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RABIN DISCLOSES ISRAEL OFFERED TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH EGYPTIAN LEADERS WHILE TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS By Yitzhak Shargal

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin disclosed today that an Israeli offer to meet directly with Egyptian leaders was conveyed to Egypt by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger while negotiations were still in progress for a second-stage Sinai agreement. But the Egyptians rejected such a meeting, Rabin said in interviews published in Maariv and Yediot Achronot.

The Premier also said that he continued to have faith in the basic soundness of relations between Israel and the United States despite the understandable disappointment in Washington over the failure of Kissinger's mediation efforts and President Ford's order for a reassessment of American policy in the Mideast.

Rabin said he had proposed a direct meeting with the Egyptians because Israel regards it as the most efficient way to achieve a settlement acceptable to both sides. He said that in Israel's view, what cannot be achieved before the Geneva peace conference is not likely to be achieved at Geneva.

Dim View Of Geneva Conference

Two other Israeli leaders took a dim view of the Geneva conference. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told a Labor Party meeting last night that he thought the chances of success at Geneva were less than the possible chances under Kissinger's step-by-step approach. "There may be a setback there (at Geneva) even more serious than in the Kissinger talks," he said. "At Geneva, with the composition of that meeting, do you think there are better chances?" he asked. Nevertheless, he said Israel would go to Geneva and make very careful preparations in advance.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres said if the Geneva conference is reconvened, Israel would face pressure from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. He said Israel would use the Geneva conference to determine whether the Arabs are prepared for a full peace settlement. "When the Arabs say yes, then we can talk things through to the end," Peres said. He observed that there are two stages to the peace process--the disengagement stage where the Arabs talked about territory and the Geneva stage where it will be Israel's turn to talk about a political settlement.

Israeli Proposals Rejected

Rabin also disclosed in his interview that Israel had proposed that both it and Egypt reduce their military forces in an effort to diminish the danger of war. He said that Israel offered to shorten the period of compulsory military service from three years to 30 months if the Egyptians pared down their armed forces. This and other Israeli proposals aimed at reducing the chance of war were rejected by Egypt, the Premier said.

Referring to relations with the U.S., Rabin said Washington's disappointment over the failure of Kissinger's mediation efforts was not un-

expected. He said that at this stage, President Ford's statements indicate that the U.S. is reassessing the Middle East situation. When this reassessment is completed, we shall hear about it, Rabin said, adding that "I do believe in the sound basis of relations between the two governments."

He said that during the negotiations conducted by Kissinger, Israel had indicated its willingness to talk peace with both Syria and Jordan as well as Egypt. In the case of Syria, he said, because of the hostile attitude in Damascus and the geographical position, any agreement must be a direct transformation from the state of war to peace with no interim agreements. He said that he was confident that Israel was strong enough to defeat its enemies in the event of a new war.

RABIN SAYS HE PLANS NO VISIT TO U.S. IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin today dampened speculation that he might soon visit Washington as part of a massive fence-mending operation that Israel plans in the wake of the failure of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's mediation efforts. In an interview in Yediot Achronot, Rabin indicated that he contemplated no visit in the immediate future. Meetings between U.S. Presidents and Israeli Premiers always involve careful preparations, Rabin said.

Well placed officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a visit by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon is also not on the cards at least for the immediate future. Both in Washington and in Jerusalem a fundamental reassessment of aims and policy has gotten under way and future developments will hinge on the results of these separate deliberations, the JTA was told.

In the Foreign Ministry here a top-level team of officials has been set up by the Minister to study the options, while the inter-departmental "think tank" established by Rabin in advance of the "shuttle" is expected to prepare policy papers in advance of the probable resumption of the Geneva conference. A good deal of pre-conference preparatory work was done at the end of 1973 and early in 1974 when it was thought that the conference opening in December 1973 would be followed closely by working sessions.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA)--Israeli leaders indicated today that it was too early to assess the repercussions of King Faisal's assassination in Riyadh yesterday on future developments in the Middle East. But they indicated that from Israel's point of view, Faisal's successor, King Khalid, could be no more extreme than the late monarch. Premier Yitzhak Rabin remarked today that political assassination was not an infrequent occurrence in the Middle East and was just one more problem Israel had to contend with in trying to reach a settlement with its Arab neighbors.

