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RABIN REJECTS FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS; SAYS NEXT STEP MUST BE MOVES TOWARDS PEACE AGREEMENTS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin made it clear last night that the theme of his visit next month to Washington will be "no more disengagement agreements." Speaking to some 2000 Nahal members, Rabin declared: "The disengagement agreements between Israel, Egypt and Syria have been signed and there are no more disengagement agreements. The next stage is progress toward significant peace agreements."

At the same time, Rabin did not rule out the possibility of war. "If we have to go to war, one should know that we do so only because our peaceful intentions were not met by our neighbors," he said. The Premier noted that the peace Arab leaders talk about in their visits abroad is not the same kind of peace Israel is willing to accept.

Rabin's speech was interpreted here as a clear message to the United States that Israel is determined not to join American and Jordanian efforts for disengagement talks between Israel and Jordan prior to an overall Mideast settlement or prior to the continued negotiations with Egypt and Syria. Israel did announce in the past that she was ready for a partial settlement with Jordan, but this did not mean, it is stressed here, that she would agree for a one-sided Israeli withdrawal.

Officials in Jerusalem also expressed reservations over the way Washington announced the date of Rabin's visit to the U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger made his announcement at a press conference yesterday without first receiving Israel's reply to the proposed date. Rabin will meet with President Ford before Egyptian President Anwar Sadat does. Israel would prefer that Sadat go to Washington first. However, it was said here, since Ford wants to see Rabin in Sept., the Premier will probably go there at that time.

(The State Department announced today that Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Kadam is due in Washington tomorrow and will hold talks with Kissinger Thursday and Friday.)

Kissinger Seen As Moving Too Fast

Political analysts in Israel explained that Kissinger seems to be in a hurry to deal with the Middle East, despite the current Cyprus crisis. Kissinger feels, according to some analysts, that the situation in the area is deteriorating and the best way to stabilize the present quiet is to accelerate the rate of meetings between Mideast leaders and himself. The Cyprus crisis and Ford's natural interest in quick successes is also interpreted as factors in Kissinger's wish to speed up the Mideast disengagement talks.

It is therefore believed here that Rabin will tell the new Administration that talks with Egypt should precede talks with Jordan since any progress in negotiations with Egypt may change the atmosphere between Israel and Jordan. In addition, continued negotiations with Egypt will postpone Israel's difficult decisions on the Palestin-

ians. It will also postpone fulfilling the Labor Party's promise to hold general elections as soon as the government will have to decide on giving up part of Judea or Samaria.

Opposition leaders, however, are not going to wait until Rabin goes to Washington to voice their opinion. They asked today for a special Knesset session on Sunday's joint American-Jordanian communique in which Ford and King Hussein agreed to work toward Israeli-Jordanian disengagement negotiations.

Rabin's speech last night at Zemah on Lake Tiberias, was to members of 17 Nahal groups, military units which spend part of their service time working in agricultural settlements. The youths cheered him calling him "Gingy," his nickname when he served in the Palmach.

ROCKEFELLER NOMINATED BY FORD AS VICE-PRESIDENT; FORMER NY GOVERNOR CONSIDERED FRIEND OF JEWISH PEOPLE AND STATE OF ISRAEL By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Former New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, nominated today by President Ford to be Vice-President, is considered a friend of the Jewish people and has long been firmly committed to the security and survival of Israel. At a White House press conference following his nomination, Rockefeller did not discuss international matters except to say that he looked forward to efforts "to face the tough realities in our country and in the world."

He told newsmen that protocol dictated that he not discuss issues before appearing before the Congressional committees which will conduct hearings on his nomination. Both the Senate and House must approve Ford's nomination of Rockefeller.

Rockefeller did not respond to a question as to whether he had discussed his nomination with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, widely considered to be a political protege of the 66-year-old former governor. Kissinger was for a long time an advisor on foreign affairs to Rockefeller, and since Ford's first act on becoming President was to announce that Kissinger would remain as Secretary of State, it is assumed that Ford and Rockefeller are in full agreement on U.S. foreign policy.

