



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

© 1975, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Friday, February 7, 1975

No. 27

RABIN: STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY 'BEST AND MOST REALISTIC METHOD' OF MOVING TO MIDEAST PEACE ACCORD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin said last night that Israel fully supports Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's step-by-step approach as the "best and most realistic method" of making progress toward a settlement of the Middle East conflict. Although he conceded that the method had its dangers, he maintained in an address before 500 delegates attending the Sixth Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress here that other methods were fraught with even greater dangers and the most dangerous of all was to do nothing.

Rabin said that Israel would question Kissinger, who is due here early next week, as to the significance of recent public statements by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that neither Egypt nor Syria are planning to attack Israel. Sadat made that pledge before a group of influential Egyptians in Cairo and at a press conference in Paris during his recent state visit to France. He said he could confidently speak for the Damascus regime because Egypt and Syria have a joint military command.

Rabin suggested last night that if Sadat is indeed sincere, his pledge not to attack Israel should be incorporated into a formal written agreement with Israel. If Sadat did this, it would represent "a new opening...a great chance" for progress toward a full peace settlement in the Middle East, the Premier said. He added that if Sadat was being less than honest, it was well to expose him. But if he was sincere, he could prove it by his willingness to embody a no-attack pledge in a partial settlement which Kissinger will attempt to advance on his Mideast visit.

Seen As Assurance To Kissinger

The Premier's affirmation that Israel adheres to Kissinger's step-by-step approach was viewed by observers as intended to assure the Secretary of State in advance of his arrival here, that Israel will cooperate. Rabin apparently considered this necessary in view of the publicly expressed doubts by leading personalities of the efficacy of Kissinger's method.

The step-by-step approach was questioned by Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC, at a press conference before the opening of the Plenary Assembly, and by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban in a French newspaper interview. Both Goldmann and Eban spoke openly in favor of resuming the Geneva peace conference. A similar view has been hinted by Rabin's Defense Minister, Shimon Peres, though the latter still supports the government's line favoring the step-by-step method.

The Premier stated last night that this was "in practice" the policy of his government and he vigorously defended it. He said that if Kissinger's efforts failed, there would be no alternative but to go to Geneva. Nevertheless, by supporting the American approach, even if it failed eventually, Israel would re-enforce its relations with Washington and the military strengthening of Israel would continue. Israel would know

that it had sincerely and energetically explored the most promising avenue to an accord with Egypt, Rabin said. He described Egypt as the prime mover in the Arab world, the nation that launched every Mideast war in the past and concluded every war.

Pressure, Not Peace Conference

"My assessment," Rabin said, "is that the 'peace conference' which (Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei) Gromyko and Syria's (President Hafez) Assad refer to at Geneva would be a pressure conference rather than a peace conference--a pressure conference at which the Arabs and the Soviets with the political support of many other nations--would force Israel, and perhaps the U.S. too, into a solution that would not bring peace."

On the other hand, Rabin said, Israel does not fear Geneva and, if necessary, it will go there and boldly make its claims for peace and state its negotiating position on territories. Rabin added that he was convinced that the majority of Israelis would agree to far-reaching territorial concessions if the government could present them with a practical and tangible chance of peace with any of its neighbors in exchange for ceded territories.

The key to the future of the Mideast conflict "in my personal view" lies in relations between Israel and Egypt, the Premier said. If Egypt's leaders decide to look to their own people's interests rather than aim for elusive hegemony in the Arab world, then there will be a basis for negotiations, Rabin said.

KISSINGER TO VISIT 5 MIDEAST NATIONS FOR WHAT HE TERMS 'EXPLORATION'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger will leave Washington Sunday on a nine-day trip to visit leaders of five Middle East countries, three in Western Europe and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva in-between. "My trip to the Middle East is one of exploration," Kissinger told newsmen last night. "I don't expect to settle anything on this trip."

The joint announcement in Moscow and in Washington said that Kissinger and Gromyko would confer in Geneva Feb. 16-17 to exchange views on "matters of mutual interest." It was understood here that the principal purpose of the meeting is to bring about a closer understanding of the positions of the two superpowers in the Middle East. Gromyko has just completed a visit to Syria, Iraq and Egypt and was reported to have agreed to resumption of arms shipments to Egypt.

