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KISSINGER STILL FAVORS INTERIM ACCORDS IN MIDWEST BUT PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE CONFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES, EXCLUDING PALESTINIANS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today at a news conference in Detroit that he continued to favor interim agreements in the Middle East settlement process but that he would be prepared to "encourage" conferences of some kind between Israel and its three Arab neighbors but without Palestinian participation.

Discussing a news report that the U.S. is abandoning its step-by-step diplomacy in view of the Syrian-Israeli impasse over the Golan Heights, Kissinger said that he did not agree with the report and declared step-by-step negotiations "are not out."

"Our view always has been to support a step-by-step approach if the parties want it," he said. However, he continued, the U.S. is prepared to support a Geneva or a Geneva-type or a "preparatory" conference or an "informal meeting" with the participation of the parties which received the "original letters of invitation" from the United Nations. These were the U.S., the Soviet Union, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

Syria is now insisting that the Palestine Liberation Organization participate in discussions with Israel as a condition to its agreement to renew the mandate for UNDOF to remain on the Golan Heights. The mandate expires Sunday. Israel has rejected the Syrian demand. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is in the Middle East seeking a renewal of the mandate.

Opposes Syrian Position On PLO

Asked about the seriousness of reports that Waldheim was having difficulty effecting an agreement between Israel and Syria, Kissinger said he has not seen official reports on the Waldheim conversations in Syria and Israel. But his comments indicated that the U.S. is supporting Israel against the Syrian position to bring in the PLO.

With specific reference to the continuation of the UNDOF force, Kissinger said that "we still believe that extension of the mandate is essential," adding that "increased tension on the Golan would serve nobody." Kissinger met with newsmen following an address last night to the Economic Club of Detroit.

JERUSALEM BOMBING VICTIM DIES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Zipora Cohen, 18, died yesterday, raising to seven the death toll in the Nov. 14 terrorist bombing on Jaffa Road in downtown Jerusalem. The girl, who succumbed to injuries she sustained when a booby-trapped handcart exploded in the middle of rush hour crowds, was buried yesterday next to two of her friends also-killed in the blast. Her sister Lea, 16, is still hospitalized for injuries. All of the victims were teenagers.

ILLEGAL SETTLERS REMOVED

By David Landes

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Israeli soldiers

forcibly removed illegal Jewish settlers from an encampment near Sebastia in the Samaria district of the West Bank this evening. The settlers, followers of the Orthodox Gush Emunim movement, originally said they would employ passive resistance and not "lift a hand" against Israeli soldiers.

But as windswept rains began to pound the area at dusk, tempers turned nasty and the troops had to employ force, according to the latest reports. All roads leading to the region have been blocked and newsmen have been barred from entering it.

Sebastia was the site of a mass settlement attempt by the Gush Emunim in August, 1974 when troops were called in and scuffles developed. Members of the movement, who contend that the West Bank belongs to Israel by divine right and historical tradition, have made numerous attempts to establish settlements without the required official permission and in defiance of government policy.

Usually they have kept their plans secret but this time Gush Emunim leaders announced at a press conference last week that they planned to resume their illegal settlement attempts. They said it was in response to the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The group set out for Sebastia from Tel Aviv this morning and set up a camp. Troops arrived there this afternoon and according to initial reports the evacuation of the would-be settlers was proceeding smoothly. Later, however, the settlers split into separate groups and established several camp sites, at which point the military resorted to forcible removal.

JAKOBOVITS TO VISIT THE USSR FOR 10 DAYS: A FIRST FOR A JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADER OUTSIDE THE COMMUNIST BLOC

LONDON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of the British Commonwealth, will visit the Soviet Union for 10 days next month at the invitation of the Moscow Synagogue congregation and a wide range of other Jewish groups in the USSR, the Chief Rabbi's office announced today. His visit will mark the first time that a religious leader of a Jewish community outside the Communist bloc has been invited to the Soviet Union.

The announcement said that Rabbi Jakobovits "hopes to visit a number of centers including Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev." He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "I hope to meet as wide a spectrum of Russian Jews as possible."

Need To Provide For Those Staying

The British Chief Rabbi, who is 64, has been active on behalf of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate as well as for the religious and civil rights of Jews who opt to stay in Russia. "Our slogan for Soviet Jewry should not be limited solely to 'let my people go' but 'let my people live,'" he told reporters recently.

Rabbi Jakobovits said he believed that the bulk of Soviet Jews did not intend to leave and had to be provided for so as to be able to transmit their Jewish heritage to their children. In that connection, he protested the restrictions imposed on Jewish

studies and observances by the Soviet authorities which, he said, was far in excess of their treatment of other religious minorities in the Soviet Union.

The Chief Rabbi noted that there are no rabbinical training seminars in the USSR, that 750,000 Jews in Moscow have only three synagogues and that if a young Jew attended synagogue he could be expelled from the university. He said the condition of Jews was very similar in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria but that Hungary was more tolerant and that Rumania, of all the Communist-bloc countries of Eastern Europe, allowed Jews the most freedom of worship.

DRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY IN JEWISH LIFE LAUNCHED; SEEK 250,000 NAMES OF U.S. JEWS BEFORE HOLDING ELECTIONS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Jewish Defense League, last night urged the supporters of his "Democracy in Jewish Life" movement to obtain signatures from at least 250,000 American Jews before holding an election to name national and local leaders of the Jewish community.

Speaking to more than 100 persons at a conference at the New York Hilton at which the drive was launched under an organization to be called DIJL (Democracy in Jewish Life), Kahane said that unless the quarter million figure was reached the election would not be accepted by the present Jewish establishment. It was also announced at the meeting that a national board will be named.

However, Kahane urged that the JDL, which initiated the move for the popular election of Jewish leaders, not lead the drive in DIJL. "Take DIJL out of the JDL and give it up to 'respectable' people" so that it will be accepted by the general Jewish community, the JDL founder urged.

Disappointed By Small Turnout

Kahane, who had predicted an overflow turnout for the conference, expressed disappointment at the sparse turnout last night. "That this room is not filled is an indictment not of Jewish leaders but of the sheep who are being led to slaughter and are allowing themselves to be led," he declared.

But most of Kahane's remarks were aimed at the leaders of Jewish organizations, particularly those in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, whom he called feudal barons who for the past 70 years had led American Jewry first to spiritual destruction and now to physical danger. He said these leaders had no right to speak for American Jewry to the Administration and Congress.

Other speakers at the conference last night also attacked Jewish leaders, particularly in New York City. But Rabbi David Hollander, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, urged the group not to get bogged down about allegations against Jewish leaders, justified or not. He said the main issue is that "it is a matter of principle that people have no right to speak for the Jewish community without having a mandate from the community."

LEVITAS ARREST APPEARS IMMINENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Soviet activist Boris Levitas, who was ordered to appear Nov. 22 before a medical committee of his draft board in Kiev, failed to appear and it is feared he will be arrested and charged with "draft evasion,"

according to reports reaching the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. His parents, brother and sister emigrated to Israel in 1973.

Levitas applied for an exit visa in January. Considered an excellent student at the Building Institute in Kiev, he was suddenly given poor marks and was expelled from the Institute upon his application to emigrate. Dina Levitas said of her son, "When he goes into the army, we know that his chances of rejoining us are slim. After army service he will be kept for as long as five years because the authorities will claim he knows 'military secrets,'" according to the NCSJ.

Levitas' family is convinced that he is being conscripted to frighten off other Jews in Kiev from applying, and that the authorities are taking revenge upon him for wanting to leave the Soviet Union, the NCSJ reported.

GRANT TO TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Tel Aviv University was one of 17 universities and research groups to receive a grant from the Ford Foundation aimed at improving scholarship on the Soviet Union and East Europe. According to a Foundation announcement released today, Tel Aviv University will receive \$30,000. The total amount of funds for the 17 institutions in the U.S. and abroad is \$650,000.

The Ford Foundation announcement said that the Tel Aviv University will be engaged in an assessment of Soviet policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and will be carried out by a team of researchers from Tel Aviv and Hebrew Universities. They will analyze Soviet policy not only with respect to Soviet goals, interests and achievements, but also in relation to the domestic constraints under which Soviet policy-makers operate.

IRAQ REFUSES TO SUBSTANTIATE CLAIM THAT AHARONSON IS STILL ALIVE

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Iraqi authorities continue to withhold any evidence to substantiate their claim that Alexander Aharonson is still alive. The Dutch-born Jew, sentenced to death by a Baghdad military tribunal as an alleged Israeli spy, was reported by the Iraqi news agency to have been hanged early this month. Official Iraqi sources deny that the execution has taken place.

The International Red Cross Committee reported today that it has been trying for a week without success to get permission for a Red Cross representative to visit Aharonson.

The Dutch Embassy in Baghdad was similarly denied permission to see Aharonson. The Iraqi Embassy in The Hague refused to accept a gift parcel from Aharonson's mother on grounds that the prisoner was "an enemy of Iraq" and therefore not entitled to any parcels or assistance. The Dutch Foreign Minister has summoned the Iraqi Charge d'Affairs for another meeting to clarify Aharonson's fate. At a previous meeting, the Iraqi official insisted that the death sentence on Aharonson had not been carried out. Aharonson, a nurse, was arrested in northern Iraq last March 24 while providing medical assistance to Kurds.

CLEVELAND (JTA)--More than 1000 persons met here Monday night in a rally to protest the General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The rally, organized by the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation, heard Rep. Charles Vanik (D, Ohio), Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld and Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, as well as representatives of the Protestant and Catholic faiths.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**THE SITUATION OF BRAZILIAN JEWRY**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA)—The survival of Brazil's Jewish community depends on finding a "third way" between an establishment dedicated to preserving the status quo and young people who are deserting the community in reaction against this, according to Rabbi Henry I. Sobel, of Sao Paulo. The 81-year-old rabbi of Congregacao Israelita Paulista is dedicated to finding this third way and hopes other rabbis and Jewish leaders inside and outside of Brazil will join in the effort.

