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No. 20

RABIN, CIA OFFICIALS CONFER ON ISRAEL'S, ARABS' MILITARY STRENGTH

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--The Middle East diplomatic process appears to be President Ford's main emphasis while the measure of U.S. financial backing to Israel seems to be Premier Yitzhak Rabin's immediate concern in their current meetings here.

The financial difference centers on the reductions of the Administration's recommendation that military support to Israel drop from \$1.5 billion this fiscal year to \$1 billion in the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1. The diplomatic discussions deal with the next steps under U.S. guidance without any "hiatus" as Ford has publicly put it.

Seeking to have the \$500 million restored, Rabin took the unusual action of meeting without going CIA director William Colby and his successor, George Bush, late yesterday. The meeting was at the residence of Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz. The CIA is charged with providing estimates on the relative military strength of Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Rabin was said to have told Colby and Bush that U.S. estimates are inaccurate regarding both Israel's military power and the continually improving military strength of its Arab neighbors. It has long been seen here that the Arab nations acquiring Soviet, European and American arms are upsetting the military balance to Israel's disadvantage.

The reduction in U.S. military aid to Israel, together with inflation that further reduces the purchasing power of the financial package, is considered as weakening Israel. The Defense Department, to which the CIA reports its findings, is technically responsible for the military aid recommendation in the new U.S. budget. However, all branches of the government concerned with foreign affairs are jointly involved in the recommendation. It appeared that the Rabin meeting with the CIA chiefs was with the approval of the President.

RABIN, IN ADDRESS TO CONGRESS, PLEDGES ISRAEL WILL STRIVE FOR PEACE WITH ARAB NEIGHBORS

Says He Is Ready To Meet With Any Arab Head Of State For Purpose Of Peace Talks
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel pledged in an address to a joint session of Congress today that "however difficult the road, however hard the challenge and however complex the process, Israel will strive with all its being to contribute to the peace of the world by pressing ahead with its efforts for peace with the Arab countries. This is the driving goal of all of our policies."

The Israeli leader, the first Premier of Israel ever to address Congress, also said, "I today declare I am ready to meet with any Arab head of government at any time and at any place for the purpose of peace talks."

In his half-hour speech to the American legislators, Rabin stressed repeatedly that the center of the Middle East conflict was not territory or

the Palestinian issue but the refusal of the Arab leaders to reconcile themselves to the existence of the State of Israel.

He promised that "In a negotiation whose sincere shared goal is final reconciliation, we shall go more than halfway to assure its success." He called for reconvening the Geneva peace conference on the basis of its original terms and within the framework of Resolutions 242 and 338.

He bitterly attacked the United Nations where, in its present form, he claimed, Israel could not obtain justice. He denounced the "organization that calls itself the PLO" the covenant of which, in every paragraph "spits out the venom calling for Israel's destruction."

Prepared To Negotiate Palestinian Issue

Rabin said Israel was prepared to negotiate the Palestinian issue "within the geographical and political context of peace with Jordan," adding that "When I say Jordan I do not discount Palestinian representation in the peace delegation of that country" and "when I say geography, I do not discount a negotiation concerning the future final peace boundaries of the territories involved." He added that Israel is ready to "give up much and compromise much on territory" in negotiations whose aims are final peace and reconciliation.

The Israeli leader recalled that when President Anwar Sadat of Egypt addressed Congress from the same rostrum last October he "wisely declared" that there is no substitute for person-to-person contacts. "In that connection," Rabin said, "I wish that he would direct those words to me as well as to you, the Congress of the United States. I would then know that the work of true peace-making has really begun."

Rabin stressed that Israel understood and appreciated America's interests in the Middle East. "We know of your concern and national interest in the stability of our area and I wish to say to you that we seek to be sensitive to them," he said in an apparent reference to the U.S. need for Arab oil and defense of the region from Soviet penetration.

Referring to America's developing relations with the Arab countries, Rabin said: "We express our confidence that such developing ties need not be and must not be at the cost of my own country's vital interests of liberty and security and if, in the pursuit of our shared goals, differences do arise from time to time, then let us recall Jefferson's wisdom that 'every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle.'"