According to reliable sources here, Kissinger, accompanied by his wife, will be in Tel Aviv Monday and Tuesday and then fly to Cairo for a day. On Feb. 13 he will be in Damascus and return to Israel the same day for further consultations.

Based on his consultations with the Syrian and Egyptian leaders on another step in the Israeli withdrawal from Arab areas, Kissinger will meet with King Hussein of Jordan on Feb. 14 and with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia on Feb. 15. The stops will be followed by Kissinger's stopover in Bonn for talks with West German leaders and then he will go to Geneva for the discussions with Gromyko.

PERCY TIES OIL PRICES TO OUTCOME OF MIDEAST PEACE MOVES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Sen. Charles Percy (R., Ill.) said yesterday that "the outcome of peace initiatives in the Middle East will have a dramatic effect on our future access to Arab oil and the price we pay for it." He said he was more "convinced than ever that efforts to improve our economy and seek peace in the Middle East are closely linked."

Percy, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made his remarks in a speech before the United States League of Savings Associations. He said the threats of a new war in the Middle East "make it even more urgent that we forge a sensible economy and energy plan in the United States and move toward a mood of cooperation between the oil consuming and oil producing nations."

Percy's linkage of the two major problems of the Middle East--the Arab-Israeli conflict and the oil squeeze--was expected to be disputed in circles, including American supporters of Israel, who have always insisted that the price of oil was unrelated to a settlement of the Middle East dispute.

Percy is already under heavy fire from some American-Jewish leaders for his recent statements that Israel must be more conciliatory toward the Arabs, that it should return to substantially the same borders that existed before the June, 1967 war and that it would have to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization whose chief, Yasser Arafat, was described by the Senator as a "relative moderate."

Report Ford In General Accord With Percy

Jewish leaders have charged that those remarks by Percy, and his blunt warning that Israel could no longer count on total support of the U.S. Congress "right or wrong," would undercut Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger who is going to the Middle East next week by creating an impression that the U.S. already has predetermined its position on the issues to be taken up by the negotiating parties.

But other sources here have indicated that President Ford essentially agrees with the position stated by Percy though not necessarily with all of his points. These sources say that Administration officials indicate that the President believes Percy's remarks will strengthen Kissinger's mission. At least one observer has suggested that the Ford Administration may, in fact, have inspired the Senator's recent controversial remarks as a sort of "trial balloon."

ARTISTS, WRITERS URGE UNESCO TO RESCIND ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A delegation of artists and writers met here today with the top UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) aide now in the U.S. to ask that recent anti-Israel resolutions of the cultural agency be rescinded or risk total non-cooperation from the world's intellectual community. The delegation included James Michener, Arthur Miller, Colleen Dewhurst, Julie Harris and Anna Strasberg (Mrs. Lee Strasberg). They presented a letter to John Fobes, the Deputy Director-General, to be transmitted to Amadou M. M'Bow, Director-General in Paris.

The letter said: "We cannot be silent in the face of the blatant subversion of UNESCO's principles and purposes by politically motivated res-

olutions aimed at transforming Israel into a veritable pariah in the world community." It pointed out that UNESCO's own experts have labeled as "patently false accusations made in the resolution that the excavations (in Jerusalem) constitute a danger to historical monuments." A second resolution "denying Israel membership in the European regional group virtually places the Jewish State in a kind of international limbo."

The letter concluded: "We vigorously protest these General Conference resolutions which have shocked mankind's intellectual community and demand that they be rescinded. Should such action not be forthcoming, our conscience demands that we shall under no circumstances cooperate with an institution whose purposes have been grossly perverted, and we shall call upon our colleagues throughout the world to follow the same course."

Paris Protest Action Planned

At a press conference held after the meeting, Miller, who headed the delegation, warned that UNESCO's anti-Israel action will ultimately result in "the unraveling" of that organization and other international organizations concerned with culture. He said that politics must be separated from culture, adding that UNESCO was founded on the belief that "human culture is universal" and that the anti-Israel decision of the organization deviated from that rule.