King Faisal's death is certainly a factor that weighs on Israel when it considers diplomatic negotiations and accords, officials here said. They noted there might be room for hope that the new situation in Saudi Arabia would moderate that

**JACKSON CRITICAL OF 'HINTS' THAT
THE U.S. WILL CUT AID TO ISRAEL**
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), criticizing White House "hints" at a reduction in U.S. aid for Israel, called for continuation of the balance of power in the Middle East. Saying "This is a time to remain steady," Jackson in a statement, declared that "the fundamental core of American policy has been to preserve the peace by helping to maintain the balance of power in the Middle East."

Jackson, who made this statement in Baton Rouge, La., where he is campaigning for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination, added "We should continue on that course. We should support all efforts toward direct negotiations among the parties to the Middle East conflict." Speaking of the "fragile peace" in the Middle East, Jackson said that it does not take "much irresponsible talk out of the White House--and there has been too much already--to send the wrong signal and encourage a catastrophic miscalculation by extremist militant Arab groups."

"For Israel's chief ally to hint at cuts in support that might tip the military balance is certain to enhance the prospects for armed conflict," Jackson added. "I am disturbed at the implications of statements filtering out of the White House that raise doubts about American support for Israel."

However, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger denied yesterday that the Ford Administration was considering sharp cuts in aid to Israel and said Israel has nothing to fear from President Ford's order for a formal reassessment of American policy in the Mideast. "Nobody said anything about sharply cutting aid to Israel," he told reporters after emerging from a closed session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee where he briefed the Congressmen on the latest Mideast developments and the outlook for the future in the region.

**93 JEWISH GIRLS TAKEN FROM THE
WARSAW GHETTO IN 1942 TO A
BROTHEL COMMITTED SUICIDE**
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--Ninety-three Jewish girls aged 14-22 who were abducted from their school in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 to a brothel for SS officers, committed suicide rather than submit to their captors. Details of that little known tragedy were revealed in a last will and testament written by one of the girls, 17-year-old Chaya Friedman, who said that all she and her companions hoped for was that someone would recite kaddish for them.

The letter, written in Yiddish, was found in Poland recently and was sent to the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Haifa, according to Tuvia Friedman who heads the center. He has sent it to West Germany where it will be used as evidence in the trial of Ludwig Haan, an ex-Nazi who was in charge of the Warsaw Ghetto. Friedman said he received a copy of the letter via New York where it was read recently at a memorial meeting of survivors of the Jewish community of Radom, Poland.

The letter described how the girls were taken from their school in the Warsaw Ghetto--Beth Yaacov--on July 27, 1942 and held in four dark rooms for a day, given only water. In the evening they were taken to a house outside the

ghetto where their clothes were taken away and they were given nightgowns and told that they would be visited by SS officers and men who they were expected to entertain.

"I do not know when or if this letter will reach someone sometime," Chaya Friedman wrote. "But if it reaches anyone, we shall not be alive by then. Please recite kaddish for 93 clean, innocent Jewish girls who decided to take their lives in their own hands and not be mutilated and dishonored by the dirty SS officers." According to the letter, the girls committed suicide by poison.

**ELIAV QUITS LABOR PARTY; WILL RETAIN
KNESSET SEAT AS ONE-MAN FACTION**

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--Aryeh Eliav, a veteran Labor Party member and its former secretary general, announced this week that he was quitting the party because of his long time differences over policy and the quality of its leadership. He said at a press conference that he would retain his Knesset seat as a one-man independent faction.