This would mean, observers noted, that Rockefeller can be expected to support fully the Administration's policy in negotiating a peace settlement in the Middle East on the lines currently being pursued by Kissinger and Ford. However, Rockefeller pointed out to newsmen that his role as Vice-President depends entirely on the President.

Supporter Of Jewish Causes

For the 15 years he was governor of New York prior to his resignation in Dec. 1973, Rockefeller received a great deal of support in his election bids from the Jewish community. He was a strong supporter of Jewish causes in New York and throughout the nation and a firm defender of Israel.

He was a long-time supporter of the United Jewish Appeal campaign in New York and was founder and first chairman of the Non-Sectarian Community Committee for the UJA in 1946-47. He assumed chairmanship of the committee again in 1958. He said of the committee's work at one time that it "demonstrated our conviction that all civilized men

shared the duty of redressing the outrage committed against the Jewish people." As governor, he was a frequent speaker at major UJA campaign functions and traditionally participated in the inaugural dinners.

At the end of World War II, Rockefeller was active in helping to relocate those in DP camps in Europe and supporting the establishment of the State of Israel. His support for the Jewish State has continued and he visited Israel several times, the latest in the summer of 1972. During the Six-Day War, Rockefeller declared that the U.S. "must support whatever action is necessary to maintain the integrity of Israel...to restore peace and to remove the long festering conditions of conflict that torment the Middle East."

Israel's Nationhood Must Be Recognized

In a speech on Israel's 20th anniversary in 1968, Rockefeller noted that "it is well to recall that during this 20-year period almost a million-and-a-half downtrodden people have found a haven and a home in Israel made up of survivors of the Holocaust and victims of oppression in many countries of the world." He said this was "the largest and finest example of humanitarian rescue in the history of mankind." Noting that the U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel as a State, Rockefeller said it continues its "interest in the growth and development of Israel as the only true example of democracy in the Middle East."

Rockefeller also stressed at the time that peace in the Mideast "still hinges on the acceptance of realities. Once Israel is accepted as a fact of life...then permanent peace can come...and that day when Israel's nationhood will be recognized by its neighbors must come as soon as possible...the United States should do everything in its power to advance that objective."

Speaking to the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce in May 1973, Rockefeller paid tribute to Israel's "triumph and courage over incredible obstacles," adding: "We are all deeply and understandably impressed by the courage of Israeli arms. But equally vital to Israel's survival has been her economic flowering over the past 25 years. She has become a humming, thriving workshop and a land of increasing plenty."

JEWISH LEADERS LAUD ROCKEFELLER

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Jewish leaders greeted with enthusiasm the nomination today of Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice-President. Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations told a press conference sponsored by his organization that Rockefeller has cordial and friendly relations with the American Jewish community and Israel, and expressed the hope that these would continue. Noting that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has worked with Rockefeller, Rabbi Miller expressed the view that a continuity of foreign policy is expected to be implemented by the Vice-President designate.

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in lauding the nomination, cited Rockefeller's "life-long support for the cause of Zionism," his "genuine understanding for Israel's needs," and "consistent and outstanding efforts to ensure Israel's welfare and security." Rabbi Sternstein expressed the hope that during Rockefeller's term as Vice-President, "the de facto alliance between our nation and Israel will be strengthened," and that the U.S. government "will continue to

insist that all Middle East negotiations must be based on the genuine intent of all parties concerned to seek real and lasting peace."

The nomination was also lauded by Agudath-Israel as "a wise step in helping bring the American nation together again." Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president, called the nominee "a man of unimpeachable integrity and endowed with a sense of goodwill towards all people." Citing Rockefeller's record as New York governor, the Orthodox Jewish leader added that the nominee "has a proven record of commitment to all causes dear to the heart of the Jewish community."

KENNAN ASSAILS USE OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION TO TACKLE PROBLEM OF THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA)--George F. Kennan, former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union and long a leading American expert on Soviet affairs, today attacked the use of congressional trade legislation to ease Soviet restrictions on emigration and specifically challenged any use of this method to help Soviet Jews in their efforts to emigrate. Kennan made his remarks before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While cautioning against pitfalls in Soviet-American trade relations, Kennan declared he has "no sympathy" for denying most favored nation treatment to the Soviet Union to bring about "an alteration" of Soviet policy "with respect to the emigration from Russia of its Jewish citizens." Such legislation, he said, is not a "suitable or desirable means of exercising pressure on another government."