Michener said that UNESCO's charter was "perverted for cheap political reasons." He disclosed that in the near future a meeting of intellectuals and world "luminaries" from 43 countries will take place in Paris to protest and take action against UNESCO's decisions concerning Israel. According to the members of the delegation, Fobes promised to forward their letter and protest to M'Bow.

DAYAN AND EBAN TO PROMOTE ALIYA

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Former Israeli Cabinet Ministers Moshe Dayan and Abba Eban will highlight the upcoming aliya drive scheduled to begin in the U.S. and Canada Feb. 25 and which will continue until March 25. Israel's outgoing Ambassador Yosef Tekoah will also be among the speakers during "Aliya Month." The goal set by the World Zionist Organization is to double Israel's Jewish population within 25 years, with the hope that 25,000 people from the U.S. and Canada will immigrate to Israel per year. In a letter addressed to Pinhas Sapir, WZO chairman, Israel's Premier Yitzhak Rabin said:

"Aliya is the lifeblood of the Jewish State. The story of the rebirth and building of Israel is, in essence, the story of aliya. Western immigration is one of its chapters. It must be made a larger one because of what immigrants from the West can contribute to Israel and because of what Israel can contribute to them. Aliya was never an easy act. But to any Jew, conscious of his heritage and faith, and sensitive to the major Jewish responsibilities of our times, it is the ultimate challenge. With each passing year, the centrality of Israel to Jewish life and the universality of Jewish responsibility towards it became ever more self-evident. In the end, the strength and peace of Israel, and hence of the Jewish world, depend upon the growth of Israel and the quality of its life."

Over 3000 meetings will be conducted during "Aliya Month" by the regional Israel Aliya Centers in the U.S. and Canada. Every major Jewish organization and all three religious movements, have already pledged their cooperation with the centers during "Aliya Month."

**CONGRESS NOT EXPECTED TO RENEW
ACTION ON BEHALF OF SYRIAN JEWS
DURING DELICATE MIDEAST TALKS**
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Congress is expected to heed the Ford Administration's urgent request not to renew action at this time on behalf of the 4000 persecuted Syrian Jews and block the State Department's intention to grant \$26 million to the Syrian government to help the U.S. peace-making effort.

In the foreign aid legislation adopted by the Congress in December and signed into law by President Ford, the Administration was prohibited from granting Syria any part of the \$100 million fund for special Middle East requirements without giving the Congress the prerogative of barring it.

Under the law, the State Department must inform the Congress of its intention. With Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger returning to the Middle East next week in his step-by-step negotiating between Israel and the Arab states, the State Department wanted to grant the gift without having to insist that Syria end its harassment of Jewish citizens.

Being Quiet For The Moment

Capitol Hill sources said that top Administration officials, including at least one of Kissinger's foremost lieutenants, asked key Congressmen not to raise the Jewish issue at least for this one time, noting Syria is a key country in the on-going negotiations effort.

"We're swallowing hard and being quiet for the moment," a key Congressional source sympathetic to the Syrian Jews told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "We had hoped our legislation would be a signal to the Syrian government and the State Department to help those people who have 'Jew' stamped in red on their identification cards. But we don't know if the State Department has really done anything to help one of the world's most oppressed peoples."

"If the twenty-five million dollars can help the negotiations for peace--and we are told Kissinger thinks it will--we'll shut up for a little while," another source said. "The State Department always makes the argument of quiet diplomacy and in this case pointed out what the Jackson-Vanik amendment has done for Soviet emigration."

**CENTRAL PLACE MUST BE FOUND FOR
ISRAEL IN LIFE OF YOUNG JEWS**

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Mordechai Bar-On, director of the World Zionist Organization's youth department, said today that "a central place" must be found for Israel in the lives of young Jews all over the world and that their ultimate identification with Israel must be aliya. Speaking at a session of the World Jewish Congress Sixth Plenary Assembly devoted to the problems of Jewish youth, Bar-On said, "Although I am not very optimistic, I nevertheless believe that in the long run we will be able to save many of our youth, and as a result embark upon a new era in Jewish life."

