



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Thursday, February 26, 1976

No. 39

BRUSSELS II FOLLOWUP ANNOUNCED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi announced today that the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels last week would be followed up within the next two or three months by a meeting of presidium and steering committee members in Jerusalem. Almogi, who is chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, said he planned to convene the meeting in his capacity of chairman of Brussels II to review what has been accomplished on behalf of Soviet Jews and draw up plans for further action.

Brussels II decided that its presidium and steering committee would act as a continuing body to implement the decisions of the conference. Almogi made his announcement on his return here from five weeks abroad which included a visit to the U.S., participation in the Brussels conference where he presided and attendance at meetings of the World Jewish Congress Executive in Paris and the Jewish Agency Executive in London.

Almogi expressed hope that Brussels II would bring about changes in the Soviet attitude toward Russian Jews as a result of the pressure of world opinion and that the Soviet authorities would ease procedures for those Jews who want to emigrate to Israel. According to Almogi, Brussels II enjoyed world-wide media exposure, almost all of it favorable.

He said, in reply to questions, that the Jewish Agency would look into the problem of "yordim" and would propose action to change that situation. He said he hoped the Israeli government would also study the problem and take steps to reduce the number of "yordim."

ISRAEL AGREES TO RECONVENING GENEVA TALKS ON BASIS OF 242 AND 338 AND LIMITED TO THE ORIGINAL PARTIES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon has relayed to the United Nations Israel's agreement to the reconvening of the Geneva conference on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and with participation limited to the original parties who attended the brief opening session in Dec. 1973 at the invitation of the UN. Allon offered Israel's assent on those terms to UN Undersecretary Roberto Guyer who arrived here yesterday on the first leg of a mission to the Middle East on behalf of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Allon and Guyer held a breakfast meeting prior to the Foreign Minister's departure today on a visit to France, Mexico and three Central American countries. Guyer will visit several Arab capitals to ascertain the Arab position on reconvening the Geneva conference. Sources said that since Israel was his first stop there was nothing much to discuss about Geneva beyond Israel's willingness to participate in the talks within the original framework.

Before taking off on his trip, Allon was asked about Israel's agreement to explore Arab attitudes toward non-belligerence. The Foreign Minister said such an examination was necessary to find out if there is any basis for initiating discussions of non-belligerence. If the Arabs are willing to talk about ending the state of war, only then would Israel be required to discuss territorial conces-

sions, Allon said.

MANIFESTO CALLS FOR CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN ISRAEL, PALESTINIAN STATE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A group of Israeli "doves" issued a manifesto today calling for co-existence between Israel and a Palestinian state. The manifesto, which contained about 100 signatures, was prepared by the Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Rapprochement which includes among its leaders Meir Payil of Moked, former MK Uri Avneri and Gen. (Res.) Mati Peled.

Avneri said he understood that there are moderate Palestinian leaders who agree to the proposals contained in the manifesto. He quoted an unnamed Palestinian leader on the West Bank as saying he would agree to initiate talks in that territory on the basis of the proposals, provided that the Israeli authorities permitted the West Bank and Gaza Strip population to organize politically.

The manifesto would have Israel withdraw to its pre-June, 1967 borders with some modifications. It would remain a Zionist-oriented state with an affinity to world Jewry at large. The adjacent Palestinian state would also be sovereign and maintain its affinity with the Arab world. Avneri said the time has come for the government to announce its readiness to negotiate with the Palestinians as such.

DEFINITION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY WILL REQUIRE A PROCESS OF CLARIFICATION By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Government sources disclosed today some of the conditions under which the United States and Israel will probe Arab attitudes toward an agreement of non-belligerency with Israel. The Cabinet assented Sunday to such an initiative being undertaken by the U.S., a decision which raised a storm of criticism against the government from hardliners and moderates alike in the Knesset. (See separate story.)

