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FORD, AT FIRST MEETING WITH RABIN, INSISTS ON MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--President Ford made it clear in his first meeting with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin this morning that the United States will insist on movement toward peace negotiations in the Middle East. A White House statement, issued shortly after the one-hour-and-45-minute meeting between Ford and Rabin stated that "the President today reiterated America's determination not to have a stalemate in this peace-making process." The statement added: "He discussed with Prime Minister Rabin various approaches which might be taken to regain the momentum toward a negotiated settlement."

President Ford spoke similarly during his meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salsburg, Austria on June 1. He warned at that time that the U.S. would not tolerate stagnation and stalemate in its efforts for a negotiated settlement. Some observers here took the White House's reference to "momentum toward a negotiated settlement" to mean a second-stage interim agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Talks Marked By 'Frankness,' 'Cordiality'

The White House statement said "The first meeting gave the President and the Prime Minister the opportunity for a general review of the Middle East situation." The talks will continue tonight at a working dinner at the White House and at another Ford-Rabin meeting tomorrow morning during which "the two leaders will have a chance to go more deeply into the various issues of the Middle East peace-making process," the White House statement said. It said that "the talks were conducted in a spirit of frankness and cordiality which has long characterized the friendship between the United States and Israel."

Rabin was accompanied at his meeting with the President by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz; Mordechai Shalev, Minister of the Israel Embassy in Washington; and Mordechai Gazit, director general of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. In addition to the President, the American side was represented by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Joseph J. Sisco and Gen. Brent Scowcroft, who is Kissinger's assistant in the latter's capacity as chairman of the National Security Council.

Ford's Long Acquaintance With Rabin Noted

Reporters who covered Ford's initial meeting with Rabin today and the President's meeting with President Sadat in Salzburg ten days ago, noted that while the latter event was surrounded by official pomp and ceremony, virtually nothing of a ceremonial nature was visible at the White House today apart from a display of U.S., Israeli and District of Columbia flags.

Questioned about the apparent discrepancy, White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen stressed that it had absolutely "no political significance." Nessen explained that the two meetings could not be equated with regard to their ceremonial aspects because the President's meeting with Sadat took place in a third country and most of the protocol was arranged by the Austrian authorities.

Nessen observed that while Ford's meeting with Sadat was his first with the Egyptian leader, the President has had a long acquaintanceship with Rabin dating from the time the latter was Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. and Ford was a member of Congress. Nessen insisted that there also was "no political significance" in the fact that President Ford will not attend a dinner for Rabin to be given by Ambassador Dinitz at the Israeli Embassy tomorrow night. Kissinger is to attend that event.

WALDHEIM WARNS UNRWA FACES WORST FISCAL CRISIS IMPERILING MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 11 (JTA)--The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is facing the worst financial crisis in its 25-year history, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said yesterday. He warned that the failure to provide funds for UNRWA could add a new element of instability to the already tense Middle East situation.

UNRWA's deficit is expected to reach $30 million out of a 1975 budget of $125 million. Waldheim said that unless additional contributions come in there would be an almost virtual elimination of UNRWA school education programs. UNRWA is financed by voluntary contributions from governments. The main contributors in 1974 were the United States with $26 million and the European Common Market countries with $24 million. Contributions from the Arab countries have been marginal with oil-rich Saudi Arabia providing only $1 million.

Israel contributed last year the equivalent of $1.2 million in services, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by UNRWA's office here. Syria contributed $100,000 in services, Lebanon $70,000 and Jordan $250,000. Egypt contributed $8000 in cash.

RUMANIAN CHIEF INVITES SENATORS TO DISCUSS TRADE, JEWISH EMIGRATION AN ISSUE

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--Rumanian President Nicolai Ceausescu, who is in Washington as the guest of President Ford, will meet with leading members of the Senate and House at the Rumanian Embassy today to discuss the issue of U.S. trade benefits for Rumania. Ceausescu was scheduled to meet with Ford at the White House earlier today.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is considering whether to grant most favored nation trade status and other trade benefits to Rumania. But the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and other Jewish groups have asked the committee to withhold approval of the bill sought by Ford until Rumania loosens its recently tightened restrictions on Jewish emigration. The Rumanian measure is seen as a test case of whether Congress will continue to demand that the Soviet Union allow Jews and others to emigrate before she can receive U.S. trade benefits.

