



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Friday, April 4, 1975

No. 65

RABIN: OPTIONS, OFFERS ISRAEL MADE DURING RECENT TALKS REMAIN OPEN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin said today that the offers and options Israel made to Egypt during the recent negotiations conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, remain open. He also expressed confidence that Israel would succeed in explaining its position to the U.S. in a manner that would elicit the support of a majority of the American public.

Speaking on a television interview, the Premier said that while the failure of Kissinger's talks disappointed some members of the American Administration, "they should realize that Israel is a sovereign and independent state" and that there is a limit to its flexibility which is determined by the degree of danger to its security arising from concessions without an appropriate contribution to peace by its foes.

Rabin said that despite present differences between Israel and the U.S., the latter has supplied Israel with large quantities of arms "which gave us considerable power." He said that while Israel could expect pressures from certain "elements that will stress the reassessment approach," he was confident that Israel would continue to receive all the aid essential to its security.

Doubts Geneva Will Solve Problems

Rabin denied that his government's policy was one of "sit tight and wait." He said that during the recent negotiations for a second-stage Sinai agreement, Israel was forthcoming with a variety of proposals that ranged from a sweeping agreement in which Egypt would have gotten the larger part of the Sinai peninsula in exchange for a formal renunciation of war to a limited interim accord of a military nature. These offers still exist, Rabin declared.

He expressed doubt that the Geneva conference, if it is reconvened, could bring about an agreement. "I would not suggest to ourselves that we regard the conference as an international solution to peace problems," he said. In an address on the Armed Forces Radio yesterday, Rabin said he believed that Egypt had not foreclosed all options for continued bilateral negotiations for an interim settlement in Sinai.

PERES: SUSPENSION OF TALKS DID NOT SPELL THE END OF THE WORLD

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said last night that the suspension of the Israeli-Egyptian talks conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger last month did not spell "the end of the world" nor did it mark the end of contacts between Israel and the Arab world. Addressing a mass rally of North African Jews at the annual Mimona festivities at the Tel Aviv Sports Stadium, Peres stressed that the problem of the Middle East was neither military nor diplomatic but a question of the desire by the people of the region for peace and social development or a reversion to war.

If the Arabs decide to take up arms again

they will find a strong and armed Israel, the Defense Minister declared. He said that the present period of intensive political activity required complete national unity in Israel. Mimona festivals were held in Haifa, Jerusalem, Beersheba and other parts of Israel today.

DAYAN MEETS WITH KISSINGER ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--Former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan met with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for 55 minutes today at Kissinger's invitation and told reporters afterwards that they had "quite a good meeting and the subject was the Middle East."

Facing newsmen in the State Department lobby after leaving the Secretary's office, Dayan flatly refused to make any other comment. He explained his unannounced and unexpected meeting with Kissinger by saying that the Secretary learned he was in the United States and "asked me to come over to talk about the Middle East situation." Dayan is in this country on behalf of Israel Bonds.

Asked if Kissinger planned to return to the Middle East, Dayan said he would not respond to such questions. When reporters wanted to know if he thought the U.S. was applying heavy pressure on Israel to soften its negotiating position, Dayan replied, "If you had met me in Israel in my house I would say many things, but not now."

He also refused to comment on suggestions that recent American setbacks in Indochina would effect the U.S. on Israel. He responded briefly to a question on the situation in Vietnam, saying, "America is stronger now than you are not there."

On Tuesday, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, met with Kissinger in the Secretary's office for a discussion of the current Mideast situation. Rabbi Miller will report on the content of his talk with Kissinger to the Presidents Conference immediately after the holidays.

PALESTINIANS MEET IN DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, April 3 (JTA)--A secret conference of Palestinian organizations was held last week in the small town of Gillele, north of Copenhagen. Seventy delegates from Britain, West Germany, Holland and Belgium and other countries attended the conference, whose secret was kept even from the Danish police. A leader of the Danish Community for Palestine, Eskild Holiland Olsen, reported the conference, saying that one of the items on the agenda was the opening of a Palestine Liberation Organization information office in Copenhagen. The Danish Community for Palestine is also preparing an information week on Palestine.

