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GROMYKO CALLS FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE PLO Refrains From Attacking U.S., Israel By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23 (JTA)--The Soviet Union stated today that it stands for reconvening the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a major policy speech at the 30th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko declared that "to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East in the interests of all states of the area and people inhabiting it, it is necessary to withdraw Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied by them in 1967; to insure the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to establish their own state; and to guarantee the rights of all the countries of the Middle East to independent development."

Gromyko said that as long as those crucial problems are left unsolved there will be no headway in the Middle East. His speech, moderate in tone, criticized but did not attack either the U.S. or Israel. He referred to the new Israeli-Egyptian Sinai accord without mentioning it directly but implied criticism of the pact when he observed that "the problem of the Middle East must be free from an approach based on momentary considerations and publicity." He claimed that "it can be solved in the interests of the security and independence of all the countries of the region only on condition of a serious and responsible approach to its solution."

Palestinian Problem Emphasized

Gromyko criticized the Israeli government in terms that seemed almost mild compared to previous Soviet blasts against Israel. He said that "by all appearances, the circles which determine the political course of Israel have not yet come to the realization that it is impossible to insure the security of their country while trampling upon the legitimate rights of other countries which are its neighbors. That policy naturally meets with broad condemnation."

Gromyko made several references in his speech to the rights of all countries in the region but he emphasized that the solution of the Palestinian problem is "an integral part of an overall settlement in the Middle East. Today this is an axiom and politicians cannot pretend not to see it," he said. The Soviet Foreign Minister reiterated the friendly and deep rooted relations between the Soviet Union and the Arab countries which, he declared, no one could "succeed in undermining."

It was announced here today that Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will address the General Assembly next Tuesday, Sept. 30. Allon, who arrived here last night from Israel to head his country's delegation to the current General Assembly session, is expected to meet with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in New York tomorrow.

EXPLOSION HITS RABBI'S HOME

PARIS, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Terrorists set off an

explosion of pressurized gas at the home of France's Chief Rabbi, Jacob Kaplan, last night. Several bottles of gas, triggered by a wired explosive device, went off before the Chief Rabbi's home at about eight p.m. No one was hurt and property damage was slight. A threatening letter, sent to all Paris rabbis two weeks ago, had announced the imminent attack on Rabbi Kaplan.

"I do not know who is responsible for this attack," Rabbi Kaplan told reporters. "It is obvious that, through me, it is aimed at the entire community which I represent." The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF) in a letter today to Rabbi Kaplan, denounced the attack and expressed its hope that the public authorities will soon discover "these apostles of Nazism."

ISRAEL, EGYPT CONCLUDE NEGOTIATION ON SINAI PROTOCOL, EGYPT SIGNS WHILE ISRAEL AFFIXES ITS INITIAL By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Israel and Egypt early this morning concluded negotiations on the protocol implementing the Sinai disengagement agreement. The head of the Egyptian delegation Gen. Tuha el Magdoub signed for his country while Israel's Mordchaai Gazit and Gen. Herzl Shafir only initialed the agreement for the time being. It is believed that the agreement will be signed by Israel within a few days after the U.S. Congress approves Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's undertaking and guarantees and Egypt has given concrete proof of its goodwill.

(In Washington the State Department said today that Israel's initialing of the agreement is "essentially a procedural question" as far as the United States is concerned and "not an obstacle to implementation" of the second-stage Sinai accord.)

The agreement signed at the Palais des Nations this morning is believed to consist of two parts: an official protocol and secret clauses which take the form of a "Chairman's Statement" made by the conference's chairman, UNTSO chief Ennio Sillanvuo, behind closed doors.

The secret clause is believed to cover such items as the rights and the restrictions of Egyptian civilians in the buffer zone, which Egypt considers sovereign territory. The Egyptian delegation adamantly refused to affix its signature to a document which would curtail its rights on what it declares to be "national soil."

