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RABIN MINIMIZES STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin said today that President Ford's meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg June 1-2 and his own forthcoming meeting with Ford in Washington June 11-12 were part of the reassessment of Middle East policy now being conducted by the American government.

In a television address in which he appeared to be minimizing the effects of the strained relations between Jerusalem and Washington since the breakdown of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's "shuttle" diplomacy last March, Rabin noted that relations with the U.S. were only "suspended in a particular area"--that of negotiating new arms contracts.

Rabin stressed that arms "continue to flow in plentifully" under contracts signed in the past. He said that Israel would continue to grow strong and that the suspension of new arms contracts with the U.S. would not effect its military strength in 1975. If Israel stands firm and makes an effort to win over public opinion in the U.S., it will "overcome" the present tension with Washington, Rabin declared.

47-MEMBER WHITE HOUSE SECURITY FORCE IN SALZBURG PREPARING FOR FORD-SADAT MEETING

SALZBURG, May 12 (JTA)--An advance group of White House security officers arrived here today to make final preparations for the summit meeting of President Ford and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. The two-state leaders are scheduled to discuss the Middle East question in a meeting June 1-2. Government sources said the 47-member advance group will closely investigate security measures at Klessheim Castle where the meeting will take place.

In the meantime, Austrian government sources confirmed reports that U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will meet in Vienna May 19-20 to discuss the Middle East problems. The sources said Chancellor Bruno Kreisky postponed a scheduled official visit to Rumania to host Kissinger and Gromyko.

ALLON: ISRAEL-EEC ACCORD SHOWS EUROPE NOT INTIMIDATED BY ARABS By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, May 12 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said here today before returning to Israel that his country's agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) shows that Europe is not intimidated by Arab threats. Allon, who yesterday signed the trade agreement, also said that the pact shows that the Arab boycott against Israel is not working.

In spite of Allon's declaration, EEC officials went out of their way to stress that the agreement signed with Israel is only part of a global settlement for the entire Mediterranean area. EEC officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that negotiations with the Arab states will start in autumn. They said that the EEC Commission expects its mandate from the nine member states by late June. Negotiations with Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria are near completion and should be con-

cluded before the end of the year, the officials said.

Working Relationship Begun

The officials were obviously perturbed by Arab protests, which stretched from Algeria to Kuwait, and by Israel's open jubilation. Officials privately expressed the wish that Israel would make its satisfaction known in a more discreet way.

In spite of this behind-the-scenes maneuvering, Israel and the EEC seem to have started a working relationship. EEC officials are already busy drawing up the official tables and charts listing Israeli exports to Europe on which customs and taxes will drop by 40-60 percent beginning July. Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli also accepted an invitation to visit Israel. Ortoli and Allon met for one hour this morning at the EEC's headquarters and later the Israeli Minister conferred with other Commission members.

5 SUSPECTED TERRORIST COLLABORATORS NABBED BY ISRAELI DRAGNET IN LEBANON

Military Circles Concerned About Growing Strength Of Jordanian Forces
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA)--Israeli army units conducted a dragnet for terrorists in southern Lebanon last night and returned with four men and a woman suspected of collaboration with terrorist gangs. An army spokesman said the Israeli forces swept through terrorist-controlled territory in the vicinity of the Lebanese villages of Bint Jabil, Aytah A-Shaab and Yarin. One of the suspects was identified as a doctor.

Last night's operation was the first crossing of the Lebanese frontier by Israeli forces in four months. The region of southeastern Lebanon known as Fatahland has been relatively quiet since last January when Israeli troops carried out a series of search-and-destroy missions aimed against terrorist strongholds.

Meanwhile, military circles have become increasingly concerned over the growing strength of Jordan's armed forces and the new collaboration between Jordanian and Syrian forces which is a relatively recent development on the Middle East scene. While there has been no information to substantiate a French news agency report that a Syrian force entered Jordan on May 1, military cooperation between Amman and Damascus is known to have reached significant levels.