McGOVERN BELIEVES THERE IS ROOM FOR ANOTHER U.S. EFFORT BEFORE GENEVA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern believes there is room for another U.S. effort to make progress toward an Israeli-Egyptian bilateral agreement before the Geneva conference reconvenes and says he "would hope there would be talks prior to any conference at Geneva,

although Geneva might be essential to arrive at a settlement of all the problems of the area." The South Dakota Democrat who is on a Mid-east fact-finding mission in his capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on the Middle East, made those remarks in an interview to be published here tomorrow in the Jerusalem Post. He also said he believed "there is room for a number of different approaches" on the Palestinian question.

McGovern had a 90-minute talk with Premier Yitzhak Rabin at the Premier's residence here this evening which he said was "very helpful and satisfactory." He said he would disclose more details of their talk at his press conference tomorrow. (See separate story P.3)

Israel is the final stop on McGovern's Middle East tour which took him earlier to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Rabin and other Israeli leaders playing host to McGovern have carefully refrained so far from making any comment on the alleged expressions of support for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and U.S. recognition of the PLO attributed to the Senator during his current tour.

PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat, with whom McGovern met in Beirut last Friday, told newsmen in Kuwait yesterday that the Senator had left him with "the clear impression that the Ford Administration favors the creation of a Palestinian state." Arafat boasted that "this was the first time that an American politician declared that the establishment of a Palestinian state is becoming an important element in U.S. thinking."

Not Committed To Arafat

McGovern said in his Jerusalem Post interview that he was "not committed" to Arafat or "to anyone personally on the Palestine question.... It seems to me there is room for a number of different approaches. The less we consider the matter in terms of personalities but in terms of the broader issue that requires thoughtful and careful consideration, the more likely we are to arrive at a solution."

The Senator, who was the Democratic Presidential candidate in 1972, began his visit here yesterday with meetings with West Bank notables arranged for him by the U.S. Consulate General in East Jerusalem. The meetings were held in Ramallah, 15 miles north of Jerusalem; at Bir Zeit village, site of an Arab college that is a hotbed of support for the PLO; and at his suite in the King David Hotel. There he received Anwar Al Hatib, the former Jordanian governor general of East Jerusalem. Their meeting was held in total secrecy, reportedly at the request of the American Consulate to avoid embarrassment to the Arab participants.

At Ramallah, McGovern met with, among others, Aziz Shehade, the East Jerusalem lawyer who defended Archbishop Hillarion Capucci and who is a long-time supporter of a Palestinian state, albeit a moderate. The newspaper Yediot Achronot today quoted an Arab notable as saying that "The Senator expressed enthusiastic support for the creation of a Palestinian state" during his meeting in Ramallah.

Similar attributions reported by Arab news media in Lebanon and other countries apparently disturbed the Senator. His Washington office issued a denial yesterday which was repeated here today by McGovern's aide, Alan Baron. Baron said that McGovern had told Arafat nothing more than that the problem in prin-

ciple of a Palestinian state would have to be considered in the context of a broad Middle East settlement.

Praise For West Bank Leaders

The Senator had high words of praise for West Bank Arab leaders. He told the Jerusalem Post that he had found them "very restrained, very moderate, very intelligent and very responsible. They would like to see some kind of Palestinian entity, but they were not fanatical or rigid about it. They are ready to consider various possibilities."

McGovern said he had detected no hatred of Israel on the part of the West Bankers, "but they, like all of us, would like some feeling of independence and the feeling they have their own homeland." He spoke of a possible federative solution but stressed that he had come to the Middle East with no plan of his own but to listen and to learn.

