britain, as among his appointments of Jews to major posts.

When he named James R. Schlesinger as Defense Secretary, he told Rabbi Korff, a high ranking official said to him: "Do you know Schlesinger's background? Is he Jewish....He has a Jewish name." Nixon said he replied that he had no idea whether Schlesinger was a Jew, that it would not prove anything if he was and that he had chosen Schlesinger for the Cabinet post because he considered him the best person to fill it. (Schlesinger was born Jewish but converted.)

PLANS APPROVED TO CREATE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE TO HANDLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)--Plans to create a Cabinet level committee to handle economic relations between the United States and Israel were approved today at a meeting here between Secretary of the Treasury William Simon and Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz. They set up four working groups to implement the agreement and agreed to meet again in Nov. in Washington to discuss the progress of the groups

which will make studies of the possibilities of American private investment in Israel, raw material supplies, technical aid and expansion of trade.

Israeli officials reported that Rabinowitz repeated to Simon the Israeli government's request for an additional \$1.5 billion in military aid over the next three years, stressing that Israel's defense burden was very high. Simon said, at a meeting with Rabinowitz and Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Barlev, that he hoped the United States would continue providing massive economic aid to Israel despite growing opposition in Congress to foreign aid in general. He said he believed that investments in Israel were economically worthwhile.

Barlev asked Simon for reasonable terms for purchase of equipment for nuclear and electric power, adding that Israel expects to buy \$800 million worth of such equipment during the next seven years. Barlev also asked for a cut in customs duties between Israel and the U.S. and help for the development of industrial research.

Importance Of U.S.-Israeli Ties

In a statement replying to Rabinowitz's welcome at Ben Gurion Airport, Simon declared: "I promise you that we will be helpful in every way we can with the help and the assistance that has been so characteristic of our relationship these past years and which reached its peak during our President's recent visit here."

He noted that his visit in the wake of the visits by President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "attests to the high importance my country attaches to the exceptionally close ties which have developed between our countries in recent years. Now we stand on the threshold of a new era in these relations, as expressed in the joint statement of June 17 by President Nixon and Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin."

Simon had lunch with Rabinowitz here today and is scheduled to have dinner with Foreign Minister Yigal Allon. He is scheduled to visit Yad Vashem tomorrow and then go on a tour of the Galilee. Israel is Simon's second stop on a two-week tour of the Middle East and Europe. He arrived here yesterday after a visit to Egypt and leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow and is then scheduled to go to Kuwait, West Germany, France and Britain.

BARLEV: ISRAEL WILLING TO RETURN MOST OF WEST BANK TO JORDAN IF IT ISN'T TURNED INTO PALESTINIAN STATE

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)--Israel would be willing to give most of the West Bank back to Jordan provided it was not turned into a separate Palestinian state, Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Barlev declared today. Speaking to reporters accompanying U.S. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, Barlev said as long as the area captured in the 1967 war remained part of Jordan, "we are willing to give back most of the territory of the West Bank."

But Barlev, a former Chief of Staff, said if Israel returns territory it must have secure borders. "We are willing to compromise on the areas, but this does not mean we are willing to hand ourselves and our future security totally over to Arab

goodwill and international guarantees."

Barlev criticized the American plan to provide Egypt with nuclear reactors and fuel saying that "in one leap it would bring the technology of Egypt to a level where it could easily move into more dangerous areas." He said if Egypt became a nuclear power it could be a "very high risk not only to Israel but to the rest of the world." But Barlev said prospects for a peaceful solution in the Mideast were favorable because Egypt has decided to give first priority to economic development.

LABOR ALIGNMENT BLOCKS MOVE TO BRING NRP INTO COALITION GOVERNMENT Rabin Says Issue Not Ripe For Decision

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)--Efforts to bring the National Religious Party in Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government floundered last night when leaders of the Labor Alignment decided to avoid a split within their ranks over the compromise on the Who is a Jew question worked out by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren. The members of the Alignment Knesset faction, the Labor Party Bureau and the Mapam Center approved a resolution proposed by Rabin that the issue "was not ripe for decision."

NRP leader Dr. Yitzhak Raphael angered by the decision said today that it terminates the unofficial contacts between the NRP and the Labor Party over the possibility of NRP returning to the coalition. From now on, Raphael declared, the NRP would act as a clear opposition party.

Other NRP leaders did not disguise their disappointment at the Alignment's resolution. Some accused Alignment leaders of having created the illusion that they had a majority in favor of a compromise on the "Who is a Jew" controversy. The formula worked out by Rabbi Goren would have defined conversion as that "practiced and accepted among the Jewish people from generation to generation."

The Alignment decision came after its leaders saw that approving the formula to gain the 10 NRP votes would cause a major split in the government. The formula was opposed by the Alignment's coalition partners, the Independent Liberal Party and the Civil Rights Party. It was also criticized by a member of the coalition, Mapam, and there was strong opposition within the ranks of Labor as well.

