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KISSINGER MEETS WITH 17 LEADERS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS; PROMISES TO PURSUE AID FOR SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger told American Jewish leaders yesterday that he understood their concern for Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate to Israel and that he was actively pursuing the matter. Kissinger met with Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Max Fisher, chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency; and Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The meeting in Kissinger's inner office was held prior to a meeting with 17 American Jewish leaders in which the overall situation in the Middle East, continued American economic and military support to Israel, the concern over the fate of Syrian Jewry and other matters of what was described as mutual interest were discussed. Rabbi Miller and Fisher characterized the meeting as comprehensive, candid, constructive and friendly. Leonard Garment, counsel to President Nixon, attended both meetings.

In the meeting on Soviet Jewry, the three Jewish leaders said that the American Jewish community wants to see an end to the continued harassment of Jews who want to emigrate. They said the 40 percent drop in emigrants in recent months must be reversed and free emigration must be available to those Jews who wish to leave the USSR. They also said that the "Prisoners of Conscience," those in prison only for the "crime" of wishing to leave, must be released.

Detente Is Two-Way Street

While repeating their support for detente and improved trade relations, the three spokesmen emphasized that detente was a two-way street and that continued Soviet repression of Jews must not be permitted to continue. The Soviet authorities must recognize that American Jewry, indeed all of America, is firm in its commitment to ease the plight of Russian Jews, they stressed.

Kissinger briefed the three Jewish leaders on his talks with Soviet officials and talks last week with Sens. Henry Jackson (D, Wash.), Abraham Ribicoff (D, Conn.) and Jacob Javits (R, NY) on this issue. The meeting yesterday was a follow-up to a meeting by American Jewish leaders with Nixon and Kissinger in the White House June 4 prior to Nixon's trip to the Middle East and the Moscow summit.

JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN JORDAN VALLEY WILL CONTINUE UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL, RABIN SAYS

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)—The Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley area of the West Bank were set up on the assumption they would remain there and continue under Israeli control in any settlement with Jordan, Premier Yitzhak Rabin said today. Rabin made that statement to members of one of the settlements, Mechora,

who asked him about radio and television reports that the settlements would be handed over to Jordan in a peace settlement. The Premier urged the settlers not to believe in rumors.

He described himself as "an optimist" because he recognized "our strength and ability to stand up to difficult situations." He said that efforts toward peace might bring further wars but that peace was possible "because we are convinced of what we want."

Rabin visited Israeli military installations and units as well as the Jewish settlements. He also visited the Damya Bridge, north of the Allenby Bridge on the Jordan River and watched the crossing of summer visitors to Israel from Arab countries. He was accompanied by Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur and Gen. Yona Ephraim, commander of the central command.

Prepared For Dialogue With Jordan

Also focussing on Jordan, Defense Minister Shimon Peres said that "Israel is prepared for a dialogue with Jordan" on the future of the West Bank which would include "a political compromise" enabling the people living there "to develop a national life of their own." Speaking at a meeting of the Working Mothers Association in Haifa, Peres said the dialogue would be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and not dictated by King Hussein, who is himself in conflict with the terrorist organizations.

It is the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) not Israel that threatens Jordan, Peres declared. He said Israel would not negotiate with the terrorists because she did not want a PLO takeover of much of Jordan or Soviet infiltration there.

Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Barlev told agriculture students in Rehovot that any political grouping in the West Bank which aims at creating another Arab state between Jordan and Israel is in contradiction to the government's policy and the Israeli government will have no dealings with such a group. He said that Israel will be ready for another step toward peace with Egypt when she is convinced that Cairo really wants peace.

(Egyptian President Anwar Sadat yesterday criticized both Israel and some Arab nations in an address at a Cairo rally marking the 22nd anniversary of the revolution which overthrew King Farouk. Sadat said that Israel was trying to abort results of the October war by stalling over withdrawing from Arab territories and attacking Lebanon.

(He warned Israel that the "resumption of hostilities is always the inescapable solution if the right path is not genuinely opened for peace and if all Arab rights are not restored within an acceptable time." In his remarks to the Arab nations, Sadat stressed the need for Arab unity. Otherwise, he warned, Israel can make use of the differences among them.)

HOD IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS U.S. AID TO ISRAEL; ALLON TO MEET WITH KISSINGER, SCHLESINGER

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)—Former Israeli Air Force Commander Mordechai Hod, now an assistant to Defense Minister Shimon Peres, is in Washington to discuss negotiations for American military assistance to Israel agreed upon during President Nixon's visit to Israel. Meanwhile, it has

been confirmed that Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will arrive here this weekend for meetings with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger.

(Sources in Jerusalem said that Allon will discuss with both American officials the schedule for arms delivery to Israel as well as how the weapons will be paid for.)

The military aid to Israel which is being negotiated now stems from the joint communique issued by Nixon and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem June 17. The sections concerning military aid said:

"President Nixon reiterated the commitment of the U.S. to the long-term security of Israel and to the principle that each state has the right to exist within secure borders and to pursue its own legitimate interests.... The President affirmed the continuing and long-term nature of the military supply relationship between the two countries.... An Israel Defense Ministry delegation will soon come to Washington in order to work out concrete details relating to long-term military supplies."