Among the Congressional leaders invited to the

meeting at the Rumanian Embassy are Sens. Henry M. Jackson (D,Wash.), Abraham Ribicoff (D,Conn.) and Jacob Javits (R,NY), and Rep. Charles Vanik (D,Ohio), the leaders in the fight for the Jackson-Vanik amendments. (By Joseph Polakoff)

KREISKY SAYS MIDEAST PEACE MOVES DEPEND ON ISRAELI CONCESSIONS

VIENNA, June 11 (JTA)--Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said today the chances for a further move towards peace in the Middle East depended on Israeli concessions. Commenting on the meeting of President Ford with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin in Washington today, Kreisky said the outcome of their talks will reveal whether the recent talks between Ford and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at Salsburg were successful or not. "All depends on the concessions Israel is ready to make," Kreisky said.

He suggested the possibility of a conference of Socialist parties of the Middle East to try to find a solution of the conflict. "It is, to a large extent, a matter of time that such a meeting has not yet been arranged," he said. However, Egypt last month denied any possibility of direct contacts between Israeli and Egyptian Socialists before the ending of the state of war between the two countries.

IMMIGRANT HOUSING PROBLEMS 'SOLVED' SAPIR SAYS, BUT ALIYA IS DOWN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, will come to the Agency's General Assembly here next week hopeful about the prospects for United Jewish Appeal revenues and satisfied with the housing situation for immigrants in Israel. At a press conference today, Sapir said that despite gloomy press reports, UJA revenues this year would increase to $300 million compared to $222 million last year. The UJA collected about $120 million during the first five months of 1975, Sapir reported.

He said he expected this month to be "important" for the UJA because of several gatherings scheduled to take place in Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and New York at which Foreign Minister Yigal Allon is due to participate. Sapir predicted that the Keren Hayesod, which raises funds outside of the United States, would increase its revenues by 25 percent.

Small Hope For New Aliya Wave

Sapir said that for the first time in years he could announce that the "immigrants' housing problems have been solved." He said most immigrants find suitable flats within a relatively short period of their arrival. Some 6000 families still live in rented quarters but will move to permanent housing within the next two years, Sapir said. The Jewish Agency leader conceded that the easing of the housing problem was attributable in part to the decrease in immigration. He said he was much less hopeful of prospects for a renewed wave of aliya. Immigration from the Soviet Union has dropped by 60 percent he said, and fewer than the 16,000 who arrived last year can be expected this year. He said part of the reason for the decline was internal pressure. Some 100,000 Russian Jews are still waiting for their exit visas and the Russians say there are no candidates for emigration,Sapir said.

Sapir said there were hardly any Jews left in Arab countries. World Jewry is continuing to make every effort to improve the lot of Syrian Jews "and is doing everything possible," he said. He said the small Jewish communities in Tunisia and Morocco were relatively well off and show no signs of intending to leave.

EIRE MINISTER SEES NO PROBLEMS IMPLEMENTING ISRAEL-EEC TREATY

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--Ireland's Foreign Minister Garret Fitzgerald said today that he sees no difficulties in carrying out the trade agreement between Israel and the European Economic Community. Fitzgerald, who was chairman of the EEC's Ministerial Council when the treaty was signed last month, admitted that the Arab states had objected to approval of the treaty with Israel before treaties had been negotiated with the Arab countries. But Fitzgerald said he believed these problems were ironed out during his recent visit to four Arab countries.

Fitzgerald made his comments at Ben Gurion Airport as he ended a three-day visit to Israel. He said he found in Israel and the Arab countries a keen desire for peace and felt the chances for a settlement were better than ever before. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who saw Fitzgerald off, said the visit had contributed to improving the ties between Israel and Ireland.