Rabin said that the American war for independence in 1776 and Israel's War for Independence in 1948 "were both battles of liberation" that became revolutions because of "the human vision that fired them." He said the "vision and essence of Zionism" was "the principle that the Jewish people should preserve its integrity and restore its national existence in its own homeland, despite the holocaust of history."

Heart And Core Of Conflict

Rabin declared, "If I were to state in a word what is the heart and core of the Arab-Israeli conflict I would say this: It is the refusal of the Arab countries to reconcile themselves to the right of existence of one, small, viable, sovereign, Jewish

State in the land of our people's birth; by Jewish State I mean an independent, democratic society, secular in the equality of all of its citizens, Jew and non-Jew alike, before the law and founded upon historic Jewish values. By stating this, I am saying that the question of territory, the matter of boundaries, the issue of maps, were not and are not the true obstacles to peace."

He charged that, from their rejection of the UN Palestine partition plan to the present day, "the Arabs would not negotiate the end of the conflict" because "they refused to reconcile themselves to a Jewish independent State."

He said that Israel, in contrast, during the last 28 years that were marked by four wars has "year after year...called for--pleaded for--negotiated peace with the Arab governments. Their answer," Rabin said, "was a blank refusal and more war. The reason was not a conflict over territorial claims. The reason was and remains the fact that a free Jewish State sits on territory at all."

Palestine Issue Not Key To Peace

Rabin continued: "It is in this context that the Palestine issue must be appraised. That issue is not the obstacle to peace that some would suggest. Certainly, it has to be solved in the context of a final peace. But to assert that this is the key to peace, the formula for peace or the break-through to peace is to misread the realities. It is to put the legendary cart before the horse."

The Premier said "The Palestinian issue began with and is a product of the overall Arab posture on the legitimacy of a Jewish State of Israel. Only when that posture changes will the Palestinian issue be constructively and finally tackled.... There is no problem between us that cannot be solved by negotiation. That includes the Palestinian issue within the geographical and political context of peace with Jordan...."

Rabin praised President Ford's leadership for making "a crucial contribution to the peace of the world and to the cause of peace in the Middle East." He also extended to Congress "the gratitude of the people of Israel" for its consistent support and sympathy for Israel.

In calling for resumption of the Geneva conference, Rabin said its basis must be founded "on two fundamental principles"--the Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle that "the parties to the conflict must be the parties to the peace-making process and that negotiations for peace must be between the government of Israel and the neighboring Arab governments."

Rabin, who received long, standing ovations before and after the delivery of his speech, received the most enthusiastic response from the crowded chamber when he said "never again a Middle East without the State of Israel." Applause also rang out when he said "I will be the first to call" for the removal of the American civilian technical presence in the Sinai "if a condition of hostility" arises.

Favorable Response From Legislators

Rabin drew a highly favorable response from Congressmen to his speech and in his two-hour closed-door meeting that followed with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee. Sen. John Sparkman (D.Ala.) chairman of the Senate committee, told reporters that he was

pleased with Rabin's willingness to negotiate. He said "If the two sides sat down together instead of intermediaries, they would get somewhere."

Sen. Richard Stone (D.Fla.) said "the best thing" in Rabin's presentation was that "he put in perspective the nature of the issue and that the number one issue was not the Palestinians but the sovereignty of the State of Israel." Rep. Lester Wolff (D.N.Y.), chairman of the House subcommittee on future foreign relations, said that after listening to Rabin, he was convinced that the PLO was not only an element in Israel's destruction but the destruction of Jordan as well.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D.Minn.) told reporters that Rabin's speech was "extraordinarily well received" and said his discussions with the two Congressional foreign relations committees, "brought into proper perspective" the question of boundaries and lands. He said Rabin made a very favorable impression and that his speech was "helpful to Congress and even more helpful to the American public."

Asked about U.S. aid for Israel, Humphrey said "There is no doubt Congress will respond to Israel's economic and military requirements," adding, "It will be forthcoming."