But the government sources explained today that the initiative will first undergo a "clarification" process that could take weeks or months. They said Israeli and American legal experts would have to agree on a precise definition of end-of-war or non-belligerency and that such definition would be subject to the Cabinet's approval. Only then would the U.S. begin to explore the Arab position on non-belligerency as a diplomatic goal in the Middle East, the sources said.

Opponents of such a course claim that it would seriously if not fatally undermine Israel's long sought goal of a final, formal peace pact with its neighbors. The American initiative would be aimed at the three confrontation states bordering Israel--Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

War With Syria Can't Be Ruled Out

A radio broadcast today quoted a highly placed source as saying that war with Syria this year cannot be ruled out if Syria refuses to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights beyond its May 31 expiration date. The source charged that Syria is playing a dangerous game of brinkmanship and apparently intends to continue it right up to the UNDOF deadline. Such a situation could easily get out of hand, just as the late Egyptian President

Amal Abdel Nasser's brinkmanship in 1967 led to the Six-Day War, the source warned.

Peace Sell-out Seen

Shmuel Tamir, of Likud, immediately attacked the broadcast as an attempt by the government to rationalize its decision to "sell-out on peace" by approving the American end-of-war initiative. Opponents of that initiative, including former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, have warned that the Arabs would demand as much for non-belligerence as they would for a formal peace pact, leaving Israel nothing to bargain with in future peace negotiations.

Egyptian newspapers have already responded to the Cabinet decision by observing this week that end-of-war amounts to peace and that Egypt insists in that case on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories and the restoration of "Palestinian rights."

Cabinet ministers and other officials have avoided discussing publicly what Israel would offer for non-belligerence. Privately, however, officials recalled that last year Israel offered to return two-thirds of the Sinai territory--from El Arish to Ras Muhammed--to Egypt in exchange for an undertaking of non-belligerence from Cairo. Officials said today they were not disturbed by the Egyptian press reaction and preferred to await the results of the American initiative.

Sources said that an understanding was reached with the U.S. during Premier Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington last month that Israel would not cede as much for non-belligerence as it would for a full-fledged peace pact and would not return to anything approximating the pre-June, 1967 lines. The sources said that if the Arabs demanded total withdrawal, Israel would regard that as a negative response to the American initiative.

CABINET DECISION UNDER FIRE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet's decision to assent to an American initiative aimed at ending the state of belligerence between Israel and its three confrontation neighbors--Egypt, Jordan and Syria--has touched off a storm of protest among both "doves" and "hawks" in the Knesset.

Although a world apart politically, the hardliners and moderates alike seem to agree that the decision seriously, and perhaps fatally, compromises Israel's long sought fundamental objective of a negotiated final peace settlement with the Arab states.

The decision, approved at Sunday's Cabinet session, provoked Yehuda Ben-Meir of the National Religious Party's right-wing to demand the immediate dissolution of the Knesset and new elections. David Koren, of the Labor Party's Rafi wing, demanded that Premier Yitzhak Rabin explain the decision to Labor's Knesset faction "so I can know if I am for it or against it."

Moshe Wertman, chairman of the Labor-Alignment's Knesset faction, said the Premier would appear before the faction next Monday, and on Tuesday the Alignment will commence a long-awaited foreign policy debate in which the Cabinet's decision is certain to be the central issue. Meanwhile the Cabinet decision has come under bitter attack from Likud which submitted an urgent agenda motion for discussion in the Knesset.

The essence of the objections to an initiative

whose goal is non-belligerence was stated succinctly today by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, a leader of the "dovish" faction in the Labor Party. "The Arabs will ask for complete withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestine state in return for end-of-belligerence," Eban said. "What is left to ask in return for peace except the elimination of Israel itself?" he asked.

Essence of Objection

Eban and other "doves" have been urging flexibility on territorial questions but insist that Israel stand firm on what they call "the quality of peace." Israel's territorial demands have little support in the world but its long-standing demand for full peace agreements is widely supported, so why then is the government now abandoning it? This question was raised by Eban in a discussion with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Likud MK Yehidya Beerl stated bluntly: "This is the latest example of massive erosion in the government's own position," he said.