MAPAM PROPOSES BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING WITH PALESTINIANS

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)--The political committee of Mapam, a member of Premier Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Alignment, approved today a series of resolutions on the issue of negotiating with the Palestinians which, in totality, differed from that of the government but which were not in complete negation of the government position.

The government's position, as approved by the Cabinet Sunday, is that Israel would continue to seek peace in the Middle East by negotiations with Jordan as the representative of the Palestinian Arabs and that it would not negotiate with "terrorist organizations."

The Mapam resolutions leave an opening for negotiations with Palestinian representatives other than King Hussein of Jordan. Mapam also would leave it to the Palestinian Arabs to decide how they would be represented when the Geneva peace conference is resumed--either within the Jordanian delegation or in another form.

Mapam sources said the government's statement was couched in negative terms--that there would be no negotiations with terrorist organizations--while Mapam would be prepared to negotiate with those "other factors" among the Palestinians prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist and to negotiate secure and agreed borders with Israel.

WZO TO NEGOTIATE WITH REFORM

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive appointed a four-man committee yesterday to negotiate with the leaders of the Reform Movement on its affiliation with the WZO. The World Union of Progressive Judaism decided at its recent meeting in London to affiliate with the Zionist movement.

The committee will comprise Pinhas Sapir, WZO Executive chairman; Leon Dulzin, WZO treasurer; Avraham Shenker, head of the WZO organization and information department; and Moshe Krone, WZO Torah education department head. The committee will also negotiate with the leaders of the Conservative movement who have also expressed interest in joining the WZO.

The WZO Executive also memorialized Rab-

bi Max Nussbaum who died Saturday in Los Angeles. Dulzin said Rabbi Nussbaum had been prominent as a Zionist leader in pre-war Germany as well as later in the U.S. Dulzin said it was sad that Rabbi Nussbaum, who was also a Reform leader, should have died just as the Reform Movement was about to join with the Zionist movement.

HOW LONG WAS THE SLING?

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)--Would you believe that Goliath was not a giant and that David was really a dwarf? No? Those who described the two biblical figures to the contrary might have been suffering from "an optical illusion." At least that's the considered opinion of Omar Rau, a prominent Egyptologist, in a study on the two combatants released in Beirut. According to Rau, the biblical giant was actually 5' 4 1/2" tall, while David was in reality a dwarf. He made the study, he said, in an effort to clear Goliath's name.

COURAGE OF PIONEER BRITISH SETTLERS IN SOUTH AFRICA COMPARED TO THAT OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE

JOHANNESBURG, July 24 (JTA)--The courage of the pioneer British settlers who came to South Africa in 1820 was compared to that of the Israeli people by South Africa's State President, Jim Fouché, when he dedicated this week the imposing new monument to the 1820 settlers which has been erected in Grahamstown, Cape Province. The dedication was attended by leading South Africans in all walks of life.

Paying tribute to the 1820 settlers, Fouché said that their spirit could be compared to the pioneers and present inhabitants of Israel. This spirit was the driving force of nationalism. "Where can one find a better example of that than in present-day Israel?" Fouché said. "Whether or not we agree with their sentiments, the way they are helping millions must be respected by friend and foe. That wonderful will to survive is generated by nothing more than Jewish nationalism, borne out of the unifying force of Jewish history."

The dedication ceremonies included an interdenominational service in which the participants were Christian church leaders and Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper on behalf of the Jewish community.

LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS PROTESTS KLARSFELD PRISON SENTENCE

BUENOS AIRES, July 24 (JTA)--A resolution protesting the prison sentence given Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld in Cologne and denouncing Ernst Achenbach, a West German parliamentarian, for interfering in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Germany, was adopted today at the closing session here of the ninth plenary session of the Latin American Jewish Congress.

Delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela paid tribute at the opening session to the late Argentine President Juan D. Peron. In other resolutions, solidarity was expressed with Israel and with the Jews in Russia and Syria. Dr. Paul Warszawski announced plans for a symposium on cultural pluralism in Latin America. The delegates also were told of plans for a round table discussion on the consequences of the oil crisis in developing countries.

Minister Menachem Karmi of the Israel Embassy here reported on the Mideast situation and on the ties between world Jewry and Israel. Marc Turkow, general secretary of the Latin American Jewish Congress, stressed the unity of the Jewish

people and recent developments in the diaspora. A public meeting was held to express tribute to Turkow on his 70th birthday. Turkow, replying to praise for his services to the Jewish cause, received a standing ovation.