He said that "in recent years there has been a revival of interest in Israel among Jewish youth that manifested itself in the large numbers of young Jewish visitors" to Israel. Dr. Paul Warszawski, of Argentina, assistant director of the Latin American Jewish Congress, analyzed the factors which he said alienated Jewish youth from the Jewish community. He singled out the

"extremely high degree of intolerance toward new, or merely different ideas by the Jewish communal establishment which has set very narrow limits for dissent."

The debate on youth problems was held against the background of growing concern by the WJC of the future identification of young Jews with Jewish life. For the first time, youth delegates have been invited to attend a WJC Plenary Assembly. The young delegates make up about ten percent of the participating delegates.

Soviet Jews Appeal To WJC

At another session of the Plenary Assembly, two letters from Jews in the Soviet Union were read. One urged the WJC to continue its efforts on behalf of the struggle of Soviet Jews to emigrate. The other sought the organization's help to improve the absorption process in Israel.

A letter signed by 150 Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Vilna, Riga and Kiev said: "We would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the willingness of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel depends directly on their successful absorption. We think therefore that this problem of absorption must become the concern of world Jewry as a whole and we would like to ask the WJC to take the necessary steps accordingly."

The other letter, from five Leningrad Jews said they were aware of "the great and careful attention which the WJC pays to the problems of aliya, and especially aliya from countries where there are obstacles in the way of its Jews' repatriation." The writers expressed "Our hope that the WJC's efforts on this matter will not weaken."

FUTURE WJC TASKS OUTLINED

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Dr. Gerhart Riegner, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, said today that the organization's future tasks included building relations with Third World countries that have no Jewish populations and therefore, no understanding of the history and aspirations of the Jewish people. He also urged further development of relations with Christian churches and preliminary steps toward the initiation of similar talks with the Moslem authorities.

Dr. Riegner, speaking at an afternoon session of the WJC's Sixth Plenary Assembly, said the most important tasks ahead were to strengthen Jewish solidarity with Israel by arresting the apparent "inward turning" of diaspora Jewry; to broaden Israeli representation in the WJC--hitherto on a party basis--by adding to it individual academicians, intellectuals, trade unionists, students and other groups. He said that throughout the world, the WJC must continue to safeguard the rights of Jews wherever they live, with emphasis on the Soviet Union and the Arab countries.

Dr. Riegner said that the basic ideology of the WJC--that of the unity of the Jewish people and the necessity for joint action on common problems--was now universally accepted by the Jewish world; that regular contacts have been developed or maintained by the WJC with many governments and influential political personalities and groups; and that the WJC's role as one of the leaders in the world of non-governmental international organizations, has won increasing recognition in recent years.

BONN (JTA)--The West German National Olympics Committee rejected any idea of staging the 1976 Olympics Games in Munich, should Montreal be unable to do so. The West German NOC president, Willi Daume, said costs and security problems presented obstacles.

**PLAN WASHINGTON PROTEST AGAINST
TRANSFER OF MICHIGAN BANK'S
CONTROLLING INTEREST TO SAUDI ARABIA**
By Philip Blomovitz

DETROIT, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Concerned citizens are raising the Commonwealth Bank issue in Washington to prevent transfer of the bank's controlling interest to a non-citizen from Saudi Arabia. Max M. Fisher declared on Tuesday that he views the developing banking situation as menacing to this country. In a telephone statement to the Jewish News Tuesday from Florida, he declared that he "will not rest in his efforts to protect the American system."

Fisher emphasized that he considered it seriously menacing for the control of an American bank to fall into the hands of an Arab. He said it is inconceivable for an American community to permit Arabs who prevent Americans from conducting industrial enterprises in their countries to gain the control of important institutions in this country. Fisher declared that the move to invade the banking system of America and to gain control of financial institutions should be prevented at all costs. He said that he intends to appeal to members of Congress and authorities in Washington not to permit the takeover.

Saudi Arabian control of the Bank of the Commonwealth and the shock it has created in the Jewish community has developed into one of the most disturbing experiences for many in this community. Sharing the views of Fisher that it is an American and not a Jewish issue, the attainment of power by oil-rich Arabs in American financial and industrial enterprises is being viewed as menacing to this country's economy, and the controlling interest by a Saudi Arabian in a leading American bank has another important connotation.