He also found it "difficult" to understand why the U.S. should make "exit visas to Soviet citizens of Jewish origin the touchstone of our entire commercial policy towards that country." In this connection he questioned "why we should suddenly" now make it a "major issue" when Soviet practice, "especially with relation to Jews is greatly more liberal than it has been for decades in the past."

Troubled By Focus On Jews

Kennan said he was "troubled by the fact that the pressures we are urged to exert appear to relate specifically to people of one single ethnic-religious background. I am sure that we do not wish to convey the impression that our concern for persons restricted in the freedom to leave their country of origin is in some way racially conditioned, and that the treatment of others than Jews in this respect would leave us indifferent."

The Jackson Amendment to the trade bill pending in the Senate does not mention "Jew" or "Jewish" in any aspect. It specifically refers to all Soviet citizens. However, comments on the Jackson Amendment, usually refer to Jewish emigration even though Sen. Henry Jackson (D.Wash.) himself, in speeches, has pointed out the legislation bearing his name is intended to help any Soviet citizen to emigrate without harassment.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who was to have testified three weeks ago on this and other elements of Soviet-American detente, is still expected to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the near future. Jackson also is expected to testify in what is described as a "debate on detente." * * *

NEW YORK (JTA)--The United States has agreed to provide Egypt with \$16.5 million in wheat on a low interest, long-term basis. The agreement is seen as the latest in American efforts to improve relations with Egypt.

**PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE LEADER
CRITICAL OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, indicated today his dissatisfaction with recent developments in America's Mideast policy. Addressing a press conference, Rabbi Miller said that he has feelings of "malaise" and "uneasiness" over U.S. policy in the Mideast, especially about the way it has been developing since the beginning of this month.

Citing the use of the term "disengagement" in President Ford's and King Hussein's communique Sunday which promised early action toward an agreement between Israel and Jordan, Rabbi Miller said it was the wrong word to use. He also expressed anxiety about the manner in which Hussein and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy were received in Washington. There were indications that the U.S. is being "too friendly" to the Arabs, Rabbi Miller said, noting that American statements after the meetings with the two Arab leaders went "beyond good friendship."

Rabbi Miller said, however, that he "takes Kissinger at his word" and believes his statement that the U.S. won't decide on further steps in the Mideast until talks have been held with all representatives for the area. But Rabbi Miller did not exclude a situation in the future in which his organization would have to undertake a campaign against U.S. policy in the Mideast.

But, Rabbi Miller emphasized, "the Presidents Conference has not noticed any shift in U.S. policy" in regard to Israel and any campaign at this time against U.S. policy in the Mideast "might not be merited and even harmful." The only differences with Kissinger, he said, is that "we do not accept his assumption that war will be catastrophic for Israel. There are no differences on actions that have been taken up to date."

Lessons Of Cyprus Crisis

Referring to lessons of the Cyprus crisis and its implications for Israel, Rabbi Miller pointed out that events in the war-torn island have shown "the impotence of the UN" and the fact that "the U.S. is not omnipotent."

"It causes us concern," he said, pointing out that the mystique of Kissinger has worn off and that the nation with military power presents facts--as Turkey has done--and the world accepts it. The lesson of Cyprus is that the U.S. has to strengthen Israel militarily, economically and diplomatically, Rabbi Miller said. He also expressed concern over the massive supply of Soviet arms to Syria.

On the issue of Soviet Jewry emigration, Rabbi Miller reiterated that "substantial progress" has been achieved. Although he declined to give details on the progress made in discussions between Kissinger and Senators Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), Jacob K. Javits (R.N.Y.) and Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.), Rabbi Miller noted that much of those discussions are centered around the definition of "harassment" and on what happens to Jews in the Soviet Union after they apply for exit visas.

"We told them we are interested in free emigration," Rabbi Miller said, commenting on the Presidents Conference's part in the discussions conducted by the Senators. "The only res-

triction on emigration that we accept is 'for security reasons,' which also should be defined," he said.

