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RABIN HINTS ISRAEL MAY NOT BOYCOTT INDEFINITELY UN-COUNCIL SESSIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin hinted today that Israel may not boycott Security Council sessions indefinitely despite the Council's invitation to the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in them. Replying to questions on an Army Radio program, Rabin observed that the Cabinet decision to boycott the Security Council's deliberations on the Middle East because of the PLO presence applied only to the meeting scheduled for January 12.

Asked whether that meant Israel would change its mind with respect to subsequent Council sessions, Rabin replied that the Cabinet has not yet reached a decision. It was reported yesterday that Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told a Cabinet meeting Sunday that there was no change in Israel's firm resolve to boycott the Security Council meetings dealing with Israel's raid on Lebanon (which she did) and the Council's Middle East debate, set to open Jan. 12, to which the PLO was also invited. Allon indicated that there has been U.S. pressure on Israel to reverse its position and attend at least some of the Security Council meetings. But Israel is resisting this pressure, he said.

Rabin, in his radio interview today, appeared to express understanding, though not approval, of the U.S. failure to veto the Soviet-Syrian motion in the Security Council last month which linked the Palestinian issue to the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights. Rabin said the U.S. followed that course because it did not want to take responsibility for ending the UN presence on the Golan.

Sebastia Compromise Under Fire

Meanwhile, the Premier has been trying to defend the compromise agreement reached yesterday with the illegal Gush Emunim settlers in Samaria. The deal, which secured the evacuation of most of the squatters from a site near Sebastia and avoided the use of force by the army, has come under mounting criticism from members of Rabin's Labor Alignment.

Because the agreement permitted a token group of about 30 families to remain in the Samaria district under army protection, many Laborites have charged it was a surrender by the government to the Orthodox zealots who claim the right to settle in the administered territories in defiance of government policies.

Health Minister Victor Shemtov, of Mapam, one of the severest critics of the compromise, was summoned to a meeting by the Premier today and assured that the Gush Emunim were given no commitment that they would be allowed to settle in Samaria in the future. He said the transfer of a number of the squatters to a military camp was not a fait accompli likely to influence upcoming Cabinet discussion of the settlement problem in the administered territory.

Shemtov told the Premier that large segments of the Labor Alignment viewed the compromise as a sell-out to the Gush Emunim, that severely com-

promised the government's authority. Some Alignment members said that most Cabinet ministers had opposed the compromise at last Sunday's Cabinet session as "opening the way for additional unauthorized settlements."

Importance Of 'Summit' Conference

In his radio interview today, Rabin also stressed the importance of the world Jewish conference on solidarity with Israel and Zionism held in Jerusalem last week. He said it differed from previous international Jewish gatherings in that it dealt with specific issues and arrived at practical resolutions. Replying to criticism that the diaspora Jewish leaders invited to attend the conference did not include many prominent Jews unaffiliated with any organization, Rabin said "The purpose of the conference was not to count the number of Nobel Prize winners who were Jewish, Jewish professors, writers and poets, but to generate action within the existing frameworks."

ISRAEL PRAISES U.S. FOR VETOING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Israel expressed satisfaction today over the United States' veto last night of a Security Council resolution that condemned Israel's Dec. 2 air raids on terrorist strongholds in Lebanon but failed to mention terrorist assaults on Israel. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. had thwarted another one-sided resolution by which the Security Council and the General Assembly would again ignore the "abominable crimes" of the terrorist organizations. The U.S. has thus defended the basic principles of justice, international law and the aims of the UN when it was set up 30 years ago, the Ministry said.

Thirteen of the 15 Security Council members voted for the resolution, including Britain and France. Costa Rica abstained and the U.S. cast the only negative ballot constituting a veto. The U.S. came under a barrage of Arab criticism for its veto.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Chaim Herzog, applauded the veto as an act of common decency against discrimination. He accused the other members of the Council of a lack of morality, noting that they had earlier opposed U.S. efforts to balance the condemnation of Israel with an equal condemnation of terrorist acts. It is symptomatic that a move to balance a resolution should have been voted down, thus obliging the U.S. to take a moral stand, he said.