Jews have been barred from Saudi Arabia. Jewish members of the U.S. military forces have never been admitted to that country. It was only when the five Jewish members of the press corps that accompanied Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on his first visit to Saudi Arabia resisted being barred from admission with him and their fellow correspondents that Jews were able to enter Saudi Arabia.

Withdrawals By Jewish Depositors

The Jewish members of the board of Commonwealth Bank--David Pollack and Alwyn Freeman--have not yet acted to express their protest against the sale of controlling stock in the bank to an Arab. But scores of Jewish depositors have withdrawn their funds. Freeman's brother-in-law, Royal Oppenheim, and their families have been equally involved in Commonwealth. While Freeman's attitude is not known, local bankers who have applauded the deal by Commonwealth with an Arab expressed the belief that he will remain on the bank's board.

Pollack is deeply concerned over what has transpired. Biding his time, because of the many involved problems confronting Detroit and because the FDIC is not expected to act on the Commonwealth deal for possibly 120 days, he said that he will formulate his attitude a bit later, possibly at the Commonwealth board meeting on Feb. 27.

Pollack said on Tuesday that he is seriously concerned over what is happening, that he is not treating the matter lightly and that he is weighing the situation carefully. "It is for me, as it is for many others, a matter of American prestige, and I shall treat it as such," Pollack said. "And my

self-respect as a Jew inevitably adds to my viewing the situation in all its gravity." Freeman's father, the late Alexander Freeman, at one time was president of the bank and its majority stockholder. For many Jews the bank was among the most respected financial institutions.

Menacing Symptom For U.S.

News of the sale of the controlling interest in Commonwealth was to have been announced on Monday. But on Friday a concerned citizen alerted the newspapers about the impending sale and the secret leaked that night. Apparently the plan to withhold the news for a few days, until a formal announcement of the sale of the controlling stock, was to prevent a rush of withdrawals. The rush started, however, on the morning after the leak of the news in the several branches that are open on Saturdays.

The Jewish War Veterans of Michigan unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by the JWV's 34 posts in the state, condemning the sale of stock to an Arab and charging it to be a menacing symptom for America. They emphasized their protest as Americans and they saw in the development a danger to the American industrial community.

Attorney Jack Kraizman and his son Sidney asked for an injunction in Wayne County Circuit Court to block the sale, because it circumvents federal laws which prevent foreign nationals from sitting on the boards of American banks. Judge Richard D. Dunn ordered a hearing, which will be heard on Monday before Judge George T. Martin. Gaith Pharaon, who is purchasing the stock from the Richard Barnes family, was questioned by Allan Sloan, Detroit Free Press financial writer, about Saudi Arabian participation in the Arab boycott against Israel, and the Saudi policy of barring Jews from entering their country.

Pharaon replied that he was not involved in government affairs and that the exclusion of Jews was a government action. But it had been stated that Pharaon's father was one of King Faisal's closest advisors. Sloan was also told by Pharaon that he saw no reason why Jews should be concerned, since Mobil Oil does business in Saudi Arabia and there are Jewish members of the board of Mobil.

Pharaon's claim that Mobil Oil has Jewish directors was not substantiated. Knowledgeable sources said Tuesday that Mobil has no Jewish affiliates at all. Henry Ford II, who attended a reception and dinner for Pharaon at the Detroit Club Monday night, said the Ford Motor Co. will continue to do business in Israel despite Saudi Arabia's anti-Jewish boycott against firms doing business in Israel. Sources here are beginning to believe that the Commonwealth purchase will not generate a large infusion of Arab oil money in Detroit. They say that Pharaon has eight years to pay for the Barnes stock.

ONE OF THE QUINTS DIES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--One of the quintuplets born to Tova and Moshe Medina of Sderot last December died yesterday at Hadassah Hospital of a digestive ailment. The infant, a boy, was the smallest of the five. The others are still in hospital incubators. Their condition is reported to be satisfactory. Meanwhile, the Medinas, who were childless before their quintuplets were born, have returned to Sderot, a new development town, where the authorities have placed a large apartment at their disposal.

There will be no Bulletin dated February 17 due to Washington's birthday, a postal holiday.