**BARMORE PREVENTED FROM COMPLETING
PRESENTATION REGARDING THE PLIGHT
OF SYRIAN AND SOVIET JEWS**

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 20 (JTA)--A statement by Ambassador Jacob Barmore, Israel's observer to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, could not be completed today when the meeting refused to grant him "one or two" more minutes to complete his statement. Speaking about the plight of Soviet Jewry and the persecution of Syrian Jewry, the Israeli diplomat was interrupted many times by the Soviet and Arab representatives. Israel is not a member of the sub-committee. Rudolph Carter, of the U.S. Mission, also objected that Barmore's time could not be extended because only a certain time had been allotted for observers.

Israel was sharply attacked after Barmore's statement by the Arab and Soviet representatives. Egypt called Israel a "cancer in the Mideast" and said a day would come when "Israel will pay" the Arabs for all it has taken from them. The Soviet Union said that Israel talks about the plight of Syrian Jewry to avert attention from its treatment of Arabs in the occupied territories. Barmore was not granted a right to answer.

During his presentation on the plight of Syrian Jewry, Barmore said: "The Jewish community of Syria, now numbering about 4500, has, for many years, been victim of humiliating persecution and oppression in every sphere of life. Discriminatory restrictions, arbitrary arrests, tortures and even mysterious murders all make the existence of members of this beleaguered community unbearable. But above all these helpless people have been held for years as virtual hostages deprived of their fundamental rights to depart from Syria."

Discussing the plight of Soviet Jews, Barmore observed: "The harassment and intimidation of Jews in the USSR seeking to apply for exit visas, continues and indeed has been intensified and those with a higher education its special target." The Israeli Ambassador declared that "in spite of the elaborate procedure of intimidation, more than 138,000 applicants await their permits." He added, "There are at least 1500 Soviet Jews whose applications to leave the Soviet Union for Israel have been continuously rejected and the applicants have been subjected to repeated harassment."

ISRAEL'S EURO-MARKET TIES STUDIED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told seven Israeli ambassadors today that Israel would make a special effort to improve relations with Europe. He said there were good prospects to achieve that improvement. Allon spoke at the beginning of a three-day seminar by the Foreign Ministry senior staff discussing Israel's relations with Europe.

Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz told the seminar that the trade deficit between Israel and Europe would be this year some IL 1.5 billion compared to IL 1 billion last year. He called on the ambassadors to examine the possibilities of bridging the growing gap between Israel's export and import with Europe.

Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Zanbar called for minimizing dependence of Israel's economy on foreign countries. The seven envoys will meet with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Defense Minister Shimon Peres, and military intelligence chief Shlomo Gazit for further discussions on this topic.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES CRACKS IN THE LIKUD BLOC

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Likud bloc last week ended a series of lengthy discussions on its policy platforms on the crucial issues of defense and foreign policy. The discussions were held in the hope of galvanizing the different groupings of Likud into a more united and harmonious whole. However they only broadened and deepened the cracks that have been in evidence for some time between the various factions and within the factions themselves.

After the first of the discussion sessions, where widely divergent views were voiced and the divergencies were immediately highlighted in the press, Likud leader Menachem Begin gave orders that the subsequent sessions were to be held in utter secrecy. But enough has leaked out from the later sessions, too, to show that Likud faces real dangers of splitting at the seams as the "moment of truth" approaches: the moment when Israel will open its long-delayed dialogue with Jordan on the future of the West Bank.

Ariel Sharon, architect of the Likud, pleaded at the final discussion session for unity. He urged the "hawks" to marshal all their persuasive powers in an effort to convince the "doves" of the error of their ways. The Rabin government was weak, parliamentarily, and, therefore, morally, Sharon declared. It would not dare offer King Hussein concessions if the Likud--forcefully and unitedly--opposed any such concessions.

Sharon in his views on "the integrity of the land of Israel" is every bit as uncompromising as Begin and his Herut stalwarts (barring Knesseter and ex-Justice Minister Binyamin Halevy whose declared support for a territorial compromise and a deal with the Palestinians make him a lone maverick in the Herut ranks). But Sharon by no means typifies in this the rank-and-file of his own Liberal Party.