He told the Jerusalem Post that he would report on his trip to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger when he returns to Washington and would try to find out from the Secretary his own view of why his recent mediation efforts in the Middle East had failed. "I want to give him the benefit of any insights I might have had," McGovern said, adding that if he had any recommendations he would make them first to the Secretary and to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

FORD OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MIDEAST

SAN DIEGO, Calif, April 3 (JTA)--President Ford expressed optimism today, at a press conference here, that "despite the difficulties... we can find a way to keep a peace movement moving" in the Middle East. Without mentioning the Mideast, the President said that "in any case where the United States does not live up to its moral obligations, it can have an adverse impact on our allies." He added that the U.S. is "going to stand behind our allies." Listing the Middle East, along with Greece, Portugal and Turkey as areas in which U.S. diplomacy is having problems, he said during the question period, "If Congress joins me, and the American people and Congress support me as President, we can overcome these difficulties."

UJA MOBILIZING AID FOR ISRAEL

NEW-YORK, April 3 (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal's general chairman, Frank R. Lautenberg, and its executive vice-chairman, Irving Bernstein, left here tonight for an emergency fact-finding mission to Jerusalem to assess with Jewish Agency Executive chairman Pinhas Sapir and other Israeli leaders how the American Jewish community should respond in the coming weeks to human needs in Israel.

"This is a critical period for the Jewish people," Lautenberg said. "For what is at stake is more than the sum of a particular event. We are dealing with the very quality of Jewish life." In meetings before their departure, the UJA officers discussed with executive directors of Jewish Federations and welfare funds proposals for mobilizing their campaigns to meet the current situation.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Mrs. Lea Rabin, wife of Premier Yitzhak Rabin, made a political statement of her own here the other night. Attending a Second Seder with 400 new immigrants at the Israel Museum, she said "It is symbolic that on the eve of the feast of freedom, the people of Israel united in saying 'no' to a proposed political deal which did not meet Israel's vital political needs." She was referring to the talks conducted by Secretary of State Kissinger.

McGOVERN: ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO EXIST, PALESTINIANS ENTITLED TO HOMELAND
Release Text Today In Washington Of
Press Confab Remarks Tomorrow In Israel
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern (D,SD) declared that he supports Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's efforts in the Middle East, that Israel has a right to exist as a "permanent, independent Jewish State" and that the Palestinians "are entitled to an independent national homeland of their own." McGovern's remarks, which he intends to make at a press conference in Jerusalem tomorrow, were given to newsmen here today.

This action was considered to be unusual and was apparently a reaction to reports that followed his 90-minute meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in Beirut after which he was represented as indicating a favorable attitude toward the PLO's views. However, McGovern in a telephone call to his Washington office said the news reports were "not reliable" and "incorrect."

McGovern, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Middle Eastern Affairs, said in his press statement that despite media reports, "there is no 'McGovern plan' and the only time I have used the word plan, even in private, was to deny that I have one."

But his statement declared that he supports both Kissinger's efforts and the recent attempt by Congress "to assume our Constitutional responsibilities to set the parameters of American foreign policy." He said he has tried to "see beyond the passions and prejudices to the realities of the Middle East."

Three Realities In The Mideast

The first reality, according to McGovern, "is the fact of a permanent, independent Jewish State. The recognition of this reality is, indeed, essential to a peaceful settlement of the issues facing the area." The second reality "is the increasing power of permanent, independent Arab states, some of them richly-endowed with oil, but all of them rich in historical and cultural values." The third reality is "the presence of several million Palestinians with thousands of years of history behind them but with an uncertain future and unsatisfactory present. They are entitled to an independent national homeland of their own."

McGovern's statement stressed that the only press conference he held in the Mideast was in Israel, the last of the Mideast countries he visited. He said that before he left the United States he promised to "keep an open mind toward the plans of others--no matter how extreme. So I have accepted opportunities to listen to the views of many diverse personalities and I am continuing that course in Israel."

COMPUTERIZING RELIGION, MEDICINE

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)--Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel's only religiously-oriented university, has acquired one of the world's largest computers to help it solve both religious and scientific problems. The IBM computer will enable the university to complete its indexing of the Responsa literature, a 1500-year-old compilation of Jewish case law, to conduct chemical experiments without even having to enter the laboratory, to give medical diagnosis without the computer seeing the patient, and to conduct meteorological research without stick-

ing its nose outdoors.