In casting his veto, U.S. Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan cited America's role as mediator in the Middle East conflict and said the U.S. could thus only support an even-handed resolution. When proposed American amendments relating to terrorist raids on Israel were rejected, Moynihan, who was in constant contact with Washington last night, was authorized to veto the measure. The decision reportedly was made by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The British Ambassador, Ivor Richard, who is this month's Security Council President, said he voted for the resolution because there could be no justification for attacks on the scale of the Israeli

raids on Lebanon last week. He said Britain could not accept the principle that any government has the right to take the law into its own hands in this way. He also intimated that the Israeli raids may have damaged prospects for reconciliation in the Lebanese civil war.

KISSINGER AFFIRMS U.S. HAS NOT SHIFTED ITS POLICY TOWARD THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger confirmed today that he had "indicated" to the Israeli government that "it would be better served" if it participated in the Security Council's Middle East debate on Jan. 12, which Israel has announced it would boycott because the Palestine Liberation Organization was invited.

Kissinger said, at the same time, it was "of course, clear" that Israel's representative "would not wish to be in the room while the PLO delegate is actually speaking." He made his comments in the course of a 70-minute press conference at the State Department which was devoted almost exclusively to issues involved in the second SALT agreement with the Soviet Union and brought only one question about the Middle East.

The Secretary used that question to reaffirm in strong terms that there has been absolutely no shift in U.S. policy toward the PLO despite its admitted pressure on Israel to reconsider its boycott of the upcoming Security Council debate. "We will not deal--not negotiate--with the PLO as long as the PLO does not accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," Kissinger said.

"That will be our attitude during the Security Council debate. I would like to stress again, that the U.S. considers relevant for debate only Resolutions 242 and 338 and we will not accept any resolution that tries to introduce any element that goes beyond 242 and 338," he declared.

The question on the Middle East at today's news conference was in two parts. The first asked Kissinger to confirm reports that he had asked Israel to reconsider its Security Council boycott, which the Secretary did. The second part asked if there was any indication that the PLO is shifting away from its position of non-recognition of Israel's right to exist. Kissinger did not respond to that part of the question.

MAYORAL VOTE IN NAZARETH POSES CRUCIAL ISSUES FOR GOVERNMENT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--An estimated 20,000 voters went to the polls in Nazareth today to cast ballots for a mayor and a 17-member municipal council in an election that has become the focus of attention all over Israel. Nazareth, in the Galleh hills, is the largest Arab city in Israel. Four candidates are standing for mayor, representing five party lists. But the crucial contest is between George Sa'ad, strongly backed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Party, and Tewfiq Ziad, candidate of the pro-Moscow Rakah Communist faction.

Rakah has gained considerable ground in Nazareth and among Israeli Arabs generally in recent months because of its pro-Arab nationalist line and is apparently confident of an easy victory in Nazareth. The government views a Communist-controlled Nazareth as a potential disaster with widespread repercussions throughout Israel's Arab community.

Accordingly, the government has brought unprecedented pressure to bear on the local voters

to reject the Rakah candidate. Several Cabinet ministers have visited Nazareth recently, including Labor Minister Moshe Baran. They have tried to convince the voters that a Communist victory would politicize the town at the expense of local issues and problems.

Some observers fear the government's overt interference may have backfired to the benefit of Rakah and say that only a miracle can prevent a Communist victory today. The best the government can hope for is the failure of any candidate to poll an absolute majority, in which case a runoff election between the two front runners will be held within two weeks. That would give the Labor-backed candidate more time to campaign on local issues but with the minor lists eliminated Rakah could benefit as well.

Palestinian Issue Involved

The tension surrounding the Nazareth elections reflects the emergence of the Palestinian issue as the central focus of Middle East politics. The series of victories won by the Palestine Liberation Organization at the UN during the past two months inevitably has had an impact on Israeli Arabs and may have fired their nationalistic passions which have been largely dormant in 28 years of Israeli rule.