Eliav's dovish views kept him frequently at loggerheads with former Premier Golda Meir and her government after the Six-Day War. He told journalists gathered at the Sokolow House that in his opinion the Labor Party is presently a total desert where no well of ideology or stream of ideas and thinking can exist. He criticized the Labor Party's current leadership and that of the immediate past. He charged the party with indulging in extravagances and actions ill befitting a workers' movement.

Asked why he chose to quit at this time, Eliav said his disgust with the party's chasing of public loans to pay its debts and his votes against the party line in the Knesset led to a confrontation which decided him that the time had come to leave its ranks. Eliav was a member of Haganah in his youth and was active in the clandestine immigration movement during the British Mandate era. He was assigned to Moscow as a diplomat but was declared persona non grata there because of his Zionist activities.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--The Dutch Council of Churches and Dutch Roman Catholic Bishops have decided not to issue baptismal certificates to Dutch travelers. The voyagers have been asked to produce the certificates in order to obtain tourist and business visas for Arab countries. This measure has been tagged as discriminatory against Jews and therefore condemned by Dutch churches. The bishops have advised priests under them not to issue the certificates.

LONDON (JTA)--The Board of Deputies of British Jews has set up a special clearing house for information on the Arab boycott. The operation is being conducted in cooperation with the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce and other commercial, industrial and financial bodies, and is part of a campaign by British Jewry to counteract the Arab boycott. The clearing house will gather information on attempts by the Arabs to blacklist British firms for trading with Israel, to blacklist British companies into revealing data on Jewish personnel, and to secure other information relating to the boycott.

CORRECTION

The March 26 issue of the Daily Bulletin was inadvertently dated Thursday. It should have, of course, been dated Wednesday.

country's savage vehemence in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Experts on Arab affairs here believe that King Khalid is not the true power center in Saudi Arabia and that his reign could be viewed as a transition period, given the new King's poor health and his age--64. Some sources expressed the view that a power struggle will develop between Khalid and his newly appointed heir-apparent, Crown Prince Fahid.

Fahid is considered one of the most powerful men in Riyadh, these experts say. For years his supporters have held central positions in the power structure there, and he himself has had an important say on foreign policy issues. Both Khalid and Fahid--like most of the Saudian royal house--are considered pro-Western and anti-Soviet. But neither are believed to be so single-minded nor so religiously extreme as the late Faisal was.

Diminution Of U.S. Influence Seen

Political observers point out, nevertheless, that Faisal's basic friendship towards Washington was tried and true--and to that extent his death means a further diminution of U.S. influence in the region at a time when the U.S. had suffered a severe setback through the failure of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's mission.

These observers add, though, that Faisal in the last week of his life had disappointed Kissinger for the second time in several months by failing to throw his vital weight and influence behind the Secretary's "shuttle" effort. Kissinger flew to Riyadh last Wednesday to enlist Faisal's support and influence on President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at the crucial stage of the negotiations.

Kissinger's earlier disappointment with Faisal and his misassessment of the Saudi monarch's aims, occurred late last October at the Rabat Arab summit. The Americans--and consequently Israel too--had expected Faisal to line up behind Jordan's King Hussein and prevent the PLO from ousting him from all pretensions to represent the Palestinian cause. But suddenly and unexpectedly Faisal reversed his long-standing enmity towards the terrorists and swung round behind the PLO.

KISSINGER: U.S. 'REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL'

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, reiterating that the United States "remains fully committed to Israel's survival," declared here today that the United States would continue to search for peace in the Middle East and was prepared to go to Geneva for a renewal of negotiations there.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the step-by-step approach toward settlement had suffered a setback and that the Middle East problem had to be dealt with under more difficult circumstances. He said "a moment of potentially great danger is not the time to assess blame between the parties or to indulge in recrimination" over the collapse of his efforts to achieve a second-stage Sinai withdrawal by Israel.