Syria Strengthening Golan Fortifications

Jordan's armed forces will be strengthened by new weaponry that includes six batteries of "Hawk" anti-aircraft missiles which the U.S. has agreed to sell Jordan in addition to other arms. The Syrians on their part are strengthening their fortifications along the Golan Heights disengagement lines. They are building new bunkers, tank positions and high earthwork ramps.

These activities are not covered by the disengagement accords and therefore cannot be cited as violations. But they represent a tactical advantage for the huge military force that Syria has deployed just outside of the limited forces zone east of the UN buffer zone, should hostilities break out anew.

Despite the scheduled meeting between President

Ford and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg, Austria, June 1-2, Israeli military circles have not discounted the possibility of a sudden Egyptian military move in coordination with Syria shortly before June 5, the date set for the official reopening of the Suez Canal. The Egyptians may transfer substantial forces to the eastern shores of the waterway and into the limited forces zone on the pretext of protecting the canal which is presently within artillery range of Israeli positions at the Gidi and Mitla Passes.

Though such a move, in violation of the disengagement agreements, would doubtlessly have serious political repercussions, Israeli circles believe the Egyptians might be encouraged to take the risk at a time when the U.S. is exerting severe diplomatic pressure on Israel. These circles believe that if the Ford Administration continues to hold back arms supplies to Israel, the balance of military power in the Middle East will soon tip in favor of the Arabs.

DRUGS WASHED OUT BY FLOODS

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA)--An ill wind blows no good, but the flood waters that ravaged northern Sinai early this spring causing hardships for countless Bedouins and other residents of the region had one salutary effect. According to Israeli authorities, they washed away huge quantities of narcotics that were about to flood the drug markets of the United States, Europe and Israel.

The drug in question was hashish, a staple commodity of the Middle East drug traffickers. Quantities of it--the exact amount is unknown, but police say it was huge--were hidden in northern Sinai after being smuggled from Jordan into Israel to await shipment abroad.

Israeli police have reported in addition that there has been a significant decline recently in the amount of hashish smuggled into the country. They attribute this to the tension along the borders which has resulted in tighter security measures.

COURT HEARING DUE ON FIGHT BETWEEN JEWISH ANTI-POVERTY GROUPS

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA)--The Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty has obtained a temporary restraining order against the Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers and its executive director, S. Elly Rosen. A hearing on whether the order should be made permanent will be held tomorrow before State Supreme Court Judge Sidney Fine, who issued it. The order also named Rosen as president of the Council for the Jewish Poor, described as the working arm of the Association, and Mordechai Rosen, the official's brother.

The order bars the Rosens from "threatening and harassing" Rabbi Jack Simcha Cohen, executive director of the Coordinating Council, and other officers and staff members of the agency, a coordinating body for Jewish anti-poverty organizations. The order also bars the Rosens from occupying any office of the Coordinating Council, from blocking entrance or exit to the office and from disrupting meetings of Coordinating Council officers and staff.

Elly Rosen said he had started an eight-day hunger strike five days ago in protest against a decision of the Coordinating Council to stop grants totalling \$24,000 a year to the Association. The next grant would have been made July 1. The Rosen brothers and Morris Schwartz, a volunteer, were arrested last Tuesday in the Coordinating Council office on charges of criminal trespass and harassment filed by Rabbi Cohen. The three

were released on their own recognizance for an appearance May 22 in New York City Criminal Court.

Elly Rosen said he and his brother and the volunteer went to the Coordinating Council office to discuss the grant cutoff and that police were called immediately, though they were peaceful. A Council spokesman said that they banged on the window of the receptionist's office and on the door.

Harassments, Disruptions Charged

The Coordinating Council issued a statement Friday declaring that its decision to cut off funding to the Association "was made only after a series of escalating harassments and disruptions that substantially impaired the conduct of its business and the functioning of the Council."

The Association contended that the fund cutoff would force a drastic curtailment of programs for elderly Jews in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, where the Association maintains a storefront center called Hartzilu II. The Rosens said that volunteers deliver kosher food packages to 150 elderly Jews daily, except on Saturday.