Similarly, the civil war in Lebanon between right-wing Christian Arabs and pro-PLO Moslems has become a campaign issue in Nazareth with the Communists stressing that their candidate is a Moslem and his opponent a Christian.

These events may have a polarizing effect in a town where internal conflicts have prevented the election of a municipal council for more than a year. Nazareth's affairs have been handled up to now by an Israeli-appointed committee headed by Ali Khaider, an inspector of the Education Ministry.

The percentage of eligible voters participating in elections has always been high in Nazareth and the envy of many other towns in Israel. Despite cold weather and heavy rains there were long lines outside of the 26 polling stations this morning. Police reinforcements were brought into the town as a precautionary measure but the voting is expected to be orderly. The results are not expected to be known until late tonight or tomorrow morning.

Whatever the outcome, the Nazareth elections have special significance as they are the first in Israel, in which a mayor and town council will be elected by direct ballot. Until the law was changed recently, local elections, like national elections, have been for party lists. The list polling the largest number of votes appointed the mayor.

CHARGE THAT FILM IS A MISSIONARY MOVIE IS UNDER STUDY BY CITY OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--It appeared unlikely today that the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs will take any action on a request by an Orthodox Jewish organization that the film, "No Hiding Place," be labelled as a missionary movie.

A spokesman for Consumer Affairs Commissioner Elinor Guggenheimer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the department is investigating the complaint made by Agudath Israel of America that "newspaper advertisements misrepresent the film as being commercial entertainment on a Holocaust theme, when actually it is an out-and-out missionary tract with a hard-sell evangelical pitch." The spokesman said, however,

there is no law which requires the producer's name to be on advertisements for the film.

"No Hiding Place," which is based on a book written by Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch-Christian woman, who helped save some Jews during the Nazi occupation and was herself arrested and tortured by the Nazis, is produced by World Wide Pictures, a subsidiary of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

In its complaint to the Consumer Affairs Department, Agudath Israel demanded that newspaper advertisements say the film is a "Billy Graham evangelist production" and that the theaters where it is shown are leased by the Graham organization. In addition, Agudath Israel and several other Jewish organizations have complained that missionary literature is being distributed in the theater lobbies to unsuspecting-film goers.

Intent Is Not Conversion

However, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Department, told the JTA today that he does not believe the intent of the film itself is to convert Jews to Christianity. He said that officials of World Wide Pictures have stressed to him that the film, which is being shown throughout the country, is aimed at Christians not Jews.

As for the missionary tracts being distributed in the lobby, World Wide claims that this is being done by local groups in each community, according to Tanenbaum. He said the producers have promised to send a letter to all theaters asking that this practice be stopped.

Tanenbaum said that Billy Graham told him about a year ago that he was concerned about the increase of anti-Semitism and wanted to make the film to show that it was Christian duty to help Jews. The claim that the film was aimed at Christians was also stressed by Leighton Ford, Billy Graham's brother-in-law, and Dr. Paul E. Toms, president of the National Association of Evangelists, during the Evangelical-Jewish National Conference now being held here, according to Tanenbaum, who is one of the conference's co-chairman.

However, Tanenbaum said that despite its intentions, the film does prove to be offensive to Jews. He said the film shows Christian faith as being strong without showing anything of the Jewish faith that sustained many Holocaust victims. In addition, he said, the film uses the Holocaust as a prop or foil for showing the greatness of Christianity. Similar complaints have been made by some film critics and Jewish organizations, including the National Conference of Yeshiva Principals. (By David Friedman)

MORTON BOWS TO CONGRESS' DEMANDS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Secretary of Commerce Rogers C. B. Morton, bowing to the demands of Congress after months of resistance, moved today to send copies of documents relating to American companies involved with the Arab boycott to the House subcommittee on oversight and investigations.

The subcommittee, headed by Rep. John Moss (D. Cal.) had subpoenaed the documents last July 28 and threatened to cite Morton for contempt of Congress when he refused to deliver the documents, arguing that the law required him to respect their confidentiality. The subcommittee approved the motion for contempt last month.