Emerging from his meeting with the two committees, Rabin was asked if he was concerned over the matter of U.S. aid. He replied, "I believe Israel can find understanding and support in Congress for our real needs." He described those needs as his country's defense capabilities and the advancement of the political process toward peace in "a meaningful way."

ALLON WARNS PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON COULD HAPPEN ELSEWHERE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon warned here today that the involvement of Palestinian terror groups--whether the Palestine Liberation Army or other Palestine Liberation Organization units which have manifested themselves in Lebanon could be repeated in other Arab countries. Replying to a motion for the agenda in the Knesset on the civil war in Lebanon, Allon said the Palestinians, without any direct interests in the Lebanese war issue, had played the role of mercenaries, doing the bidding of Syria.

The Lebanese episode, he said,--and its final outcome and repercussions were still shrouded in ambiguity--proved the real meaning of the PLO's much-vaunted aim of a "secular, democratic state." Allon said Israel grieved at the human tragedy across its border. But at the same time, it remained warily on guard against developments there that might affect its security.

While it would not intervene in internal affairs in any other country, it had warned that Syrian invasion in an attempt to annex part of Lebanon to a "greater Syria" would be seen by Israel as a threat to its vital interests. The Israeli warning had been a powerful factor, perhaps the most powerful, in deterring such Syrian action, Allon said.

Israel had been depressed to witness the silence of those "who purport to be the protectors of the Lebanese Christians"--a clear reference to France and to the church bodies. The security threat stemmed not only from outright invasion, but also from the risk of increased terrorist presence and activity in Lebanon, Allon said. Israeli was keeping its guard up, he declared.

ORTHODOX RABBIS SAY JEWS WHO BACK ABORTION FALSIFY JEWISH RELIGION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, first vice-president of the Rabbinical Council of America, scored secular and Reform Jewish leaders for allegedly falsifying and misrepresenting the Jewish religious position on abortion. Addressing the special bicentennial Torah Convocation of the Rabbinical Council, which is being attended by some 500 Orthodox rabbis, Wurzburger charged that "A false image has been projected to the general public that Judaism sanctions abortion."

He said, "We have no quarrel with those who claim for themselves complete freedom in these areas. But they may not put a Jewish label on their position and thoroughly distort the Jewish religion's abhorrence of abortion." He declared that "while Judaism makes a distinction between potential and actual life and in some instances regards abortion as morally necessary, the removal of all curbs on abortion is regarded as religiously reprehensible and socially destructive."

Wurzburger expressed shock at "the blindness of those Jewish leaders who join coalition groups in their advocacy of permissive abortion." He claimed that this was not only a contravention of Jewish law but "insensitive to the injurious effects on Jewish survival which permissive abortion represents." While he did not identify the Jewish groups, it was understood that he was referring to the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights which represents 22 Jewish, Protestant and Ethical Culture organizations.

According to Wurzburger, "Abortion, together with stringent birth control diminishes Jewish numbers and saps the vitality of our people." He claimed that "It is particularly reprehensible for Jewish groups to promote abortion in light of the fact that the Jews have not yet replaced the Holocaust losses and in light of the fact that Israel needs more population desperately and yet has an alarming rate of abortion."

Wurzburger's statement on this issue and a similar one by Israel Klavan, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Council, were embodied in a resolution that was adopted by the convention.

ZOA RAPS MOYNIHAN, STATE DEPARTMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, tempered his expression of gratitude at the U.S. veto in the Security Council Monday night with an expression of "disappointment and regret" at the explanatory remarks given by the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Daniel P. Moynihan, and the State Department.

"The explanation that the resolution 'would have blocked the surer and the tested way to a settlement in favor of one that would not have worked' is disturbing," Sternstein said, "in that it makes no mention of the fact that the vetoed resolution attempted to give the Arabs non-existent rights to area which is Israel, and thus in effect, win international support for their efforts to destabilize the Jewish State."

Sternstein said he felt that the speech was an attempt by the Administration to demonstrate even-handedness, "and this, coupled with the unprecedented budget making practice of announcing now that it will cut aid to Israel in 1977, makes us see this as an attempt to appease the Arabs for the U.S. veto." It is all "clearly designed to pressure Israel to make further unilateral con-

cessions," Sternstein stated.