Concessions By Both Sides

The secret clauses also reportedly cover Egyptian restrictions on resettlement of the buffer zone and on the circulation of Egyptian technicians and civilians in that area. The text of the protocol was not made public but conference sources say that it contains far-reaching concessions made by both sides.

Diplomatic circles say, however, that Israel, apparently feeling the brunt of American pressures, made the most of them, constantly giving "signs of goodwill" throughout the talks. The main Israeli concessions, according to these sources, are:

Agreeing that all items dealing with restric-

tions in the buffer zone form a separate agreement, not part of the protocol and apparently only vaguely guaranteed by the United States; allowing Egypt to station armored carriers in the zones of restricted armaments which adjoin the buffer zone. The armored carriers are manufactured in the Soviet Union and are equipped with powerful guns which could have far reaching effects in case of a renewed conflict; permitting Egypt to station more than the 200 policemen which Israel first suggested in the Abu Rodeis area.

It is believed that the protocol permits Egypt to station some 800 "policemen" which could actually be crack troops or commandos. The main concession was to permit Israel to initial the agreement instead of signing it. It is not known whether the count-down for Israel's evacuation will start with today's ceremony or from the date on which Israel actually signs the agreement.

Predict Period Of Stability

Israeli sources point out that the agreement, if carried out faithfully by both sides, will not only establish a period of stability and tranquility on Israel's border with Egypt but will also "neutralize" Egypt for some months.

It is unofficially reported that Israel intends to evacuate its troops from the disengagement territories only at the end of the five-month period provided by the basic agreement for the Israeli withdrawal. This five-month period falls at a time when pressures are expected to increase on Israel to negotiate with Syria, and would ensure, these sources say, Egypt's relative neutrality in this process.

The five-month lapse of time does not apply, however, to the Abu Rodeis area where Egyptian technicians will arrive two weeks after the count-down and which Israel must leave within six weeks from that date.

PERES: NEW SINAI PACT DOES NOT NEGATE DANGERS, BUT DOES POINT TO A NEW RAY OF HOPE FOR PEACE

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Shimon Peres, Israel's Defense Minister, speaking at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today that the second Sinai interim accord did not mean that the dangers of the Middle East situation were over but did mean that there was a new ray of hope for all peace-loving peoples. Peres cautioned American Jewish leaders that they could not "go on vacation" in terms of mobilizing support for Israel because of the promises of broad scale U.S. military and economic assistance.

Peres also said that he was very much impressed with the serious response and the friendly attitudes of Congressional leaders with whom he had met for Israel's aid requests. He said the attitudes were much more positive than he had anticipated. He said he had been assured by both the majority and minority leaders in Congress that there was strong support for Israel's aid requests of \$2.3 billion.

Peres declared that while the ratio between the amount that would be in the form of a loan and in the form of grants had not been fixed, he said he expected that about one-third would be a loan and the remainder in the form of grants. He said Israel does not ask for this aid lightly and recognizes the U.S. economic problems, but he pointed out that most of the aid money would be spent in the U.S. for planes, electronic equipment and other products made in America.

Cites Higher Cost Of Arms

He also said the dimensions of Israel's request did not reflect an enlargement of Israel's requests but the higher costs of military equipment. He also said that in the past year alone, there had been a 23 percent increase in the prices of American military products and that the military equipment Israel needs had become so much more sophisticated that while the first planes Israel obtained from the U.S.--the Skyhawks--cost about \$1 million each, the price of the F-15 which Israel hopes to acquire, is about \$25 million each.

Peres said that controversy over the Pershing missile was a false one because it had nothing to do with the nuclear capability of the missile, adding that Israel had other means of delivering warheads if it ever decided to do so. He said that "We ask for the Pershing not to decide the outcome of a war but to deter war. If the Arabs know that we have the Pershing missile, they might have second thoughts about launching a war."

He said, concerning Syria, that Israel would like to negotiate a full-fledged peace but that it was Syria's turn to come up with suggestions for such a settlement. On the fighting inside Lebanon, he said the lesson was that there is no room in the Arab world for a non-Moslem minority. He expressed concern about the U.S. sale of Hawk missiles to Jordan and said he felt it was a "mistake" because a large number of Hawks could endanger the restraint that has characterized Jordan policy.