Many Laborites were upset that Rabin had "sprung" the decision on the Cabinet and the party. Ministers and MKs claimed that the Premier's initial briefing on his visit to Washington last month contained no hint that the Ford Administration was pressing Israel to agree to a new initiative aimed at non-belligerence, especially with respect to Jordan, a sensitive issue within the coalition. Any approach to Jordan will involve the West Bank territories and the Palestinians.

When the Cabinet's decision was announced Sunday it was clear that the idea of testing Arab attitudes toward a non-belligerence situation originated with Administration leaders while Rabin was in Washington and that the Premier promised to bring it before the Cabinet.

Government officials and legal experts say there is no difference in law between an end of belligerence and a peace settlement since both would end the state of war. The difference between them therefore is not legal but political and the implication that Israel is retreating from its political demands has aroused the ire that transcends ideological differences in the Knesset.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE PROPOSES \$502 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1976/7

LONDON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A \$502 million budget for the fiscal year 1976/7 was proposed by the Jewish Agency Executive at its meeting here Monday. The proposal will be presented at a four-day meeting in Jerusalem at the end of next month to be attended by the Agency's budget and financing committee and the Board of Governors.

The amount, which allows for a deficit of \$90 million, is \$38 million lower than the current year's budget. But because immigration in 1975 was considerably lower than expected, only \$440 million was actually spent. The Executive also heard a report on fund-raising expectations for the coming year, which indicated that the amount of money raised would be some \$90 million less than required. "We will have to make even greater efforts," Jewish Agency Acting Chairman Yosef Almog said.

Before the Executive meeting, the Agency's long-range planning committee, formed last year, spent a day looking toward the future. Max Fisher, chairman of the Agency's Board of Governors, said that the aim of the committee--"our think-tank"--was to "try and do an even better job with the money we spend."

Moshe Rivlin, director-general of the Jewish

Agency, said the committee had been established nine months ago and had since met five times. Its members are Almogi, Fisher, Leon Dulzín, Melvin Dubinsky, Frank Lautenberg, Ezra Shapiro and Ra'anon Weitz.

Great Step Forward

Two leading Harvard professors of business administration working with the committee have drawn up a preliminary report advocating some changes in budgeting procedures. One recommendation was that budgets should be planned on a three-year basis, instead of annually.

Fisher described the long-range committee as a "great step forward in the Agency." While he was not critical of past achievements, he hoped that in the future, "we will be even more streamlined." This was the first time that Almogi, newly elected as chairman, and Fisher had worked together.

Fisher said that he enjoyed the experience and praised Almogi for the "firm, decisive and straightforward way" in which he presided. "I like his style," he commented. Almogi later returned the compliment, thus auguring well for future cooperation at the highest levels of the Jewish Agency.

Optimistic About Soviet Aliya

Reporting on the Agency meeting at a press conference, Almogi said the proposed budget had been set higher than the actual figure spent in the previous year because immigration was expected to rise in 1976. Whereas the 1975 total was only about 20,000 (13,000 from the USSR), the forecast for 1976 was 45,000 (35,000 from the USSR and 10,000 from other countries).

Explaining his optimism concerning the increase in Soviet aliya, Almogi said: "The pressure on the Russians from the free world, and even from Communist parties in the free world, will increase. The Russians will not be able to resist such sincere, human pressure. It will not be worthwhile for them to continue their present policy."

SISCO LEAVING STATE DEPARTMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Joseph J. Sisco, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs since early 1974 and a leading collaborator on the formulation of American policy in the Middle East for more than a decade, is leaving the State Department in July to become president of American University in Washington. University trustees unanimously voted Sisco to the post Monday night and announced his appointment yesterday. The State Department confirmed his resignation.