Asked by reporters whether such problems as the deadlock between the Administration and Congress over additional aid to Cambodia and South Vietnam was a factor in the breakdown of the Sinai withdrawal negotiations, Kissinger said he could not assign "any particu-

lar factor" for the breakdown. He said the major reason for the breakdown was "intrinsic" to the negotiations but that the "surrounding circumstances" were not favorable to the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

Kissinger reiterated that the announced U.S. reassessment of the Middle East situation was "not directed against Israel" and was "not designed to induce Israel" to adopt any particular policy. He denied that the reassessment meant the U.S. was considering cuts in aid to Israel. He said Israel's request for U.S. aid for the next fiscal year, previously indicated to be \$2.5 billion, was being studied currently "entirely at the technical level."

Options For Next Step

The Secretary stated that the United States would make its decision on aid to Israel on the basis of U.S. national interest and "our commitment to the survival of Israel." He repeated that the reassessment had been made necessary by the "new circumstances" created by the collapse of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, and was not based on an "attitude of cutting aid."

Asked what the U.S. planned as its next approach, Kissinger said the approach would be "whatever is most likely to reduce the danger of war." He said the U.S. would be in touch with the Soviet Union, the co-sponsor of the Geneva conference, "in the near future" but added that the U.S. was prepared to go along with any other approach "the parties request of us."

The Secretary said he believed the United Nations peace-keeping mandate in the Sinai which expires in April and the mandate on the Golan Heights which expires in May, should be extended to allow negotiations to proceed in a "tranquil atmosphere." Kissinger has been reported to believe that a transfer of Mideast talks to Geneva would be likely to become a forum for polemics. But he said at his press conference that the U.S. would go to Geneva with a belief that the conference would not produce a stalemate, as he had previously predicted.

Asked whether the United States was considering punishing Israel, Kissinger replied that "the punishment of a friend cannot be a purpose of national policy." He said the U.S. does not act in a "fit of pique." Asked by a reporter who broke off the second-stage negotiations, Kissinger said that the talks between Israel and Egypt were suspended when Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy announced that step-by-step negotiations were ended and Egypt wanted a return to the Geneva conference.

The press conference was Kissinger's first since he returned from the Middle East last Sunday after the talks were suspended.

EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN FRONTS QUIET

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA)--Egypt has withdrawn the larger part of the 60 artillery pieces it had installed earlier in its limited forces zone in Sinai in violation of the disengagement agreement, Israeli sources reported today. They said the guns were removed during the past 24 hours, following an Israeli complaint to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) headquarters.

The Egyptian and Syrian fronts were reported quiet tonight as the Passover holiday began. But Israeli forces remained on the alert. Many soldiers who normally would have been on leave to spend the seder night with their families found themselves in front line positions keeping a watchful eye for possible terrorist attempts at infiltration.

APPEALS AND INTERFAITH SEDERS MARK THE PASSOVER HOLIDAY

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA)--Governor Hugh L. Carey said in a message on the eve of Passover that "Even as we celebrate the courage of the Jewish people, and the tribulations they endured to win their religious freedom 4000 years ago, we sadly acknowledge that their trials are not yet over." He noted that this past year alone, "we witnessed an avowed terrorist being allowed to use the forum of the United Nations to spread his hatred; and the continued suppression of freedom in Syria, the Soviet Union and other countries around the world. The lessons of tyranny have been repeated too many times for us to think that turning our heads the other way, or lowering our voices, will make it somehow disappear."

Meanwhile, more than 120 Soviet Jews, in a Passover message received here by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, appealed for "active support" for those in the USSR who are engaged in a continuing struggle for freedom. "We hope that at the celebration of the Passover seder every Jewish family will pronounce aloud the names of Mark Nashpitz and Boris Tsitlionok, who have for many years been forcibly separated from their families who live in Israel," the message added.

In another action, the first public performance of a cantata written by a Catholic composer and dedicated to the victims of Auschwitz was given several days ago at an interfaith seder at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. The cantata, written by the late Nikolai Bretan, who was of Transylvanian origin, contained paraphrases from the Haggadah. About 200 religious and educational leaders attended the seder which was originated by Rabbi Joshua Haberman in 1971.