CAREFUL REACTION TO KISSINGER'S INFORMAL CONFERENCE IDEA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Jerusalem reacted carefully to the proposal advanced yesterday at the UN General Assembly by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that an informal conference be called to discuss Mideast peace. There was obviously some embarrassment here at the fact that Israel had not been informed in advance of the details of the Secretary's idea--and indeed those details have still not been transmitted to Israel. Officials said they are awaiting the breakfast meeting tomorrow in New York between Kissinger and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon to ascertain a fuller picture of what the Secretary has in mind.

It seemed clear that the government here had been taken somewhat unaware by the speech and had not yet developed a hard policy line towards it. Officials said Israel had been told in advance of the general outline of the Secretary's proposal. They indicated that there had not been enough time, however, for a full exchange of views on the proposal between Israel and Washington before the speech was delivered.

Observers noted that this process hardly accorded with the understanding, repeatedly stressed by government ministers here in defense of the interim agreement, that following the agreement the U.S. and Israel would coordinate their political positions. Kissinger's speech did not seem to bear out the Israeli expectations, observers noted--and hence their embarrassment and anxiety.

Some political observers here believe Kissinger's aim is to "take the heat" off President Anwar Sadat by switching the focus of Mideast interest from the Sinai accord to some novel idea for a future multi-participant conference. Kissinger is known to be concerned at the heavy pressure from Arab hardliners to which Sadat has been subjected since the Sinai accord was signed early this month.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE NAME OF THE GAME: ISRAEL
AS THE HEAVY IN THE MIDEAST
 By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA)--On Sept. 1 Israel and Egypt initiated the second Sinai interim agreement that was reached with the help of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. That same day President Ford in personal telephone calls to Kissinger, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat congratulated the three for achieving the accord, termed it fair and balanced and declared that "this is a great achievement, one of the most historic of this decade, perhaps of this century."

Within three weeks, however, this fair and balanced agreement had all but been turned against Israel into a most unfair and unbalanced portrayal of the Jewish State as lusting after U.S. military weapons almost at the expense of America's own military needs and placing burdensome demands on America's strained financial resources as the price for having consented to the accord.

The major dailies in New York and Washington embarked on a concerted campaign focusing on what they made to appear was Israel's insatiable appetite for U.S. aid, leaking texts and secret memorandums and undertakings between Israel and the U.S. and offering such tantalizing and misleading headlines as "New Missiles for Mideast: A Destabilizing Factor," and "Pentagon Not Consulted On Pershings." The net result of these reports created the distinct impression that the "most historic" achievement had not taken place between Israel and Egypt but between Israel and the U.S. and that Israel was the sole beneficiary of the accord reaped with American help.

Unquestionably, the leaks to the press regarding various U.S.-Israel undertakings and the ensuing one-sided, contradictory, half-baked and innuendo-filled reports reflected the sentiments of the differing, even warring factions within the State Department, the Pentagon, the Administration and Congress. These sentiments could be grasped behind the screaming headlines.

Along Comes Middleton

On Sept. 18, Drew Middleton wrote in the New York Times that the possibility that Israel will acquire medium-range and long-range surface-to-surface missiles "is regarded by qualified informants in Washington and Western Europe as a significant step toward expanded warfare in the Middle East." Furthermore, he noted, "Israel's deployment of the Pershing, military sources noted, would add a new dimension to her power and, according to one critic of the proposal, destabilize the military balance in the area."

Middleton "balanced" his report by relating Israel Defense Minister Shimon Peres' statement to the National Press Club in Washington that Israel was prepared to offer a guarantee not to convert the Pershing missiles with nuclear warheads. But the Times expert immediately redressed this "balance" by showing that Israel had nuclear potential and had converted earlier weapons from the U.S. and Britain to her needs and that the conversion of Pershings from a non-nuclear to a nuclear role "would not offer insuperable technological problems."