The Rosens said that the Association received \$30,000 in private funds which were used for the operation of the storefront center, which would be continued even if the Council fund out was implemented but that the Association's office in Manhattan would have to be closed. The Coordinating Council, in its statement said that the fund cutoff would "in no way" affect funding "to serve the Jews of Brownsville. Several programs to care for these individuals are currently being conducted and plans are presently underway to create additional communal services for the Jews of Brownsville."

Action To Save Jewish Lives Refused

The Council declared that "the substance" of the Council board's decision "was not to renew the personal salary and fringe benefits of S. Elly Rosen, a secretary and rental for a suite of offices" in Manhattan "upon termination of the Coordinating Council's current Human Resources Administration contract on June 30." HRA, the city's super-agency for welfare and poverty programs, had previously been funding the Coordinating Council.

The Association cited the Coordinating Council's statement that the funds were stopped because "we disrupted meetings and do not submit activity reports." The Association said it did submit the required reports and added, "We admit to having committed" disturbances when the Coordinating Council "refused to take action to save Jewish lives."

NO MORE V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS ANGRERS FRENCH JEWISH COMMUNITY

PARIS, May 12 (JTA)--Jewish organizations in France are enraged with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's announcement that France, in an effort to promote European solidarity, will no longer celebrate the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. The veterans section of the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICA), declared that the commemorations are far from being a display of hatred; rather, they remind the younger generation that the repetition of such atrocities must be prevented. A spokesman for the Movement Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and for Peace (MRAP) stated, "We cannot build a democratic Europe today by forgetting Nazism and the sacrifices we made to destroy it."

1000 MINSK JEWS COMMEMORATE HOLOCAUST

TORONTO, May 12 (JTA)--More than 1000 Jews gathered last Friday at the memorial monument to

the 5000 Jews who were murdered in the Minsk ghetto, Mrs. Genya Intrator, national vice-chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, said today.

Mrs. Intrator spoke by telephone yesterday to Col. Lev Ovsishcher of Minsk, who along with another Red Army hero, Col. Yefim Davidovich, laid wreaths on the monument. Ovsishcher said that when Davidovich began speaking Soviet authorities tried to stop him but allowed him to continue when the crowd began shouting "let him speak."

Davidovich, who has been waiting three years for an exit visa to Israel, spoke mainly about the Jewish heroes and martyrs during World War II and the suffering of the Jewish people under Hitler's tyranny. (According to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union, some of his references were seen by the audience to apply to present practices in the Soviet Union against Jews.)

Two memorials are held each year at the monument, one by Soviet authorities and the other by local Jews. This year the government ceremony was held at 11 a.m. and the Jewish memorial at noon. In London, it was reported that two Moscow Jews, Ilya Rubin and one surnamed Blinker, filmed the event but they were stopped by the KGB at the Minsk railway station and only allowed to leave after their film was confiscated.

Mrs. Intrator said that Ovsishcher said that it is getting more difficult to apply for an exit visa in Minsk. Invitations to come to Israel from relatives there are not received and obtaining the required character references takes a couple of months of delays and runaround.

RABIN LASHES OUT AT EBAN FOR MAKING 'IRRESPONSIBLE' STATEMENTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin responded angrily tonight to former Foreign Minister Abba Eban's criticism of his government's policies during the recent bilateral talks with Egypt conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. The Premier's rejoinder to Eban's assertion that Israel rather than Egypt was to blame for the collapse of the talks was made all the more stinging by Rabin's failure to refer to the Israeli statesman and former diplomat by name.

Speaking on television, the Premier referred to statements that were "irresponsible even though they were made by a man who formerly held responsible office." Such statements, he declared, weakened Israel's position both in the U.S. and in the Arab world. Rabin also spoke of "certain persons" who created an "exaggerated impression" of the current differences between Israel and the U.S. and said those persons could best explain themselves what motivated them to give such an impression.

Eban, who set off a furore of criticism in Israel by remarks he made in an interview published last Friday in Maariv, had accused the Rabin government of taking its strained relations with Washington too lightly. He said, according to Maariv, that Israel should have accepted the Egyptian terms conveyed by Kissinger if only out of consideration of its relations with the U.S. and that the shortcomings of an agreement on those terms would have been compensated for by improved contacts with Washington.