KAHANE TO UNDERTAKE CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, the leader of the Jewish Defense League, has announced that immediately upon his release from the Allenwood (Pa.) Federal Prison on Friday, he will lead a campaign against what he called "unbearable pressure" upon Israel by Washington and the "retreat in panic from one policy stand after another" by Israeli leaders.

In a letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Kahane said he would begin his two-week campaign with a rally at the Carnegie Endowment Center in Manhattan Saturday night. The JDL office here said Kahane will denounce what they termed a shift in the Israeli government's policy on the Palestinian issue.

Kahane in his letter said his campaign will focus on the themes: The land of Israel within its historic Biblical boundaries is the sole property of the Jewish people; the Arab states will never recognize the existence of any Jewish State; there is no Palestine and there are no Palestinians; Israel should not retreat "one inch" from any territory; there should be immediate settlement in all territory held by Israel; neither the United States nor any other nation can be relied upon by Israel; American Christians must be told that support of Israel is their religious duty; a call for a massive aliyah by American Jews, and a return by Jews to religious faith.

CALLS FOR RELEASE OF EX-NAZIS

BONN, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Ernst Wilm, the retired Pastor and chairman of the West German Evangelical Church who spent three years as a prisoner at Dachau for anti-Nazi activities, has renewed his call for the release of the last three Nazi war criminals still imprisoned in Holland. He said on a television interview that he was considering a hunger strike to obtain publicity for the prisoners because he believed their continued incarceration does nothing to alleviate the suffering of Nazi victims.

The three prisoners, being held at the Breda prison, are Ferdinand Aus den Fuenten, 66; Franz Fischer, 74; and Joseph Kotaella, 67. The West German Evangelical Church assigned Pastor Wilm the task of ministering to German war criminals still imprisoned in Gaeta, Italy but he has also taken up the cause of those in Holland. He indicated that he might stage his hunger strike the next time he visits Breda prison.

In Feb. 1972, the Dutch government was on the verge of releasing the three war criminals on grounds of their advanced age and poor health but abandoned the plan because of widespread opposition particularly from Jewish and Communist circles. Wilm said that for the past five years he has been trying to achieve the release of the prisoners by quiet representations but now he believes a dramatic gesture such as a hunger strike is necessary.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--An exhibition of the paintings by 11 Soviet Jews now living in Israel opened here this week. It is held within the framework of the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry which will take place here Feb. 17-19. A special seminar dealing with the problem of Soviet Jewry will be held next week at Brussels University.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund has begun work on a large new recreational park sited at one of Israel's scenic beauty spots: the southern bank of the Sea of Galilee.

FORD-RABIN FETE HAS MANY 'FIRSTS'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--America's First Lady dancing the hora to the music of a red-coated U.S. Marine band in the White House ballroom last night was only one of a series of "firsts" marking the state visit of Israeli Premier and Mrs. Rabin to Washington.

Mrs. Ford joined a circle of enthusiastic Israelis who were among the approximately 260 guests at the dinner and dance given by President and Mrs. Ford for the Rabins. The Rabins will reciprocate with a reception for the Fords tomorrow night at the Shoreham Hotel.

The size of the number of guests also was seen as a first. Usually, invitations for a Presidential state dinner go to about 120 persons of whom about 100 attend. Last night 160 came to dinner and an additional 100 joined in the entertainment and champagne later.

Although the Rabins, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller retired early, the Fords stayed on the dance floor until early morning. Among Jewish community leaders attending were David Blumberg, Melvin Dubinsky, Max Fisher, Gulford Glazer, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Frank R. Lautenberg, Mrs. Rose Matzkin, Rabbi Israel Miller, Sam Rothberg, Dr. Maurice Sage, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler and Elmer L. Winter.