Morton yesterday agreed to comply with a formula under which he would submit the documents

in accord with rules of Congress on confidentiality. The full Commerce Committee agreed, 12-0, to that formula which was offered by Reps. John Heinz (R, Pa.) and Timothy Wirth (D. Colo.).

The subcommittee is investigating charges of complicity by U.S. firms with Arab boycott demands that they not do business with Israel and also help the boycott by providing information on other American firms that do trade with Israel or have Jewish ownership or management.

Some 15,000 Reports Filled

William Rhatigan, assistant to Morton and communications director for the Commerce Department, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it would take "a day or so" for reproduction of the documentation and delivery to the committee. He estimated the reports filled by companies is more than five years' totalled between 12,000 and 15,000, each containing three or four pages.

Rhatigan said he did not know how many firms had submitted reports and that he did not think anyone knew. He said the reports extended from November, 1970 through yesterday, which would cover the time before the Arab oil embargo for about two years and for about two years since the embargo.

Morton, in a statement, said he was "truly gratified" that Moss and he had been able to agree on a course of action which will remove the threat of a contempt citation "for upholding the law," while "honoring confidentiality of business and proprietary information entrusted to me as Secretary of Commerce." Moss had written Morton that the documents would be "received in executive session and the committee's handling will be fully responsible and will be in consonance with their asserted confidentiality."

The JTA learned meanwhile that Morton will probably remain Secretary of Commerce until Feb. 1 instead of to the end of this month because his successor-designate, Elliot Richardson, has returned to London to complete his commitments as the U.S. Ambassador there. Richardson expects to return to Washington soon after Jan. 1 to work with Morton before being sworn in as Secretary at the end of January.

AID TO ISRAEL APPROVED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The House International Relations Committee, working on its authorization measure for foreign aid this year, approved today \$755 million in economic supporting assistance for Israel, \$15 million more than the Administration's recommended amount.

The increase was on motion of Rep. Jonathan Ringham (D. N.Y.) and was passed by voice vote. The committee also approved the Administration's \$1.5 billion in military assistance credits for Israel, of which half is to be forgiven. The forgiveness was on motion of Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.).

The committee approved the Administration's request for \$750 million in economic assistance for Egypt; \$90 million for Syria and \$77.5 million for Jordan. A move by Rep. Edward Derwinski (D. Ill.) to suspend any aid to Syria was defeated by voice vote. The committee is expected to complete the authorization bill, which sets policy for the aid program, by the end of this week.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who met Tuesday with nine U.S. technicians who have completed a survey of the Sinai terrain where Americans will man an advance warning system between Israeli and Egyptian lines, said several hundred technicians will be at their stations by Feb. 20.

GOLD WARNS USSR MAY USE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION TO DECLARE WAR ON SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--A warning that the Soviet Union may use the recent UN resolution equating Zionism with racism to "declare war on Soviet Jews" was sounded by Kings County District Attorney Eugene Gold, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. "The UN resolution was planned in the Kremlin as part of a global anti-Jewish conspiracy, and there is a strong likelihood that the USSR will use that insidious document to justify its oppression of Jews--especially those who want to emigrate," Gold said.

He made his comments at a news conference Sunday at the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan where key Jewish leaders from throughout the Metropolitan area took part in day-long "Leadership Conference" sessions aimed at charting new strategies to assure the survival of Soviet Jews.

Gold issued a pledge that the GNYCSJ will conduct a massive effort to make the Bicentennial year a "year of freedom for Soviet Jews." "We are at a crucial moment in the brief but eventful history of the Soviet Jewry movement, a moment when there is little doubt that the USSR threatens to further choke off Jewish emigration while waging an unceasing campaign to wipe out Jewish culture and religion within its borders," Gold said.

Decrease in Emigration Noted

With regard to emigration, he noted that in January of this year, 1300 people left the USSR with Israeli visas. A similar number left in February. The number of people who emigrated for the first four months of 1975 relates to an annual level of less than 13,000. This means a decrease of almost 40 percent compared with 1974 when 20,000 emigrated. Two years ago, more than 33,000 were allowed to emigrate.