Sisco has been closely identified with Middle East affairs since 1962 when he became Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, the bureau that is concerned with the United Nations. In 1969, with the advent of the Nixon Administration and when he had completed four years as Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, he became Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs under Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

Over the next five years, during Rogers' tenure, he was deeply immersed in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is credited with contributing much to the formulation of the so-called Rogers Plan which would have Israel withdraw from territories it occupied in the Six-Day War.

Aspects of the plan were revived recently although it had been said that the formula was dormant and even defunct.

Helped Blue-Print Interim Accord

Sisco also is said to have been deeply involved in blue-printing the interim agreement formula under Rogers called step-by-step diplomacy in recent years, to bring about Israel's withdrawals from 1967-held territories.

In addresses before both American Jewish and Arab audiences and in other forums he frequently spoke of "lost opportunities" by the parties in the Middle East, language that has been interpreted as meaning Israel allowed chances for diplomatic progress to slip past it.

Sisco, 59, had been offered the post of president of Hamilton College in 1974, several months after Henry A. Kissinger was named Secretary of State. At that time, Sisco was Assistant Secretary. Kissinger persuaded him to remain at State with a promotion to the Undersecretaryship, the Department's No. 3 position. Speculation as to his possible successor dwelt on personalities both inside the Department's hierarchy and outside. Among those suggested as possibilities were Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Undersecretary for Management, and Robert McCloskey, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. Both are close to Kissinger.

FORD NOMINATES SCRANTON FOR UN POST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA)--President Ford today formally nominated former Pennsylvania Governor William W. Scranton for appointment as successor to Daniel P. Moynihan as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. His nomination is subject to Senate confirmation where no serious opposition is foreseen. Moynihan leaves the post at the end of this month to return to Harvard University.

Scranton has "a big job to do" in carrying out his policy of "standing up for the United States against those unfair attacks," in the UN, Ford said, in announcing Scranton's nomination. The U.S., he said, is "stronger" today in the UN and has "made great progress" in it since Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's address to the General Assembly. He also said Kissinger had been trying to get Scranton to accept "a responsible position" in the Administration for seven years.

It was about seven years ago that Scranton returned from a visit to the Middle East as President Nixon's special representative and recommended to Nixon shortly after Nixon's first election that the U.S. should pursue a "more even-handed" policy in the Mideast.

Nixon did not accept the recommendation of "even handedness" in executing his foreign policy during his first administration but the idea expressed by Scranton has since become virtually the heart of American policy.

Scranton said today that "I'm a Pat Moynihan fan and delighted in the way he handled it"--the UN post--since his appointment last June. Scranton also said that "primarily because of the activity" of Ford and Kissinger the U.S. standing is on the "upbend" in the United Nations. Observers had no opportunity to question him or the President on what tangible successes the U.S. has gained in the UN during the past year.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Cabinet has decided by a majority vote to consider clear and specific proposals for introducing charter flights to Israel on a trial basis.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

HAIFA U. PREXY SAYS ISRAEL MUST DEAL WITH ISSUE OF PALESTINIANS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA)--Prof. Eliezer Rafaell, the president of the University of Haifa, believes that Israel must deal with the question of the Palestinians. Interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the office of the American Friends of Haifa University, he stressed that whether or not one believes there is such a thing as a Palestinian people, "there are people who call themselves Palestinians."

In order to cope with the problem, Rafaell announced that Haifa University will hold on April 5 the first conference ever held anywhere in the world on the "Palestinian Problem." He said not only will the political situation be discussed but all aspects of the problem--economic, sociological, psychological and geographic--will be included.

Rafaell said leading experts have been invited, including those in the Arab world. "We hope they come," he said. "If we as Zionists have assumed the responsibility to decide the future of the State of Israel," Rafaell said, "we also have the responsibility to discuss the Arab problem."

University Is Uniquely Sited

Haifa University is uniquely sited for this discussion, he noted, since it has the largest number of Arab students of any Israeli university, about 700 of a student body of 6500. The university has an Arab-Jewish Center to help build bridges between Israeli Arabs and Jews and trains most of Israel's Arab high school teachers. The university conducts lectures and other programs in the Arab villages of the Galilee, the area where most of the Israeli Arabs live.