Members of the U.S.-Israeli Joint Business Council present were John R. Bunting, Raymond N. Carlen, James P. Horn, and William B. Nicholson. Among celebrities were actor Danny Kaye; author Herman Wouk; quarterback Terry Bradshaw of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team; Olympic skiing champion Suzy Chaffee; tennis player Christine Evert; and Carlton Fiskin, Boston Red Sox baseball team catcher.

Toasts To Friendship And Peace

Ford began his toast to the Rabins with "shalom," and concluded with "lahayim." Rabin also toasted with "lahayim."

Applauding Rabin's "statesmanship," that had "contributed so much that has been achieved so far" in the diplomatic process, Ford observed that "our personal friendship and relationship now facilitates the closest consultation on the very complex problems that we face."

Ford also noted "no peace-making process, as you well know, is easy, but important steps have been taken and we are proud of the role that America has played in working with your country. I know that all Americans deeply desire to see the process continued toward this goal of a just and secure peace." He praised "the unbreakable spirit of the people of Israel" that "remains its strongest defense."

In his response, Rabin pointed out that he and the President had discussed during Ford's presidency "every possibility, everything that can be done to encourage every option, every avenue to move from war towards peace, to achieve tranquility and stability in the area as long as peace has not been achieved and I appreciate always your attitude that whenever there is a confrontation, the efforts to bring about peace must be done from the standpoint of strength because no totalitarian regime will tolerate a weak democracy and only a strong democracy can expect to achieve peace with dignity, peace that is worthwhile."

Rabin, noting that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, drew laughter in remarking that when the U.S. was founded 200 years ago,

its total population was 3,000,000 which, he said, is exactly Israel's population now. Israel maintains the same policy as America's founding fathers, he said, to help build a country by "maintaining the basic principle of open gates to waves of immigrants."

COUNCIL OF EUROPE HOLDING THREE-DAY CONFAB ON SOVIET JEWRY, THE MIDEAST

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, Jan. 28 (JTA)--The Council of Europe, Western Europe's advisory parliament, began a three-day series of meetings today devoted to Soviet Jewry, the Middle East situation and Lebanon. Currently, some 95 West European parliamentarians, members of the Israel-Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group, will meet to demonstrate their support for the Jewish State.

Members of the Council representing all political parties and groups have drawn up a draft resolution calling on the Soviet government to "open its gates" and halt its anti-Semitic persecutions. The draft resolution, which will be voted upon this evening, stresses that the condition of Soviet Jews has become "more serious" as a result of the UN General Assembly vote of last November equating Zionism with racism.

Today's special Council session will be attended by a four-man Knesset delegation led by Menachem Beigin. The Knesset delegation will also attend the "Israeli-Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group" scheduled for tomorrow. This session will be attended by representatives of 13 West European parliaments who are due to call for a tightening of links between Europe and Israel.

On Friday, the Council of Europe will hold a one-day political debate devoted to the Eastern Mediterranean, Lebanon and the Middle East. A draft resolution drawn up by an Austrian parliamentarian, Frantz Karasek, condemns terrorism and violence and stresses that what has happened in Lebanon shows the urgent need to support Israel and strengthen Europe's ties with it.

The resolution says "The Council has been shocked by the scandalous resolution adopted by the United Nations last November (the resolution on Zionism) and wishes to express its solidarity with the Jewish people which, more than any other nation, has been a victim of racism." The Council of Europe has an advisory voice in Western European affairs but is due to assume an even larger legislative role and eventually serve as Western Europe's elected parliament.

CHARGE EX-NAZI NOW IN WEST GERMANY

PARIS, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld said here yesterday that a former Gestapo chief sentenced to death in France is living in West Germany. Mrs. Klarsfeld said Fritz Merdsche, who was twice sentenced to death in France in absentia for crimes committed while serving as Gestapo chief in Orleans, is now living in Frankfurt.

Merdsche was found guilty by a French court martial of having carried out the deportation of 2139 people, 1159 of whom died in death camps. He was also found guilty of having carried out 57 executions. Mrs. Klarsfeld said Merdsche served after the war as a judge in Frankfurt. After his retirement in 1960, he became editor of a legal publication issued by the Beck-Verlag in Frankfurt.