ELIAV CHARGES CONSPIRACY TO SETTLE WEST BANK WITHOUT GOVT. AUTHORITY

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Arye Eliav charged today that a conspiracy was underway to establish Jewish settlements on the West Bank without the legal authorization of the government. He claimed that a number of Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, army officers and other officials were participating in the conspiracy while the government and the Knesset as a whole was kept in the dark about this illegal activity.

Eliav, an outspoken "dove" who quit the Labor Party last March over policy differences with the Rabin government and was recently one of the founders of the new leftist Ya'ad faction, charged at a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee that the conspiracy was being carried out in stages --first by establishing military settlements, work camps and other sites of that nature in the Judaea and Samaria regions and gradually converting them into civilian settlements. He said this was being done covertly to by-pass the decision-making process the government must follow before any new settlement can be established in the administered territories.

Eliav said the latest of the clandestine settlements was Ofra, in the Samaria region, which was set up without any prior decision by the government and was in fact unknown to the public until its existence was exposed by Yossi Sarid, a Labor Alignment Knesset "dove." Amnon Lin, of Likud, denied there was a conspiracy. He said the settlers of Ofra were to be praised and that Jewish settlements throughout the West Bank should be supported.

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MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 11 (JTA)--Two young Jewish tennis players won the National Seamco All-American Invitational High School Tournament held at Kutsher's Country Club here. Lynn Epstein, of Miami Beach (Fla.) High School defeated Susan Hagey of La Jolla, California 6-4, 1-6, 7-5. Van Winitsky, of Piper High School, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., won over Juan Farrow of St. Louis, a protege of tennis pro Arthur Ashe, 6-2, 6-4. Both youngsters reached the finals by surviving a round-robin of competition against eight All American high school court stars.

STATE DEPT. ADMITS ERROR IN LISTING JERUSALEM AS 'NATION'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--The State Department acknowledged today that Jerusalem is "a city," not a "nation", or "a country" and indicated that it considers residents of the West Bank to be Jordanians. The mislabeling of Jerusalem was brought to the State Department's attention by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the Department released the names of museum directors from "eighteen nations" including "Jerusalem" who are currently on a tour of seven American cities as guests of the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The delegate from Jerusalem was identified as Ms. Abu-Hajj who is director general of the Islamic Museum, Haram-es-Sharif, in Jerusalem. In response to the JTA's queries, the State Department said that she is a Jordanian citizen travelling on a laissez-passer issued by the Israeli Ministry of Interior. The Department added that she was selected for the visit by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem which nominates "people from the West Bank area" to participate in international exchange visits sponsored by the State Department.

JORDANIANS CONTINUE FORTIFICATIONS ALONG ISRAEL'S EASTERN BORDER

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--The Jordanian army is speeding up its fortifications along the east banks of the Jordan River facing Israel's Beisan Valley and in the area between Beisan and Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Israel is also carrying out major fortification work on its side of the border in these regions and on the Golan Heights, it was reported today.

Tractors and heavy earth-moving equipment of the Jordanian Engineers Corps are in full view from the Israeli side clearing roads, digging trenches and building earthwork barriers. The Jordanians are also building fortifications in the region of Naharayim, site of the old Palestine Electric Corp. hydro-electric station which Jordan seized in 1948.

On the Golan Heights, a group of Russian Jews from the remote Tatai region of the southern Caucasus is employed building Israeli fortifications. They speak a special dialect of their region which is located near the junction of the Russian, Turkish and Iranian borders. They say working for Israel's defense is a great privilege for them. There are about 500 families of Tatai Jews now in Israel.

NEW ABSORPTION CENTERS WILL SERVE NON-COLLEGE OLIM

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Two new absorption centers will be opened shortly for immigrants without college training, it was announced today. The site of the first one will be either at Ofakim, east of Beersheba or in Dimona, west of that city. Both have industrial plants that could provide jobs for large numbers of immigrants.

Up to now only college-trained immigrants were allowed the privilege of remaining at absorption centers for as long as several months while looking for employment and deciding where to settle in Israel. Other immigrants are taken directly from Ben Gurion Airport to new development areas where housing is available for them. This practice has come in for a good deal of criticism and complaints from the immigrants who preferred to settle in other parts of the country. The two new centers will allow the immigrants time to decide where to live while the Absorption Ministry helps them find jobs and permanent housing and while they study the Hebrew language.