In compiling Jewish case law, the computer will enable Jewish scholars, and religious court judges and attorneys to get immediate response to questions on marriage, divorce, debts, communal affairs and much more. Ezra Ben-Kohav, head of Bar Ilan's Computer Center, said the computer is equipped with a memory storage and operating capacity of one million symbols, plus a disk system capable of storing another 800 million symbols.

Also Serving The Public

In addition to serving the university and its academic departments, the computer is also serving other schools and public bodies through a typewriter terminal whereby subscribers can transmit their queries to the computer via telephone lines and get their replies in the same way.

One of the computer's most unique functions will be to help doctors at the government's Sheba Medical Center make diagnosis of disease on the basis of the patient's symptoms read to it from the special terminals. When the symptoms relayed are insufficient, the computer will ask the necessary questions and digest the answers before coming to any conclusion.

RABBI SETS ROPE SKIPPING RECORD

MILWAUKEE, April 3 (JTA)--Milwaukee Rabbi Francis Barry Silberg claimed the world record this week for continuous rope skipping as recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records. He jumped 35,000 rope revolutions in four hours and 10 minutes to surpass the previous record set in 1953 by 2191 turns and one hour. To prepare himself for the feat, Silberg, 32, ran 10 to 15 miles daily and jumped rope whenever his rabbinic duties allowed the time. He is the associate rabbi at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun.

Completing his jumping, Silberg still had enough energy to do five pushups. Setting world records are not new to the rabbi. At noon on Aug. 12, 1968, he ran the snake path route up Masada in a blazing 16 minutes, 20 seconds, beating even the best Israeli paratroopers who use the run for training. "Asked what he wanted to set a record at next, his wife replied, 'We're going dancing tonight.'"

JEWS IN JAMAICA

LONDON, April 3 (JTA)--The Jews in Jamaica are integrated into the general life of the country and are making contributions to the welfare of the nation as a whole. This was reported here by Rabbi Bernard Hooker at a meeting of the Guild of Jewish Journalists held at the Jamaican High Commission. Rabbi Hooker, who for the past 10 years has served as minister to the Jewish community in Kingston, said there is genuine cooperation between all faiths within Jamaica.

Jamaican Jews, which number some 500 of a total population of about two million, have established a Jewish school, the Hillel Academy. However, the rabbi reported, only some 10 percent of the pupils at the school are Jewish. The rest are Jamaicans and they include the Prime Minister's son. The Jewish pupils receive instructions in Hebrew and Jewish religion, but this is not compulsory for the other pupils, Rabbi Hooker said.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Jewish author Hannah Arendt, 68, will receive Denmark's most important literary award, the Sonnick Prize. The award will be presented to Ms. Arendt this month for her book on the life of Adolf Eichmann.

CRANSTON SEES NO SIGNS CONGRESS IS WAVERING IN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, April 3 (JTA)--Sen. Alan Cranston (D, Calif.) said here that he sees "no signs of any wavering in support for Israel in the U.S. Congress," Cranston told a press conference several days ago that he could find "no evidence in Washington to back up reports of Congressional reservations about Israel aid because of the failure of the Kissinger peace negotiations."

Charging that "these erroneous reports were apparently White House inspired," Cranston also criticized the "threatening tone" implied in leaks about a reassessment of U.S. policy in the Middle East, President Ford's reported irritation with Israel, and hints that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger privately puts most of the blame on Israel for the breakdown of talks. Cranston warned that the "orchestrated campaign of White House innuendo against Israel could heighten the danger of war by deluding some Arab leaders into believing that U.S. support for Israel is weakening."

Guard Against Retaliation

"U.S. backing of Israel has been the single outside deterrent to fanatical Arab ambitions to drive Israel into the sea," Cranston said. "These misleading rumors could have immediate tragic consequences by encouraging the Palestinian guerrillas into new acts of terrorism."