PARIS (JTA)--France and Iraq intend to increase economic ties as a result of the one-day visit by French Premier Jacques Chirac in Baghdad.



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ALLON WARNS PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON COULD HAPPEN ELSEWHERE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon warned here today that the involvement of Palestinian terror groups--whether the Palestine Liberation Army or other Palestine Liberation Organization units which have manifested themselves in Lebanon could be repeated in other Arab countries. Replying to a motion for the agenda in the Knesset on the civil war in Lebanon, Allon said the Palestinians, without any direct interests in the Lebanese war issue, had played the role of mercenaries, doing the bidding of Syria.

The Lebanese episode, he said,--and its final outcome and repercussions were still shrouded in ambiguity--proved the real meaning of the PLO's much-vaunted aim of a "secular, democratic state." Allon said Israel grieved at the human tragedy across its border. But at the same time, it remained warily on guard against developments there that might affect its security.

While it would not intervene in internal affairs in any other country, it had warned that Syrian invasion in an attempt to annex part of Lebanon to a "greater Syria" would be seen by Israel as a threat to its vital interests. The Israeli warning had been a powerful factor, perhaps the most powerful, in deterring such Syrian action, Allon said.

Israel had been depressed to witness the silence of those "who purport to be the protectors of the Lebanese Christians"--a clear reference to France and to the church bodies. The security threat stemmed not only from outright invasion, but also from the risk of increased terrorist presence and activity in Lebanon, Allon said. Israel was keeping its guard up, he declared.

ORTHODOX RABBIS SAY JEWS WHO BACK ABORTION FALSIFY JEWISH RELIGION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, first vice-president of the Rabbinical Council of America, scored secular and Reform Jewish leaders for allegedly falsifying and misrepresenting the Jewish religious position on abortion. Addressing the special bicentennial Torah Convocation of the Rabbinical Council, which is being attended by some 500 Orthodox rabbis, Wurzburger charged that "A false image has been projected to the general public that Judaism sanctions abortion."

He said, "We have no quarrel with those who claim for themselves complete freedom in these areas. But they may not put a Jewish label on their position and thoroughly distort the Jewish religion's abhorrence of abortion." He declared that "while Judaism makes a distinction between potential and actual life and in some instances regards abortion as morally necessary, the removal of all curbs on abortion is regarded as religiously reprehensible and socially destructive."

Wurzburger expressed shock at "the blindness of those Jewish leaders who join coalition groups in their advocacy of permissive abortion." He claimed that this was not only a contravention of Jewish law but "insensitive to the injurious effects on Jewish survival which permissive abortion represents." While he did not identify the Jewish groups, it was understood that he was referring to the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights which represents 22 Jewish, Protestant and Ethical Culture organizations.

According to Wurzburger, "Abortion, together with stringent birth control diminishes Jewish numbers and saps the vitality of our people." He claimed that "It is particularly reprehensible for Jewish groups to promote abortion in light of the fact that the Jews have not yet replaced the Holocaust losses and in light of the fact that Israel needs more population desperately and yet has an alarming rate of abortion."

Wurzburger's statement on this issue and a similar one by Israel Klavan, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Council, were embodied in a resolution that was adopted by the convention.

ZOA RAPS MOYNIHAN, STATE DEPARTMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, tempered his expression of gratitude at the U.S. veto in the Security Council Monday night with an expression of "disappointment and regret" at the explanatory remarks given by the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Daniel P. Moynihan, and the State Department.

"The explanation that the resolution 'would have blocked the surer and the tested way to a settlement in favor of one that would not have worked' is disturbing," Sternstein said, "in that it makes no mention of the fact that the vetoed resolution attempted to give the Arabs non-existent rights to area which is Israel, and thus in effect, win international support for their efforts to destabilish the Jewish State."

Sternstein said he felt that the speech was an attempt by the Administration to demonstrate even-handedness, "and this, coupled with the unprecedented budget making practice of announcing now that it will cut aid to Israel in 1977, makes us see this as an attempt to appease the Arabs for the U.S. veto." It is all "clearly designed to pressure Israel to make further unilateral con-

cessions," Sternstein stated.