PERES WANTS TIME AND TERRITORY AS ASSURANCES OF EGYPTIAN INTENT

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said last night that Israel wants the tangible element of territory and the intangible of the passage of time to assure it that Egypt's intentions are peaceful economic development rather than war. Addressing graduates of the Feinberg School of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, Peres said Israel would require the geographic assurance of a land bridge to Sharm el-Sheikh to ensure freedom of navigation in the Straits of Tiran and control over the mountain passes in Sinai to prevent a surprise attack. Israel also requires a large demilitarized zone in Sinai, he said.

The time element, Peres said, called for a cooling-off period between Israel and Egypt during which economic boycotts and warlike propaganda would be eliminated. Diplomas were awarded to 116 graduates, the youngest of them 17-year-old Shachar Ben-Menahem who received a masters degree in physics.

ISRAEL NAVY CAPABLE OF LONG-RANGE OPERATIONS, ITS COMMANDER SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--The commander of Israel's navy said tonight that it was capable of operations far from Israel's shores and could handle a situation such as arose during the Yom Kippur War when Egypt blockaded the Straits of Bab el Mandeb that connect the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean. Addressing military correspondents on the eve of Navy Day which Israel will celebrate tomorrow, Admiral Benjamin Telem would not say how the navy would respond in the event the straits were again closed to Israeli shipping but observed that "We now have better, much better capabilities to do so."

Admiral Telem also revealed that a Soviet spy ship was stationed in international waters off Israel, monitoring all Israeli cables, radio-telephone calls and broadcasts.

He officially disclosed that the navy is now equipped with an improved version of its "Gabriel" surface-to-surface missile, the "Gabriel II" which has double the 20-mile range of the original "Gabriel" missile. He disclosed that the navy also has hovercraft, amphibious vessels that ride on cushions of air just over the sea surface. He said they are employed in rescue operations, the transfer of wounded and carrying cargoes. He said the Israeli hovercraft have a range of 80 kilometers.

Admiral Telem confirmed that the Egyptian navy has been utilizing the Suez Canal, well before its official reopening June 5, to re-enforce its Red Sea fleet with modern, sophisticated naval units. He said Egyptian naval craft have been passing through the canal for the past 6-8 months. According to the Admiral, Israel's navy and all navies in this region will rely mainly on small craft in the future. He described these as small coastal vessels and swift missile boats. He said the idea is to have boats with small crews and heavy fire power.

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PARIS (JTA)--Egyptian Vice President Husni Moubarak denied Wednesday that the Middle East was close to peace and said his country had no reason to be optimistic.

AJCONGRESS NOT SATISFIED WITH CBS RE-BROADCAST ON SYRIAN JEWS

Says Complaint Filed With NNC Stands

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress declared today that the CBS re-broadcast last Sunday of its Feb. 16 television portrayal of the condition of Syrian Jewry and on the destruction of Kuneitra on the Golan Heights, included reference to complaints about the original program but that the network's reply was "inadequate, self-serving and grudging at best."

The AJCongress, which filed a complaint on June 3 with the National News Council, a non-profit agency which investigates complaints about the media, also said, in a letter to the news council today, that its complaint about the original "60 Minutes" program "stands, and we look forward to a finding in support of our charges by the National News Council."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, AJCongress president, declared that CBS had "failed to respond to the major thrusts of our criticism" and had failed to "set the record straight and to deepen understanding of complex issues."

Charges Wallace Omitted Facts On Family

Rabbi Hertzberg said that Mike Wallace, who conducted the original program and the re-broadcast, had failed in the re-broadcast to report facts about the Nusseri family he interviewed in Damascus which the AJCongress said Wallace knew and which made it clear that Nusseri's testimony "could not be believed." Rabbi Hertzberg said that Wallace "certainly knew by June 8 that two of the Nusseris' sons had fled Syria" and that members of the Nusseri family had been held for "interrogation" in a Syrian jail for more than a month.