"In recent months, we have seen new trials and new incidents of outrage perpetrated against Soviet Jews whose only 'crime' is a desire to leave the USSR so that they can give expression to their Jewish culture and heritage in a climate of freedom," Gold said.

The challenge to redouble "our efforts to gain freedom for a greater number of Soviet Jews becomes especially acute when we consider that for the USSR detente is not a policy but a tactic," Gold declared. "Moreover, the growing evidence here among students of Soviet affairs that the USSR is slowly but surely making detente a one-way street underscores the need for bold new measures and effective programs to protect Jews fighting for emigration," Gold said.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS URGE USSR TO HONOR INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS COVENANT

BOSTON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Sen. Birch Bayh (D, Ind.), Pennsylvania Governor Milton Schapp and Rep. Robert Drinan (D, Mass.) insisted at a rally here Sunday that the Soviet Union must be forced to honor the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which she signed in 1968. Some 500 persons braved freezing temperatures to attend the event, sponsored by Action for Soviet Jewry and co-sponsored by the New England Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, on the Boston University campus. Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, a civil libertarian, acted as moderator.

Bayh stated that in this Bicentennial year, "we

must lift up the banner of emancipation for Soviet Jews." He declared that freedom is not an "internal affair"--"the quest for freedom is not inhibited by national borders. We cannot trade detente for decency and coexistence for concision. Oppression will not be halted by the timid and moderation will not penetrate the walls of Vladimir Prison."

Vladimir Prison, the Soviet Union's worst, currently houses seven Soviet Jewish "Prisoners of Conscience" who are subjected to subfreezing temperatures. Inadequate diet and virtually no medical care, it was reported at the rally. Noting that the Helsinki agreement called for a sound commitment to human rights, Bayh stated that "this did not square with the continuing policy of Soviet discrimination against Jews."

Christians Urged To Join Struggle

To increase pressure on the Kremlin to a meaningful level, Drinan called for legislation which would apply the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to all grain deals with the Soviet Union. At present, he said, Agriculture Secretary Earl Buttz does not link free emigration with wheat sales with the USSR. Drinan, who is a Catholic priest, asked that fellow Christians join Jews in the struggle for free emigration and the release of the prisoners.

Dershowitz stated that "those prisoners with long-term sentences are being sentenced to death. These cases must be considered capital cases and these be accompanied by the outcry which accompanies the death sentence of any political prisoner." He decried as "the most unjustifiable form of racism" protests for political prisoners in Chile, Brazil, Spain and Vietnam without mentioning Jewish political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

Schapp bemoaned the long years of oppression of "our people" and said that only by rallying together the forces of freedom in this Bicentennial year could we hope to wage an effective battle for Soviet Jews' freedom.

Action for Soviet Jewry chairman, Robert Gordon, read telegrams of Chanukah greetings sent to the rally by top Moscow activists Alexander Slepak, Alexander Lutz, Vladimir Furman and Leonid Volvovsky. He presented a 3000-signature petition for those in Vladimir Prison to Drinan, who will hand them to the State Department for transmittal to Soviet authorities. Action for Soviet Jewry is the coordinator of Soviet Jewry activities in the greater Boston area, and is an affiliate of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

DISTURBANCE IN NABLUS QUELLED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Attempts made this morning to repeat yesterday's disturbance in Nablus were quelled by security forces and two demonstrators were injured in today's disturbance. Two policemen were injured when stones were thrown at them by secondary school pupils, and the demonstrators were hurt during the dispersal of the demonstration.

The Mayor refused to call for order, saying this was the task of the military governor. The governor brought calm to the town after using water hoses, bursts of shots in the air, truncheons and armored cars. The town was protesting against the illegal settlement in Sebastia.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Golda Meir left for the U.S. where she will remain for about a month, addressing United Jewish Appeal meetings and meeting with U.S. Administration officials.