KAHANE TO UNDERTAKE CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, the leader of the Jewish Defense League, has announced that immediately upon his release from the Allenwood (Pa.) Federal Prison on Friday, he will lead a campaign against what he called "unbearable pressure" upon Israel by Washington and the "retreat in panic from one policy stand after another" by Israeli leaders.

In a letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Kahane said he would begin his two-week campaign with a rally at the Carnegie Endowment Center in Manhattan Saturday night. The JDL office here said Kahane will denounce what they termed a shift in the Israeli government's policy on the Palestinian issue.

Kahane in his letter said his campaign will focus on the themes: The land of Israel within its historic Biblical boundaries is the sole property of the Jewish people; the Arab states will never recognize the existence of any Jewish State; there is no Palestine and there are no Palestinians; Israel should not retreat "one inch" from any territory; there should be immediate settlement in all territory held by Israel; neither the United States nor any other nation can be relied upon by Israel; American Christians must be told that support of Israel is their religious duty; a call for a massive aliyah by American Jews, and a return by Jews to religious faith.

CALLS FOR RELEASE OF EX-NAZIS

BONN, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Ernst Wilm, the retired Pastor and chairman of the West German Evangelical Church who spent three years as a prisoner at Dachau for anti-Nazi activities, has renewed his call for the release of the last three Nazi war criminals still imprisoned in Holland. He said on a television interview that he was considering a hunger strike to obtain publicity for the prisoners because he believed their continued incarceration does nothing to alleviate the suffering of Nazi victims.

The three prisoners, being held at the Breda prison, are Ferdinand Aus den Fuenten, 66; Franz Fischer, 74; and Joseph Kotaella, 67. The West German Evangelical Church assigned Pastor Wilm the task of ministering to German war criminals still imprisoned in Gaeta, Italy but he has also taken up the cause of those in Holland. He indicated that he might stage his hunger strike the next time he visits Breda prison.

In Feb. 1972, the Dutch government was on the verge of releasing the three war criminals on grounds of their advanced age and poor health but abandoned the plan because of widespread opposition particularly from Jewish and Communist circles. Wilm said that for the past five years he has been trying to achieve the release of the prisoners by quiet representations but now he believes a dramatic gesture such as a hunger strike is necessary.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--An exhibition of the paintings by 11 Soviet Jews now living in Israel opened here this week. It is held within the framework of the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry which will take place here Feb. 17-19. A special seminar dealing with the problem of Soviet Jewry will be held next week at Brussels University.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund has begun work on a large new recreational park sited at one of Israel's scenic beauty spots: the southern bank of the Sea of Galilee.

FORD-RABIN FETE HAS MANY 'FIRSTS'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA)--America's First Lady dancing the hora to the music of a red-coated U.S. Marine band in the White House ballroom last night was only one of a series of "firsts" marking the state visit of Israeli Premier and Mrs. Rabin to Washington.

Mrs. Ford joined a circle of enthusiastic Israelis who were among the approximately 260 guests at the dinner and dance given by President and Mrs. Ford for the Rabins. The Rabins will reciprocate with a reception for the Fords tomorrow night at the Shoreham Hotel.

The size of the number of guests also was seen as a first. Usually, invitations for a Presidential state dinner go to about 120 persons of whom about 100 attend. Last night 160 came to dinner and an additional 100 joined in the entertainment and champagne later.

Although the Rabins, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller retired early, the Fords stayed on the dance floor until early morning. Among Jewish community leaders attending were David Blumberg, Melvin Dubinsky, Max Fisher, Gulford Glazer, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Frank R. Lautenberg, Mrs. Rose Matzkin, Rabbi Israel Miller, Sam Rothberg, Dr. Maurice Sage, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler and Elmer L. Winter.

Members of the U.S.-Israeli Joint Business Council present were John R. Bunting, Raymond N. Carlen, James P. Horn, and William B. Nicholson. Among celebrities were actor Danny Kaye; author Herman Wouk; quarterback Terry Bradshaw of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team; Olympic skiing champion Suzy Chaffee; tennis player Christine Evert; and Carlton Fiskin, Boston Red Sox baseball team catcher.