The differences were apparent at the meeting last night. When Haim Zadok, Justice and Religious Affairs Minister, suggested setting up a negotiations committee to meet with the NRP, Mapam leaders Meir Talmi and Yaacov Hazan insisted that representatives of the ILP and CRP be named to the committee. After a short debate Rabin made his suggestion that no decision be taken. This was overwhelmingly approved.

Prospects now are for the Alignment to try to maintain the present coalition while the Knesset takes its summer recess. This will give the parties two months to reconsider the issue.

FEAR RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ITALY

ROME, July 17 (JTA)--Heads of the Jewish community here fear an underground revival of anti-Semitism in Italy based on the increase of anti-Jewish incidents in the past few years. "I am seriously worried about these incidents," said Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff. "The situation is not helped by the political, economic and social unrest in the country today."

Alfons M. Di Nola, a Jewish professor, has published a book called "Anti-Semitism in Italy," in which he lists various acts of vandalism and violence over the past ten years, all committed against Jews or synagogues. Rabbi Toaff recently received a letter addressed to "The Head Rabbi of the Jews of Rome," which read, "For a Zionist such as you there is only lead (a bullet) or the scaffold. You will get it."

Sympathetic Italians believe these acts represent the work of misguided youths, rather than countrymen with deep-seated anti-Semitic feelings. But Rabbi Toaff and other Jewish leaders say the growing evidence of anti-Semitism is serious enough to cause concern.

MURDER CHARGES AGAINST FORMER NAZI

BONN, July 17 (JTA)--The Hamburg public prosecutor today brought murder charges against former Warsaw Gestapo chief Ludwig Hahn. In June 1973, Hahn was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for complicity in the murder of an indefinite number of Jews and Poles in Warsaw's Pawiak jail from 1941 to 1944. Because of age and ill-health, Hahn was not committed to prison. He also appealed against the sentence. The new charges brought yesterday accuse Hahn of murdering 2000 Polish civilians in Aug. 1944 during the Warsaw uprising.

ACHENBACH MAY RESIGN COMMITTEE POST

BONN, July 17 (JTA)--It seems likely that West German Free Democrat MP-Ernst Achenbach, a leading figure in blocking German court prosecution of French-convicted Nazis, will give up his key position in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag. This committee is responsible for eventual approval of the 1971 Franco-German treaty making such Nazi convictions possible here.

Free Democrat circles said yesterday they were angry and dismayed at Achenbach's attitude, particularly after his call for an amnesty for all Nazi criminals. A decision on Achenbach's future is likely to be made soon after he returns from a trip to Colombia Friday. The Young Free Democrats have again renewed their attack on Achenbach as a "potential Nazi participant" and have urged him to resign from the Bundestag. It is unlikely, however, that Achenbach will be excluded from the party or will lose his parliamentary seat.

Germany's commissioner in the European Economic Community, Ralf Dahrendorf, yesterday urged Achenbach to resign his seat in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. In another development, the Christian Democrat opposition called for an early discussion of the Franco-German Nazi trials treaty. An opposition spokesman, Gerhard Reddemann, said the FDP should get on with ratification and stop looking for scapegoats.

Meanwhile, the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Justice, Dr. Diether Posser, defended Judge Viktor De Somoskoey, who passed a two-month sentence on Beate Klarsfeld in Cologne last week. A statement yesterday said court rulings were naturally open to criticism, but a court had to proceed from the legal situation as it is, and from the principles of a constitutional state.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Seymour Weiss of Bethesda, Md., was sworn in Wednesday as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas. Weiss, a career officer, has served since 1973 as director of the Bureau of Political Military Affairs in the State Department and from 1970 to 1973 was a member of the planning coordination staff. Weiss, Jewish, is from Chicago.

SADAT: 'I AM READY FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL'

LONDON, July 17 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat of Egypt made a plea for peace in the Middle East in a BBC Television interview last night declaring, "I am ready for a peace agreement with Israel." The interview was conducted by Lord Chalfont, a former Times correspondent and Minister of State at the Foreign Office in Prime Minister Harold Wilson's first administration.

Asked if he was ready to recognize Israel's right to exist, Sadat replied: "I have accepted Resolution 242, which includes a recognition of the existence of the State of Israel, and this answers your question. I was ready for peace two years ago, and I am ready now. There is only one point on which I must insist. The Palestinians should attend the Geneva conference and have their say there. This is my only condition."

Asked about terrorism, the Egyptian President replied: "I am against terrorism and violence. But put yourself in the place of the Palestinians. Let us put the real problem on the table and solve it. There are a million Arab refugees living in tents, what do you expect from them in their situation?"