In addition, Pentagon officials were quoted in the press as insisting that the military establish-

ment had not been consulted about an "agreement" for the U.S. to supply Israel with Pershing missiles and intimated that Kissinger, during his latest shuttle, had slipped this "agreement" to the Israelis behind the backs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger. It was also intimated by these officials and dutifully "disclosed" by the press that the supply of Pershings and F-16s was a virtual payoff to Israel for signing the accord.

Too Costly For The U.S.

According to well-placed "leaks" funneled through the press the U.S. had not only undertaken a number of secret military accords with Israel that included pledges for military hardware that could very well diminish existing U.S. arms inventories but also substantial financial aid that would take an enormous bite out of American taxpayers' pocketbooks. Rep. Lee Hamilton (D., Ind.) alluded to the latter when he asserted last week that the Sinai accord will cost the U.S. \$4 billion to implement which, he asserted, is "mighty expensive real estate."

J. William Fulbright, who is the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also denounced the Sinai accord as too costly for the U.S. and delivered himself of the opinion that "we have subjected ourselves to the will of Israel." Parenthetically, neither Congressman offered a feasible alternative to the so-called exorbitant cost, namely, the removal of American troops or personnel from areas where they are now stationed in non-danger zones and to reassign the monies spent on them for the cost of having personnel in Sinai.

On top of all this, or rather, throughout all this, Kissinger reiterated time and again since his return from his latest shuttle that Israel would not have, might not have, consented to the Sinai pact unless the U.S. agreed to station civilian personnel there and, in fact, had insisted on this proviso as a prerequisite for agreeing to the accord.

To all intents and purposes these developments have left the impression that Israel and the U.S. are involved in some international Watergate and that Israel is bent on "Vietnamizing" the U.S. by forcing America into another foreign exploit. Wittingly or unwittingly these "leaks" and reports have become grist to the mill among those segments in the State Department, Pentagon, and Congress that would like to turn off the American public to Israel, if not turn American public opinion against Israel. The Jewish State, thereby, is being cast as the heavy in the Mideast scene. The facts do not warrant this.

Facts Do Not Warrant Reports

Rabin reported two weeks ago that the idea of an American presence in Sinai was first proposed by Sadat in his meeting with Ford in Salzburg in June. He said the idea had come up when Sadat rejected the Israeli proposal that the warning systems would be manned by the Egyptians and Israelis alone. Peres, who together with Rabin and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon comprised Israel's negotiating team, reaffirmed this last week. Allon, in an interview published in Maariv on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, stated: "I did not present the question of American technicians as a demand and I did not regard the American technicians' presence as an essential condition for the signature of the agreement." The so-called impartial press very partially refrained from reporting these statements

or buried them in reams of copy.

As to American commitments to sell Israel new weapons, including Pershings, Kissinger last weekend told reporters that these arms are not new items that have been "submitted to us during the negotiations" and had been "reviewed prior to the reassessment (begun last March) by all the agencies in Washington." Last Sunday, Schlesinger conceded after being asked point-blank by reporters on CBS-TV "Meet the Press" that he had been informed about the Pershing missiles in due course.

In addition, he continued, even if the Pershings were approved for Israel--which at this time they are not--production has been shut down for some time and could not be resumed before 1978. Likewise, the sophisticated F-16s will not go into production before 1979-80, Schlesinger noted.

Again, the press failed to balance its reports regarding arms sales to Israel by playing down or entirely ignoring the most salient facts: that the Pershings would barely offset the stockpiles of Frog and Scud missiles the Egyptians now have thanks to Soviet help and that the Arab states now have missiles capable of hitting every city in Israel, while Israel now has no comparable weapons.

Also played down by the press was the conclusion of the study published two weeks ago by the authoritative London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies which showed that during the past 12 months Iraq increased defense spending from \$3,224 billion to \$10,405 billion; Saudi Arabia hiked its defense budget from \$1,808 billion to \$6,343 billion; and Egypt's defense budget went up from \$4,071 billion to \$6,103 billion. During the same period, however, the IISS showed that Israel's defense budget declined from \$3,688 billion to \$3,503 billion.