Rabbi Hertzberg said Wallace's promise on the June 8 re-broadcast to return to Syria for another look at Syrian Jewry was unhelpful because "no accurate picture of the Syrian Jewish community can emerge if it depends for its information on interviews held within Syria," adding that "no Jewish family inside Syria can speak freely."

Rabbi Hertzberg said that if CBS News wanted to "redress the inbalance," it should arrange for Wallace to do what the AJCongress proposed in conversations and a letter--"interview a Syrian Jew who has managed to escape within recent months and is now beyond the reach of Syrian authority." Rabbi Hertzberg said this was the only way to correct "the distorted picture of Syrian Jewry broadcast to millions on Feb. 16 and repeated again on June 8."

Destruction Of Kuneitra Not Fully Explained

The AJCongress said Wallace in the June 8 re-broadcast repeated statements attributed to unidentified sources that Syrian President Hafez Assad had made a "calculated decision" to end the persecution of Syrian Jews. Wallace "merely repeated a rumor and left his audience with a clear impression that it was a fait accompli."

On the first program, the AJCongress said, Wallace had declared that Kuneitra had been destroyed, not by war, but by Israeli bulldozers in 1974. On the June 8 re-broadcast, Wallace conceded that Kuneitra "had been partially destroyed in the wars of 1967 and 1973," but "this reluctant admission still left viewers with the impression that Israeli troops had seized a viable city and levelled it." The agency charged that Wallace "again failed to make clear" that Kuneitra had been a ghost town and that any levelling had been done to buildings empty of their original residents for eight years.

By the standard of "fair and responsible presentation to the American public of the truth about the Jews of Syria," Rabbi Hertzberg said, CBS "failed in its original broadcast of Feb. 16 and failed again on June 8 after its initial report had been called into question. CBS made no amends by its re-broadcast; it compounded the error."

COMMITTEE TO RESCUE SYRIAN JEWS FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST WALLACE

By Sheryl Anne Gura

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--The Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry announced today that it would register a complaint with the National News Council against Mike Wallace's "60 Minutes" program on Syrian Jews re-broadcast on CBS on June 8. The re-broadcast contained Wallace's responses to criticism provoked by the original broadcast on Feb. 16. The Committee maintained that Wallace neither corrected his previous statements nor justified the information contained in the original telecast. A similar complaint was filed June 3 by the American Jewish Congress. (See separate story.)

Rabbi Joseph Harari, executive director of the Committee, specified to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview today, the Committee's objections to Wallace's new commentary. Wallace stated that "Jewish groups charge we have misrepresented and distorted the status and condition of the Syrian Jews." This, according to Harari, "actually means that he refuses to admit that he himself made the errors." Harari interpreted Wallace's statement that "emigration restrictions have been tightened again," to "imply that past emigration laws were more lenient and relaxed." Harari insists that this is "untrue." "The laws have always existed. The Syrian government has never permitted a Jew to legally emigrate," he explained.

Harari objected to Wallace's implication that "Jewish groups are incorrect when they disagree with the Syrian government's explanation for the harassment and surveillance of Jews; that the Jews are suspect as a possible fifth column." Harari indicated that Wallace merely mentioned that Jewish groups believe this to be untrue rather than admitting it to be so. "Wallace should realize that if the Syrian government had anything to fear from its Jewish citizens it would have been quite anxious to get rid of them rather than keep them under close surveillance and prevent them from leaving the country," Harari said.

After the original broadcast, Wallace received complaints that he had omitted any reference to the four Jewish youths executed for espionage in 1969. In the re-broadcast Wallace justified this omission by having a member of the Syrian Jewish community state that this was untrue. The Committee accused Wallace of having "caused this man to falsely stand witness against his own people. He was forced to lend credibility to the accusation of a fifth column," Rabbi Harari said.

Harari stated that Wallace should have dealt with an incident more recent than 1969. He said that "there was no justification for Wallace's neglect to mention the four young women who were unjustly accused of espionage, detained at secret police headquarters and sentenced to death last year." They were later found murdered but Wallace made no mention of this widely reported incident in his broadcast, Harari noted.