Prevented Terrorist Act Against QE2

At that point Sadat revealed that because he objected to violence he personally intervened to prevent the Queen Elizabeth 2 from being torpedoed by terrorists last year. The steamship was carrying 590 American Jews to Israel to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Jewish State. "personally," he said, "I countermanded an order given by an Arab leader. I stayed up until 3:30 a.m. when I was sure that the captain of our submarine, who had the order to torpedo the QE2, had received my order, and the Egyptian submarine was on its way back to Alexandria."

Sadat did not name the Arab leader, and Lord Chalfont stated here that Sadat had not told him the name of the Arab leader even privately, but most people assumed it was President Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Sadat added that a solution for the problem of the Palestinians was possible in his view.

During the interview, Sadat claimed that he had never been worried even for a single moment about the presence of Israelis west of the Suez Canal. "This was a propaganda move by Israel," he said. "I had five divisions on the east bank, and I was not worried at all." Sadat also explained why he had ordered 18,000 Soviet military advisors out of Egypt in 1972. "The cause of this was that I wanted to tell them by my decision I cannot be a puppet," he said. "I cannot be an agent, and I cannot also be a weak friend. Either you treat me as a strong friend or no."

Had Admired Hitler

Towards the end of the interview, Sadat frankly admitted that he had been an admirer of Hitler: "I was fascinated with Hitler and I admired the way he rebuilt Germany. We believed in a German victory, and we were ready to fight on the side of the Germans. We sent the Germans a plan of British disposition, but it never reached them. I was, as a result, sentenced to three years in a British concentration camp."

NEW MOVEMENT SPARKS CONTROVERSY

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA)--The constituent

meeting was held here last night of the Lashinoy (For A Change) Movement which has already sparked controversy in Israel with a manifesto urging the government to hold talks with the Palestinians. The movement is headed by Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, dean of the Tel Aviv University Law School, and Mordechai Virshupski, legal advisor to the Tel Aviv municipality.

Three leaders of Likud who signed the manifesto were denounced for doing so by members of Herut, one of the parties in Likud. Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat and Ramat Gan Mayor Israel Peled, both members of the Liberal Party in Likud, and Herut MK Benjamin Halevi signed the manifesto, as did Labor and Independent Liberal Party members.

Herut members assailed the two mayors for signing the manifesto without approval from Likud on whose ticket they were elected. But the Herut Party was particularly shocked by Dr. Halevi's signing, since he had resigned from the Supreme Court to join Herut because he believed that Israel should not engage in further withdrawals. Herut reportedly was bewildered by what its leaders considered a total reversal by Dr. Halevi from hawk to dove.

Movement Described As 'Middle Way'

Lashinoy was formed initially by academicians and various protest groups organized by veterans after the Yom Kippur War. But after the other groups faded away, the academicians decided to proceed with organizing the movement and going to the people with a program described by Rubinstein as "middle way," between Israelis opposed to giving up any of the administered areas and those "ready to give up everything."

He said the movement shared the views of those "who think in terms of modern weapons and the danger of guerrilla warfare" and therefore opposed return to the pre-Six-Day War borders. He said the movement stood for a permanent buffer zone in the Sinai. The movement favors return to Arab rule of the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria in the West Bank but holds that Israel, in recognizing the right of West Bank Arabs to self-determination must be assured of the possibility of acting efficiently against acts of sabotage, Rubinstein said.

He said Jerusalem must remain Israel's capital, an undivided city under Israel's rule, but there must be a special status for the holy places and the Arab section of the city. Internally, he said, the movement supports Orthodox control of marriage but demands recognition of the right of marriage for those Jews barred from marriage by Jewish Religious Law.

Delegates to the constituent meeting were greeted by Lahat, representatives of the Independent Liberals who claimed the new movement was close to them in views, the Civil Rights Party and others. They nominated delegates to a central body. Twenty more delegates will be elected by branches and 20 others were named by the movement's founders.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, reappeared before Israeli newsmen Tuesday as leader of a new movement, "Kach" (Like That!). The program parallels that of the Israeli JDL. It calls for organizing an anti-terror group, legislation banning missionary activities, fostering Arab emigration from Israel, Jewish religious education in all Israeli schools, support of the "not an inch" stance on Israeli withdrawal from the administered territories, and preparation for mass immigration.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES ISRAEL FACES THE FUTURE

By Edwin Eytan

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)—Israel boils, perspires and worries under the simmering summer sun. Worries about everyday economic difficulties and problems which have reached new heights: of inflation, credit shortages, price hikes and frozen wages. The real anguish is, however, about the future—not only the economic future but the basic political struggle into which Israel will shortly be plunged.