Urge Support Of 'Solidarity Sunday'

At the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York a group of prominent Christian and Jewish clergymen participated yesterday in a Passover seder coordinated by the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. The ceremony gave expression to the Passover-Easter spirit of man's quest for freedom. The clergymen urged the Christian community to take part in "Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry" on April 13.

They announced that through the cooperation of Dr. Dan Potter, executive director of the Council of Churches of New York, and Rev. Paul Stagg, executive director of the New Jersey Council of Churches, more than 3500 churches in the metropolitan area will call on their members to support Soviet Jewry's struggle for freedom and to participate in "Solidarity Sunday."

While the clergymen took part in the symbolic seder, a table nearby was set with hard bread (forbidden at Passover), tiny portions of fish and cups of water representing the Passover "fare" for Soviet Jewish "prisoners of conscience." Huge photos of some of the prisoners occupied chairs at the Soviet-style seder.

In California a Catholic and Protestant parish helped commemorate Passover by holding seders. Both institutions were helped to arrange the traditional meal and observance by the Northern California Division of the American Jewish Congress. The two churches are the St. John of God Catholic Church in San Fran-

isco, which held a seder co-sponsored by the church and the Newman Center of the University of California Medical School, and St. Stephen's Parish in the Marin County town of Belvedere.

A new Haggadah focussing on the theme of liberation and freedom common to all religions was used by the Catholic medical students. There were also readings from contemporary Israeli poetry, Irish folk songs and special prayers for the 4500 Jews of Syria.

ISRAEL IN FULL SWING FOR PESACH

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA)--Preparations are in full swing for the Passover holiday that begins at sundown today. Community seders have been arranged at absorption centers for immigrants who have no families in Israel. Foreign students studying at the Beit Midrash of the World Zionist Organization's religious education department will conduct seders for soldiers at army camps.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren was "authorized" by the Finance Ministry to sell the State's "hametz" (leavened material) to a Druze soldier today, thus symbolically ushering in the holiday. It will be repurchased, for the same nominal sum, after Passover.

Passover is the traditional time for house cleaning and housewives all over the country are busy washing, scrubbing and dusting. One unhappy result has been an increase of patients in hospital emergency rooms for treatment of dislocated limbs suffered in slips on wet floors or falls from ladders and an increase in cases of poisoning by cleaning fluids that were not kept out of the reach of children.

The tourism outlook this Passover is good, though not as good as in past seasons. Despite the renewed tension in the Middle East, most planes arriving at Ben Gurion Airport are filled to near capacity. By the seder night El Al will have brought more than 9000 passengers to Israel on 50 flights.

Hanoch Givton, director general of the Ministry of Tourism, reported that hotels in Tel Aviv and Haifa were 75-80 percent full and in Tiberias the occupancy rate was as high as 85 percent. Jerusalem hotels lagged with a 50 percent occupancy rate, although Givton said it was satisfactory. The King David Hotel, the oldest and most famous of Jerusalem's top grade hosteleries, ran an advertisement in yesterday's newspapers announcing that "due to the early departure of a press group that accompanied Dr. Kissinger there are still a few rooms available for the seder night and the rest of the holiday."

URGE DIASPORA TO AID ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, March 26 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, Jewish Agency Treasurer, who is heading a mixed Israeli-American educational mission currently visiting Latin American countries to study means to strengthen Jewish education, declared here that diaspora communities must join with Israel in helping to solve Israel's pressing problems. He spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Latin American Jewish Congress at which Gregorio Falgon was installed as chairman of the LAJC. Other speakers were Samuel Mendel of Montevideo, president of the Central Jewish Committee of Uruguay; Gil Sinay, president of the Representative Committee of Chilean Jewry; and Dr. Benno Milnitzku, president of the Jewish Confederation of Brazil.

BONN (JTA)--West German police Monday arrested Johannes Weirich, suspected of having helped prepare the Jan. 13 terrorist attack at Orly Airport. He is employed in Frankfurt.