Toasts To Friendship And Peace

Ford began his toast to the Rabins with "shalom," and concluded with "lahayim." Rabin also toasted with "lahayim."

Applauding Rabin's "statesmanship," that had "contributed so much that has been achieved so far" in the diplomatic process, Ford observed that "our personal friendship and relationship now facilitates the closest consultation on the very complex problems that we face."

Ford also noted "no peace-making process, as you well know, is easy, but important steps have been taken and we are proud of the role that America has played in working with your country. I know that all Americans deeply desire to see the process continued toward this goal of a just and secure peace." He praised "the unbreakable spirit of the people of Israel" that "remains its strongest defense."

In his response, Rabin pointed out that he and the President had discussed during Ford's presidency "every possibility, everything that can be done to encourage every option, every avenue to move from war towards peace, to achieve tranquility and stability in the area as long as peace has not been achieved and I appreciate always your attitude that whenever there is a confrontation, the efforts to bring about peace must be done from the standpoint of strength because no totalitarian regime will tolerate a weak democracy and only a strong democracy can expect to achieve peace with dignity, peace that is worthwhile."

Rabin, noting that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, drew laughter in remarking that when the U.S. was founded 200 years ago,

its total population was 3,000,000 which, he said, is exactly Israel's population now. Israel maintains the same policy as America's founding fathers, he said, to help build a country by "maintaining the basic principle of open gates to waves of immigrants."

COUNCIL OF EUROPE HOLDING THREE-DAY CONFAB ON SOVIET JEWRY, THE MIDEAST

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, Jan. 28 (JTA)--The Council of Europe, Western Europe's advisory parliament, began a three-day series of meetings today devoted to Soviet Jewry, the Middle East situation and Lebanon. Currently, some 95 West European parliamentarians, members of the Israel-Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group, will meet to demonstrate their support for the Jewish State.

Members of the Council representing all political parties and groups have drawn up a draft resolution calling on the Soviet government to "open its gates" and halt its anti-Semitic persecutions. The draft resolution, which will be voted upon this evening, stresses that the condition of Soviet Jews has become "more serious" as a result of the UN General Assembly vote of last November equating Zionism with racism.

Today's special Council session will be attended by a four-man Knesset delegation led by Menachem Beigin. The Knesset delegation will also attend the "Israeli-Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group" scheduled for tomorrow. This session will be attended by representatives of 13 West European parliaments who are due to call for a tightening of links between Europe and Israel.

On Friday, the Council of Europe will hold a one-day political debate devoted to the Eastern Mediterranean, Lebanon and the Middle East. A draft resolution drawn up by an Austrian parliamentarian, Frantz Karasek, condemns terrorism and violence and stresses that what has happened in Lebanon shows the urgent need to support Israel and strengthen Europe's ties with it.

The resolution says "The Council has been shocked by the scandalous resolution adopted by the United Nations last November (the resolution on Zionism) and wishes to express its solidarity with the Jewish people which, more than any other nation, has been a victim of racism." The Council of Europe has an advisory voice in Western European affairs but is due to assume an even larger legislative role and eventually serve as Western Europe's elected parliament.

CHARGE EX-NAZI NOW IN WEST GERMANY

PARIS, Jan. 28 (JTA)--Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld said here yesterday that a former Gestapo chief sentenced to death in France is living in West Germany. Mrs. Klarsfeld said Fritz Merdsche, who was twice sentenced to death in France in absentia for crimes committed while serving as Gestapo chief in Orleans, is now living in Frankfurt.

Merdsche was found guilty by a French court martial of having carried out the deportation of 2139 people, 1159 of whom died in death camps. He was also found guilty of having carried out 57 executions. Mrs. Klarsfeld said Merdsche served after the war as a judge in Frankfurt. After his retirement in 1960, he became editor of a legal publication issued by the Beck-Verlag in Frankfurt.

PARIS (JTA)--France and Iraq intend to increase economic ties as a result of the one-day visit by French Premier Jacques Chirac in Baghdad.