Members of the Knesset from both governmental and opposition parties openly admit "we live the last quiet days—soon the country will be torn asunder by conflicting views. The Arabs, the Palestinians will all become immediate problems with which we will have to cope." All Israeli officials admit that the political confrontation will probably begin in earnest next month.

After the visit to Washington by Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, due late this month, Premier Yitzhak Rabin is due to arrive in the American capital next month to put the last touches to the preparatory negotiations which will pave the way to the various bilateral talks most likely to take place in Washington either at the end of Aug. or possibly in Sept.

Conditions For Negotiations With Arabs

The Israeli policy, as laid down by the Rabin government, and apparently approved by a vast majority of Israelis, accepts and even wants the resumption of negotiations with the Arabs—negotiations which should, however, take place in Washington and in which only two countries should be represented at one time: Israel and an Arab state. Israel thus sees the "Washington round" as a continuation of the separate disengagement talks it has agreed to with the Arab states.

In Israel's view, only after all the practical details have been solved during this preliminary round, can the Geneva conference resume to give a final and formal touch to the results obtained by secret diplomacy. Israeli officials stress that the Israeli-Syrian, or even the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreements could not have been obtained and signed in Geneva unless the two sides had not previously engaged in secret negotiations with American go-between help, the Kissinger shuttle service.

Israel believes that this precedent could serve for the actual peace talks and should be repeated in Washington itself where Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger would be available with his good offices. On the Arab side, first indications show the Arabs reluctant to adopt this technique in spite of its past successes. The Arabs say they could obtain more and far-reaching concessions during a general negotiation with all the Arabs present.

The Arab demand to attend the talks in the form of a single Arab delegation embracing all the Arab states and the Palestinians could well be an extreme position put forward in order to end by making "the concession" of attending in the form of separate delegations but which would negotiate with Israel.

War Trauma Continues In All Areas

Israel continues to experience the trauma created by the Yom Kippur War, and in all areas including the diplomatic one. This possible Arab "compromise" of several delegations but negotiating together is seen as a major danger

to be avoided at all costs. It is one more Israeli suspicion of possible American duplicity. Israel nowadays follows closely, day by day, some say hour by hour, all American acts and even intentions.

Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem weigh the possible implications of the Watergate affair, calculate the possible changes which would take place should President Nixon go, and observe, report and dissect every one of Kissinger's statements, acts and trips. Some say jokingly that Washington has become Israel's "main capital."

The defeatist humor goes much further. Examples of the macabre humor displayed by those opposing any Israeli withdrawal can be illustrated by two "jokes": the latest is the report that Tel Aviv's main thoroughfare, Dizengoff, now one-way, will be opened to two-way traffic again. Why? Because the adjoining Rainses Street, one-way the other way, will soon be returned to the Arabs. The other story is that Israel has asked America for a large aircraft carrier. Why? asks a surprised Nixon. The answer is because "we shall soon have to hand over Ben Gurion Airport to the Arabs."

Crises - Real And Psychological

To make matters worse, the country lives through one political and economic crisis after another. Some of these crises are more psychological than real, but indicate a trend: thus, the widest read political memoir just now is the autobiography of the late Premier Moshe Sharett, serialized by the mass circulation evening paper "Maariv." Israelis of all political factions and tendencies read with surprise and shock Sharett's revelations: the plotting, intrigues and petty combinations which marked Israel's political life in the fifties (to which Sharett's memoirs refer) but which Israelis suspect to be the law still today.

Economically, Israelis are hit with daily price increases for even staple commodities: food prices, electricity and transportation, while salaries remain practically frozen. But evidences of huge fortunes can be seen—elegant villas in the Sayron or Herzliyah Pituah, air conditioned American cars and other forms of luxury and other examples of prosperous consumer societies.

Countless stories circulate about fortunes built overnight, of financial speculations at the cost of public finances and of highly enterprising Israeli entrepreneurs who know how to turn financial regulations to their advantage. Even if grossly exaggerated, these stories indicate a frame of mind, a psychological trend which comes at a time when Israel needs more than ever before a national unity of purpose and aspiration.

The pessimists claim that this unity of purpose will be forthcoming once again when Israel will have to face once more difficult international and diplomatic problems as the Arab negotiations resume. The optimists believe that it is a passing phase which will soon sort itself out.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Officials here have denied a report in Wednesday's Jerusalem Post claiming that King Hussein is discussing in Alexandria a new Israeli peace proposal recently conveyed to him. The officials said no proposal was made. The Post's Arab affairs correspondent, Anan Safadi, wrote that the plan was intended as a more permanent and farther-reaching settlement than a mere disengagement accord. It envisaged the return of a Jordanian government presence "to considerable parts of the West Bank, except for a salient stretching east from Jerusalem to the Jordan River," Safadi wrote. The Jordanians would then have access to the West Bank's northern and southern regions on both sides of Israel's salient.