Promises Do Not Equal Aid

As for economic aid to Israel, the \$3 billion Israel had hoped to get is now down to some \$2.3 billion subject to Congressional approval of which \$1.5 billion is for military aid. Unreported or buried in the voluminous reports on the U.S. aid package is the fact that Egypt will receive between \$650 million and \$800 million in what is termed in Washington as "non-military" aid for now. In addition, Kissinger has made it clear that the U.S. has not committed itself to "separate funding" to Israel in compensation for the oil she will no longer obtain from the Sinai wells that are being returned to Egypt. There had been reports that Israel would receive \$300 million in compensation.

The picture, therefore, of Israel as a militarily rapacious nation, anxious to involve the U.S. in a Mideast "Vietnam" and seeking to drain American financial resources is a portrait devoid of reality. The reality is that Israel has received verbal and written promises, indications, offerings and hedged pledges. These are hardly the substantial weapons and finances Israel desperately requires in her continuing struggle to maintain her national sovereignty and security.

'SUCCAH IN THE SKY'

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared yesterday that despite the hostility toward Israel in the General Assembly he does not feel alone because he knows that behind him is

the heroism of the Israeli people and the support of the "great American Jewish community." He praised the effectiveness of American Jewish leaders. "We (in Israel) feel it every day," he said.

Herzog spoke to some 100 persons, many of them leaders of American Jewish organizations, at a luncheon in the "Sucoah in the Sky," on the roof of the 80-story Grace Building in midtown Manhattan. This is the fourth year the sucoah, called "the world's highest," has been erected on the building owned by the firm of Benjamin Swig, Jack D. Weller and Robert H. Arnov.

The Israeli envoy, who came late to the luncheon, noted that he was delayed because Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was addressing the General Assembly. "I would be the last to leave before Dr. Kissinger finished and I had the opportunity to congratulate him," he said.

The luncheon yesterday was hosted by Weller, his son-in-law, Arnov, and his son, Alan G. Weller. The chairmen for the event were Rabbi Emanuel H. Rackman, of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue and Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, executive vice-president of the New York Board of Rabbis. During the rest of the week the sucoah will host children from the Ramaz and Riverdale day schools and fund-raising events for the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bonds and the Religious Zionists of America.

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, told the gathering that since the Yom Kippur War, Jews have learned that "it is not enough to live for ourselves." She said, "We have to be responsible for the totality of the Jewish people." Rabbi Sol Stein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, compared the sucoah to the skyscraper. It was on, noting that a skyscraper provides security by its facade but a sucoah's security comes from within the people inside of it. He said the strength of the Jewish people comes from within itself.

MOSCOW JEWS SCUFFLE WITH POLICE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA)--Moscow Jews scuffled with Soviet police for possession of an Israeli flag during a Sucooth picnic Sunday in a woodland area about 20 miles from Moscow. The police withdrew after a high-ranking officer received a bloody nose, leaving the flag intact. The incident was reported by telephone yesterday by Eddi Berna, coach of the Israeli weightlifting team that participated in an international tournament in Moscow last week.

Berna said the weightlifters and members of an Israeli wrestling team, also in the USSR for a tournament, guarded the flag but did not participate in the scuffle which involved about 100 Jews and about 300 policemen. He said the police took photographs of the Israelis and apparently were trying to provoke them into joining the fray.

Meir Meshel, captain of the weightlifting team, said he lodged a complaint with the organizing committee of the tournament and demanded an apology from the police. He was told by one official, "You Israelis came here to cause provocations," Meshel reported. He said he would apply to international sports organizations to reconsider their choice of the Soviet Union to host the 1980 Olympic Games.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The newest member of the U.S. Senate, John A. Durkin (D-NH), opposes the presence of U.S. technicians in Sinai.