Differences Reported in Other Factions

Last week, a political reporter in Maariv attributed a detailed and markedly dovish (by Likud standards) plan for a "functional settlement" of the West Bank issue with Jordan to Liberal leader Elimelech Rimalt. Rimalt was said to advocate a Zahal presence and unlimited settlement rights for Jews throughout the West Bank--but alongside this Jordanian civil administration and Jordanian citizenship for those West Bankers who wished it. This, however, is hardly an idea which Begin could embrace, since Begin and Herut demand the outright annexation of the whole West Bank by Israel.

The divisions over fundamental policy, coming on top of personality differences, threaten to break apart the four-man Free Center faction which is part of Likud. Its chairman, Shmuel Tamir, long-time political adversary of Begin, insisted during the discussion sessions that the Yom Kippur War had changed a great deal and Likud must redraft its policies--with a view to compromises--to accommodate these changed circumstances.

Tamir is backed by one Free Center Knesseter Akiva Nof, while the other two, Eliezer Shostak and Ehud Olmert favor a more orthodox Herut-leaning line. Differences in tone and stress were evident, too, in the speeches of the four-man State List faction at the Likud parleys.

There were rumors this week, too, of Liberal Party-inspired overtures to Premier Yitzhak Rabin to head for a unity government. Herut lead-

ers, including Begin, vociferously opposed the idea. But certain Liberal Knesseters are understood to have suggested to their Labor Party friends that Rabin could well bring in the whole Likud now, and when the crunch with Jordan came, some, like Herut, would leave again while others, like many Liberals, or like Tamir, would stay in.

A lot of these calculations are still in the realm of speculation rather than reality. A lot will depend on Hussein and how he reacts to Israel's various proposals. But the discussions which were intended to plaster over cracks in Likud seem to have succeeded in widening them.

JACKSON URGED TO DEMAND 'MINIMUM PROGRAM' FROM USSR IN NEGOTIATING TRADE BILL BETWEEN U.S. AND RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--Prof. Alexander Lutz, a well-known Soviet mathematician and one of the major Jewish activists, has urged Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) to insist on "minimum demands" to which the Soviet Union must agree in current negotiations on U.S.-USSR trade, according to the text of a letter from Prof. Lutz to Jackson released today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The "minimum demands" include 50,000 exit visas annually, the cessation of the continual harassment of visa applicants, the lifting of refusals on the grounds of so-called security, and the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience.

Prof. Lutz noted in his letter to Jackson: "Our hopes to live as a free people in our homeland (Israel) have been ignited by the continuous and sensitive support you and your colleagues have shown our cause. It is for that reason that we wish to express to you our concern at the present time. Our friends have informed us that the Soviet government may wish to enter into a new stage of negotiations and compromise with your government. We welcome such negotiations, and believe that minimum demands (should be made)."

Continuing, Prof. Lutz told Jackson: "You must also remember a matter which is very important. We fear for the future of all Soviet Jews--including those who have not applied for exit permits. We are witnessing the last generation of educated Jews in the USSR. The numbers of Jews accepted in Soviet universities has dropped drastically. For example, 20 years ago 30 percent of the mathematics department of Moscow University was Jewish. Today the figure is one-half of one percent. The number of Soviet Jews given job advancement has lessened radically.

"Jews living in remote areas are in a state of terror, fearing not only poor employment but deportation to the east. Mass deportation, perhaps beginning with a shift of areas of employment for Jews, could become a tactic in the Soviet government's campaign against us. Remember this in your agreement with the Soviet government."

URGE SPETTER'S SENTENCE BE COMMUTED

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today urged Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov to commute the death sentence of Dr. Heinrich Spetter, a Jewish economist charged with espionage. In a cable sent to Zhivkov, Rabbi Israel Miller, Presidents Conference chairman, said: "We appeal for the commutation of the death sentence imposed upon Dr. Heinrich Spetter on humanitarian grounds. We appeal for clemency on his behalf. We join other organizations and individuals throughout the world in the fervent hope that you will commute the sentence on the forthcoming Day of Freedom to be celebrated on Sept. 9."