Eban: Duty, Right To Express Opinions

Eban himself responded last night to angry criticism of his remarks by Labor Party Secretary General Meir Zarmi and others. He said on a radio interview that as a member of the Knesset and a diplomat of long experience, he had the right

and duty to express his full and frank opinions of government policies and would continue to do so. "After all that has happened to me, after all I have achieved in the past 26 years, I owe it to the Jewish people in Israel and abroad to express my views fully and freely. I am determined to pay this debt," he declared.

Zarmi had chastized Eban for publicly airing views which he should have expressed in party forums. He said Eban's remarks were not only contrary to the Labor Party's endorsement of the government's position but were ill befitting a person of Eban's high standing. The former Foreign Minister said last night that he intended to express himself at party forums but would not shy away from stating his views in public as well.

Asked point blank if he agreed with the U.S. view that Israel rather than Egypt was to blame for the failure of the Kissinger talks, Eban said that Israel had no choice but to reject the Egyptian terms conveyed by Kissinger. But, he added, the government should have realized from the start that its demand for a formal commitment of non-belligerency from Egypt was an unrealistic basis for negotiations. Having failed to recognize that fact, the talks were launched "on the wrong foot," Eban said.

At a public appearance in Haifa earlier yesterday, Eban described the present condition of the Labor Party as that of a "rudderless ship." He said the defections of Arye Eliav and other ideological "doves" were a disaster for the party.

LATIN JEWS BACK HUMAN RIGHTS

BUENOS AIRES, May 12 (JTA)--The governing board of the Latin American Jewish Congress, in a special meeting last week commemorating the end of World War II and the liberation of the death camps, declared the full commitment of Jewish communities in South America to the cause of human rights everywhere without regard to the political, social or economic regimes under which the people live. The board noted the Nazi defeat did not end genocidal beliefs and practices.

The board members, who came from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, also pledged their full commitment to Israel and its efforts to establish a just and lasting peace. The Congress rejected the idea of a secular Palestinian state saying that it would result in the destruction of Israel.

JEWISH, ARAB MOTHERS AGAINST WAR

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA)--A group of Arab and Jewish mothers met in Haifa to launch a new organization dedicated to abolishing war. The initiator of the group which calls itself "Bridge to Peace," is Mrs. Ruth Liss of Haifa, whose son was killed in the Yom Kippur War. She has corresponded on the subject of mothers for peace with Mrs. Jihan Sadat, wife of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Their exchange of letters was made public last year.

The meeting held at Mrs. Liss' home was attended by Jewish and Arab women including artists, academicians and public workers. One of the participants was Sana Hassan, an Egyptian journalist who has been in Israel for several months. "We want to set up a wall that will protect our husbands, children and ourselves from the horrors of war," Mrs. Liss said. "We shall appear everywhere and voice our case against wars." She said the new organization plans to hold meetings between Jewish and Arab women all over Israel.

REMINDER: There will be no bulletin dated May 26 due to Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

SPECIAL TO JTA**KHRUSHCHEV ORDERED ANTI-JEWISH TRIALS IN RUMANIA IN 1958**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA)--Nikita Khrushchev ordered the holding of show trials against Jews on trumped-up economic charges in Rumania in 1958, it was revealed here by Mirzia Ofrishan, a former Rumanian minister of foreign trade. According to Ofrishan, who revealed this to Israeli journalist Alexander Coren, many of the Jews charged were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. They were later paroled and subjected to heavy fines.

Ofrishan represented Rumania in COMECON and made aliya five months ago. Coren has broadcast for the Israeli radio and has written for Al Hamishmar. The former Rumanian minister said his aliya was made possible after personal interventions on his behalf with authorities in Bucharest by several people, including former French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville.

Some Jews Who Were Accused

In his statements to Coren, Ofrishan listed some of the Jews accused during the 1958 trials, several of them only by last name. They included: Paul Goldstein (Stefanescu), an official in the ministry of foreign trade; Mrs. Mira Wallich, an employee of "Agroexport"; Rosinger, manager of the "Romaoexport" company; Donath, deputy manager of another company involved in overseas trade; Kostin, Rumanian economic minister in East Germany; and Radou, employed by another export firm.