The Latin American human rights prize for 1974 for \$500 was awarded to Martin Luis Guzman, a Mexican Senator and former chairman of the Mexican-Israel Cultural Institute and chairman of the Committee for Free Books for Educational Purposes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPLIES FOR RECEIVER OF DEFUNCT BANK

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)—Attorney General Meir Shamgar applied to the Tel Aviv district court today for the appointment of an official receiver who will wind up the affairs of the defunct Israel-British Bank seized by the Bank of Israel two weeks ago. The court is due to decide tomorrow on the appointment—and all observers are certain its decision will be positive.

Shamgar did not cite in numerical terms the extent of the bank's losses but said the Bank of Israel, through the official receiver, would pay out bona fide creditors and depositors as it had undertaken. The Bank of Israel is meanwhile applying for receivers to be appointed to several other Williams-owned concerns in Israel. In some cases the intention is not to liquidate the concerns but to sell them as going concerns if possible. The bank itself, however, will eventually be liquidated.

The final decision to wind up the bank was taken this week by the special committee which the Cabinet had appointed to consider the fate of the bank when it could not meet its liabilities. The committee was made up of Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Justice Minister Haim Zadok and Moshe Sanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel.

The bank had been the country's sixth largest. The extent of its liabilities are not yet known and investigators are still working their way through the mound of books and ledgers to determine the losses which will accrue—for the most part—to the Israeli taxpayer. The government has resolved to cover the debts owed by the bank to all its foreign and local creditors and depositors—save firms owned or associated with the Williams family of London, which owned the bank.

Probe Possible Criminal Aspects

Meanwhile the former managing director of the bank, Yehoshua Ben-Zion, son-in-law of the late Nahum Zeev Williams and brother-in-law of the bank's chairman Harry Landy of London, was remanded Tuesday by a Tel Aviv magistrate for a further 15 days as police continue their investigation into possible criminal aspects of the bank's collapse. Ben-Zion, already in custody for nine days, is suspected of fraudulent misrepresentation of the bank's affairs to the Bank of Israel, and also of offenses against the foreign currency regulations.

The government has not yet decided if it will guarantee the losses of the London subsidiary of the Israel-British Bank which is also teetering on the brink of collapse. That bank too is heavily in debt—with the exact figures not yet known as a team of independent auditors are still going through its books. The results of that investigation will be transmitted to the Bank of Israel and to the Bank of England—and then the Israel government will have to decide whether to cover the

London bank's losses too.

BULGARIAN JEW CHARGED AND TRIED FOR SECOND OFFENSE WHILE APPEALING DEATH SENTENCE ON FIRST OFFENSE

LONDON, July 24 (JTA)—Dr. Heinrich Spetter, the 55-year-old Bulgarian Jewish economist who was sentenced to death on May 31, was disclosed today to have been charged and tried in Sofia on July 17 for an alleged second offense while his appeal from the death sentence is pending. The appeal against the death sentence, for alleged espionage, will be heard in Sofia on Aug. 5. Information about the second trial has not reached the West.

Efforts to save the Jewish economist, which began as soon as the first sentence was imposed, are continuing. Observers here said the spying charge appears to be completely without foundation and that the circumstances of his arrest and first trial indicate a monstrous miscarriage of justice.

As a representative of Bulgaria on the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), he served for two years in New York and for five years in Vienna, to which UNIDO transferred his office. During his Vienna tour of duty, he visited Israel for the first time in 1972. It was reported that the spy charges were developed from that visit.

Charged With Currency Offense

Before his return to Bulgaria at the end of 1972, he received a \$5000 prize from UNIDO. There are letters showing he planned to use the award money to buy an apartment in Sofia but he was nevertheless charged with a currency offense, for which he was tried July 17. Amnesty International's secretary general Martin Ennals, has appealed to Todor Zhivkov, the Bulgarian head of state, to spare Dr. Spetter but no reply has been received. Dr. Spetter asserted his innocence throughout. He said "I am innocent" to a visitor who recently spoke to him in his jail cell.

The trial on the charge of espionage took place in the Sofia district court and lasted four days. Only Dr. Spetter's wife was admitted into the courtroom. The public was removed, and the public seats were occupied by 40 State security men.

Dr. Spetter was defended in court by a distinguished Bulgarian lawyer, the secretary of the lawyers' guild, and a member of the Communist Party—Velichko Ivanov. The defense attorney presented a powerful case, but the court took little notice of his arguments, convicted Dr. Spetter of espionage and sentenced him to death. Ivanov then appealed the conviction and sentence.

'LIMANS' IN THE NEGEV

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)—With the opening of a new road connecting BeerSheba and Beit Qama in the Negev, the Jewish National Fund is initiating the planting of eucalyptus trees using the system of "Limans." "Limans" are created at sites where water gathers after rains. A small dam is constructed there to keep the water from running off, compelling it to form a pool and in subsequent weeks to seep into the ground thereby enabling trees to subsist where they could not manage on rainfall alone. The eucalyptus trees are an integral part of Eretz Yisrael history. At the turn of the century halutzim used to dry swamps by planting eucalyptus trees and turning them into fertile land.

SOFIA (JTA)—The book, "The Envoy From Eilsnor," which traces the fight against the Nazis in occupied Bulgaria, has recently been published here.