Cranston said Congress "will be scrutinizing Administration aid requests for Israel and other Middle East countries to make sure that Israel is not getting short-changed. We in Congress will be making double sure that the Administration does not retaliate for its disappointment by giving Israel less than it needs in military and economic aid." However, he added, "In the interest of peace, and our own pressing domestic requirements, we must also make sure that Israel does not get more than she needs."

White House Efforts Scored

The Senator also attacked "White House efforts to link the situation in the Middle East with that in Southeast Asia." The White House cannot intimidate Congress into pouring more millions into Cambodia and South Vietnam by drawing false parallels with Israel.

Cranston stated "Most members of Congress know, even if the White House doesn't, that our real friends are democracies, like Israel, not corrupt dictatorships, like the Lon Nol and Nguyen Van Thieu governments. And most members of Congress understand, even if the White House apparently doesn't, that while the U.S. has vital interests in helping Israel remain strong and independent, our national security is not at stake in Indochina," he said.

UN TO MEET ON SINAI MANDATE

UNITED NATIONS, April 3 (JTA)--The Security Council will meet during the week of April 14-18 to take up the question of extending the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai, it was learned here. The mandate expires April 24. Egypt has already formally notified Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the president of the Security Council that it will agree to a three-month extension of the UNEF mandate.

EGYPT ADMITS 'TRAP' WAS SET FOR ISRAEL DURING LATEST SHUTTLE EFFORT

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy is pointing out in a circular to newsmen that Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy has declared Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin accurately described Egyptian proposals as "a trap" during Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's ill-fated effort to negotiate a second Israeli-Egyptian agreement.

In a background information paper, the Embassy observed that in his address to the foreign ministers of the Arab countries, assembled in Cairo for the Arab League conference on March 24, Fahmy said:

"Rabin was right in describing the Egyptian proposals 'as a trap' which involved Israel's withdrawal for next to no political return... and if it is permissible to say that Egypt (in its proposals) laid a trap for Israel, it was desirable that Rabin should welcome that trap, because its purpose was to achieve justice, honor, respect for international law and the rights of man... It is clear that what was being discussed was neither a partial solution nor a solution by stages. It is also clear that what was being discussed was neither a temporary nor a permanent political settlement. The aim was a military movement or an agreement with a military coloring."

The Embassy paper noted that from the outset of the recent negotiations, the Egyptian government had no intention of working towards a peaceful solution of the conflict and saw any possible interim agreement with Israel as purely military in character. It pointed to official Egyptian pronouncements made in the course of the negotiations.

RARE FLAGS RECALL JEWISH PAST

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)--Rare flags that recall anguished memories of Jewish communities destroyed by the Nazis will go on display with other memorabilia at the new Maccabi Movement museum which opens here next week. They include the flag of the Dusseldorf Maccabi Club which a Jewish youth rescued from burning when Nazis threw it into flames on the notorious "Crystal Night" 37 years ago.

The Dusseldorf flag is flanked by the flag of the Czechoslovakian Maccabi which was saved when the Nazis marched into Prague in 1939. The flag was brought to Palestine by a Jewish immigrant in 1940 aboard the French steamship "Patricia." The immigrants were not permitted to land by the British authorities and were slated for deportation to Mauritius. A mysterious underwater explosion sank the "Patricia" in Haifa harbor with a large loss of life. The immigrant leaped into the water and was rescued holding the flag.

The exhibit includes a flag of the Maccabi Club in Sofia, Bulgaria; a special medal given to Maccabi gymnasts by Theodor Herzl at the 1903 Zionist Congress in Basel; and documents from Maccabi clubs in former Jewish communities in Harbin, Manchuria, Shanghai, Cairo, Tripoli, Damascus, Warsaw, Vilna and Odessa. The new museum, named for the veteran Maccabi leader Pierre Gildesgame, will serve as a research center for Jewish sports history.

VIENNA (JTA)--The two sons of prominent Soviet Jewish scientist Benjamin Levich arrived here Tuesday for a stop-over on their way to Israel. Alexander Levich, 30, and his brother, Yevgeny, 26, and their wives fought a three-year battle for permission to emigrate. They said authorities promised their parents would be able to join them in Israel by the end of the year.