"The only one who refused to confess to the charges was Rosinger," Ofrishan said. "He claimed that if there had been crimes, then senior officials of the ministry of foreign trade were just as guilty as the accused." Ofrishan was one of the political-economic elite in Rumania at the time. He travelled to the People's Republic of China and North Korea in his official capacity and twice visited Israel as a member of Rumanian trade delegations.

Ofrishan said the then-Interior Minister, Draghitz, personally supervised the trials. The court president, Adrian Dumitriu later became Justice Minister and is presently chairman of the Rumanian Bar Association. Asked why he was not among those tried in 1958, Ofrishan replied that he didn't know, and that he knew nothing about the affair until years later. Only a few interior and justice ministers knew about it, he added. Rumania at that time was not independent of Moscow as it is today, Ofrishan noted, but very much a satellite.

Rosen Doubts Veracity Of Statement

(Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania, in Britain for a short visit, told the JTA that he was "astonished with Ofrishan's statement. He never had anything to do with Jewish life in Rumania. Indeed, he went so far as to change his original Jewish name and now I see he is suddenly speaking of Jewish problems after all these years. All of a sudden Ofrishan appeared in my office eighteen months ago asking me to help him emigrate. Until then I never even knew that he was a Jew. I am very doubtful as to the veracity of his story.")

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO PROBE ARAB PRESSURE ON AMERICAN FIRMS

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA)--Rep. Thomas M. Rees (D. Calif.) has pledged "a vigorous and thorough" investigation by the Congressional sub-

committee he heads of alleged pressure by Arab nations on American companies to discriminate against employees or customers of the Jewish faith. Rees, who is chairman of the House Banking Committee's subcommittee on International Trade, Investment and Monetary Policy, said his subcommittee has received a "very disturbing report" of attempts at discrimination in international financial transactions.

He said the Controller of Currency has recently learned that some national banks may have been offered large deposits and loans by agents of foreign investors on condition that no member of the Jewish faith sit on the bank's board of directors or control any significant amount of the bank's outstanding stock. "This is the sort of allegation which if proven must be stopped," Rees declared.

Saudi-MIT Accord Suspended

It was learned, meanwhile, that negotiations for a technical assistance contract between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Saudi Arabia have broken down as a result of the Saudi's last-minute refusal to sign the contract which contains a clause prohibiting Saudi Arabia from denying a visa to any member of the project working staff or academic personnel, including students assigned to the project by MIT because of their religious affiliation.

Prince Mohammed ibn Faisal, chairman of the Saudian Saline Water Conversion Corp., balked at signing the contract in Jidda last Thursday because of an allegedly "threatening letter" he received from Dr. Jerome Wiesner, president of MIT, according to reports reaching here. Members of the American negotiating team, led by Prof. William W. Selfert, had reported acceptance of the visa clause by the Saudis.

The letter from Dr. Wiesner reportedly stated that any act of racial or religious discrimination toward an MIT participant would be cause for cancellation. The \$2 million contract was to have provided experts for planning Saudi Arabia's water requirements for the next 20 years. Dr. Wiesner has denied having written any "threatening letters" to Prince Mohammed or anyone else.

Promises Vigorous Investigation

The Rees subcommittee investigation will examine so-called "indirect" discrimination when one American company is pressured by the Arabs into a middle-man role and discriminates against another U.S. company or against employees of customers of the Jewish faith. "This investigation," Rees said, "will be a vigorous and thorough study of recent reports about Arab efforts to export their discriminatory practices. Such practices do not conform to the principles for which America stands, and we in Congress have a clear duty to protect our citizens from foreign discrimination," the Congressman said. ***

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel's gross national product rose by five percent during 1974, the same rate as in the previous year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The rate of private consumption continued to rise, despite the government's drastic budgetary measures, but the increase was less steep than in previous periods. Private consumption rose by seven percent in 1974 compared with nine-and-a-half percent in 1973, according to the Bureau of Statistics. ***

NEW YORK (JTA)--Jewish activist Mark Azbel has been allowed to return to Moscow but is threatened with being drafted into the army, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported here Monday.