Rafaell said that there has been tension on the campus during the last year due to the activities at the United Nations and the civil strife in Lebanon, among other developments. He said Jews in Israel feel that they are more isolated than ever because of the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism and there has been a growth in national feelings among Jews. There has also been a corresponding growth in national feelings among Arab students, he said.

But the 50-year-old Tel Aviv-born university president said the purpose of the university is not to solve the Arab-Jewish problem but to bring the two communities together. He said Arab and Jewish students study and live together and they argue the problems, sometimes getting emotional. "We expect people to express opinions," Rafaell said. "This is what a university is for."

Rafaell said Haifa University did not have the same problem that Hebrew University in Jerusalem had where some Arab students refused to perform guard duty because they considered it a military action against their brethren. Rafaell said that on the main campus of Haifa University everyone performs guard duty, from the president to the teachers to the students.

He said in the dormitories, where more than 100 of the 850 occupants are Arabs, only four or five refused to do guard duty and were told to hire someone to do it for them or get out. He said guard duty was not a military action but the duty of someone to protect his home, which in this case is the dormitories.

Another difference, Rafaell said, was contained in a letter to "Haaretz" from Dr. Butrus Abu

Manneh, an Arab who is an Oxford University-trained professor of History at Haifa University. Dr. Abu Manneh said that people who want equal rights have equal responsibilities, such as guard duty. He said that the difference between the situation at Jerusalem and Haifa was that Arabs at Haifa University do have equal rights.

Haifa University this year also created a Chair in Zionist Studies held by Dr. Joseph Nedava, head of its political science department and a one-time secretary to the late Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Rafaell noted that the Chair was in the works for two years and was established coincidentally at the same time Zionism was under attack at the UN.

Students Should Spend Year In Israel

Rafaell said he is in the United States to discuss Haifa University and to urge that more American Jewish students go to Israel to study. He noted that there are only 1500 Americans at Israel's seven universities and said the schools could handle at least 10,000. Haifa University has 150 Americans and Rafaell said it could take in 10 times that number.

Rafaell noted that he found that there are more Jewish students studying in Belgium and Spain than in Israel. He said American Jews would find that their tuition and living costs would be much cheaper than in the U.S. and at the same time they would receive just as good an education. He said that by coming to Israel they would be helping the Jewish State, and the experience would be exciting. "It is good for every Jewish student to spend one year in Israel," he observed.

NEW KIBBUTZ ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA)--A groundbreaking ceremony was held yesterday for Kibbutz Samar, the first settlement of Hashomer Hatzair's Hakibbutz Haartzim movement to be created south of the Beer-sheba line. The kibbutz, which is located about 35 kilometers north of Eilat, is between Yotvata to the north and the Timna Cooper mines to the south.

The settlement comprises about 100 members, some of whom have recently ended military service. They come from kibbutzim and cities in Israel and include volunteers from the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia who came to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. Some 60 housing units will be constructed for the members who have already begun marketing their first crop of vegetables and fruits.

Natan Peled, secretary of Hakibbutz Haartzim, said the new settlement indicates his movement's policy to give top priority to settling the Galilee, the Arava and Negev in the south, and the security belt on the Golan Heights. He said this was the right type of settlement, not the unwarranted empty efforts of other groups, an apparent reference to the attempts by the Gush Emunim movement to set up settlements on the West Bank in violation of government policy.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren returned Monday from a visit to the U.S. bringing with him several messages of warm support and solidarity that he said President Ford personally asked him to convey to the Israeli people. Goren had an unscheduled 20-minute meeting with the President at the White House last week. One of Ford's messages, according to Goren, was that the U.S. would assist Israel politically, militarily and economically. He quoted the President as saying "we are with you under all conditions." Goren said the President displayed great interest in visiting Israel.