Sobel's viewpoint can be seen in the theme of the lecture he is giving in several American cities as part of the United Jewish Appeal's lecture series of young people speaking on global Jewish issues. His theme is "Zionism as the unity of the Jewish people by securing the center of our lives in Israel and by developing to the fullest Jewish survival and Jewish life outside of Israel."

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the UJA's national headquarters here, Sobel indicated that the problem of Jewish survival in Brazil stems not from anti-Semitism but from the well-being of the Jewish community. "Anti-Semitism is not part of the Brazilian tradition," he stressed.

There are no barriers to Jews in any segment of Brazilian life, the rabbi stressed emphatically. He said Jews have risen to high levels in every sphere of Brazilian society and for the most part belong to the upper middle class. For this reason he said, they support the status quo, including the present military government in Brazil.

Anti-Semites In Brazil

Sobel stressed that Brazil's support of the United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism was "exclusively a pragmatic concern." However, he noted that there are anti-Semites in Brazil and he placed in that category Brazilian Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, who recently accused Brazilian Jews of being disloyal in criticizing Brazil's stand on the anti-Zionist vote. Rabbi Sobel added that da Silveira could not have acted as he did without the support of President Ernesto Geisel.

However, Sobel stressed that most Brazilians opposed their government's stand. He said he recently had a caller, a high-ranking Brazilian general, who wanted to convince him that Vladimir Herzog, a prominent Brazilian Jewish journalist who died last month while under detention at military headquarters, really did commit suicide as Brazilian military authorities claimed. Herzog's death caused nationwide indignation across Brazil and Sobel spoke at an eulogical memorial service in the Central Cathedral of Sao Paulo attended by 8000 persons.

Sobel said that when he asked the general about the UN resolution, the military man replied that "all of us are disappointed and shocked" by Brazil's vote.

On the Friday night immediately following the UN vote, Sobel held a "Shabat of Affirmation" in his synagogue in which he told the 2000 people present that as "Jews who live in Brazil we have no moral right to remain silent." He said he told the audience that Jews must protest to the government that "we will not accept to see the name of our country on a list of totalitarian dictatorships, Arab countries and Communist countries to which

Brazil is ideologically opposed.

Told Not To Rock The Boat

Sobel said that on this and other occasions he has been told "not to rock the boat," and "Rabbi, this is not America." Sobel, who was born in Lisbon, Portugal, is an American citizen and was educated at Yeshiva University and the Hebrew Union College before coming to Sao Paulo in 1970.

Sobel said the Jewish leadership is made up of "good people" but people who have achieved a high status and therefore want to preserve the status quo and thus support the present government. He said they are motivated by what they consider the realities of the present situation. He noted that not one leader of a Jewish organization attended the memorial for Herzog and when he asked them for an explanation he was told it was a political meeting and thus not in their domain.

The rabbi said that for this reason many Jewish youth join leftist organizations, including the outlawed Communist Party. He noted that many young Jews have been imprisoned and tortured. He said these young Jews are lost to the Jewish people. At the same time, Sobel said there is a new generation of young Jews who want to find their identification as Jews. And it is these young Jews that must be reached, he stressed.

Help Needed From World Jewry

Sobel said that about half of Brazil's estimated 160,000 Jews live in Sao Paulo which he said is rapidly becoming the economic center of Latin America. His congregation, which he said is the largest in South America with 3000 families belonging to it, is the only non-Orthodox congregation in Sao Paulo. Sobel explained that in South America the distinction is between Orthodox and non-Orthodox, and although he was ordained as a Reform rabbi, he serves a congregation that is closer to Conservative practices as it is known in the U.S.

Sobel said that for the Brazilian Jewish community to survive, it needs help from Israel and world Jewry in the form of rabbis and Jewish professionals. He said they would find the opportunity for a rich career in Brazil. "Jewish life in Brazil is not degradation, it is not anti-Semitism," he emphasized. "Jewish life in Brazil is courage...hope and...the possibility of fulfillment."

NAVON ON PALESTINIAN GROUPS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA)—Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and security committee, said yesterday that Israel must be ready to negotiate with any group of Palestinians that recognizes the Jewish State, pledges to refrain from terrorist acts and accepts Security Council Resolution 242 as the framework for a negotiated peace settlement in the Middle East.

Navon is the only dove-ish member of the Labor Alignment's former Rafi faction. He made his remarks in connection with the so-called "Saunders papers," in which Harold Saunders, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, recently told a House International Relations subcommittee that the Palestinian question is "the heart of the Mideast problem in many cases."

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—Some 2000 persons, mostly Jews, held a protest rally Sunday against the UN anti-Zionist resolution.

