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RABIN ACCUSES COMMUNIST PARTY OF FOMENTING GENERAL STRIKE; PROMISES GOVERNMENT PROBE INTO DISTURBANCES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin angrily accused Israel's pro-Moscow Rakah Communist Party today of fomenting yesterday's Arab general strike and violence in an attempt "to tear up the fabric of cooperation between Jews and Arabs built up over the past 28 years." He promised, however, that there would be a full investigation by the government into yesterday's events, the most serious disturbances by Israeli Arabs since the State was founded.

The Premier spoke in reply to a no-confidence motion filed by the Rakah faction, headed by Meir Wilner. The motion was presented to a virtually empty Knesset. The coalition parties and the opposition Likud absented themselves in protest against what they decried as Communist hypocrisy in inciting the general strike and then demanding a no-confidence vote against the government because of the violence their incitement engendered.

Apart from the four Rakah MKs and Meir Payil of the leftist Moked faction, no one was present to hear the motion introduced by Wilner. Addressing empty seats, he railed against the government from the rostrum, shouting, "Murderers, do you now flee, cowards?" Later, all parties voted against the Rakah motion except for Marcia Freedman of the Social Democrats, a recently formed splinter group, and Moked. The latter abstained, denouncing extremism on both sides.

Regrets 'Pointless Deaths'

Rabin expressed regrets for the "pointless deaths" caused by yesterday's violence and wished speedy recovery to the injured, police and soldiers and Arab civilians alike. He praised the manner in which the law enforcement authorities handled the situation, declaring that no country could permit such disorders. He said he was "happy to learn that most Israeli Arabs did not heed those who tried to incite them and continued their normal way of life."

Rabin noted that "some of them used their legal democratic rights to hold peaceful demonstrations. But in some places there were instances of breaches of the peace and rioting against security forces." He said that the ongoing efforts by successive governments, by Histadrut and by the various political parties to give expression to Israeli Arabs' full and equal rights had gained a large measure of success over the years.

MEANING OF STRIKE QUESTIONED BY JEWS, ARAB ISRAELIS, AND PRESS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)--Life returned to normal in Israel's Arab towns and villages today. But in the aftermath of yesterday's violence many Israelis--Jewish and Arab--were seriously questioning the long cherished values of democracy and unlimited freedom of speech.

The wisdom of extending the protections of democracy to agitators and inciters to violence

was challenged in many newspaper commentaries on yesterday's events which claimed the lives of six Arabs and caused injuries to 31 Arabs and 38 Israeli soldiers, policemen and border policemen. Some editorial writers wondered why no action was taken against the pro-Moscow Rakah Communists and other radical elements who were known for weeks to be agitating for a general strike.

But many editorials called for a reevaluation of Israel's policy toward the Arab minority. The Jerusalem Post said that the Arab strike "was violent enough to bear out some of the worst fears about the growing estrangement of the country's largest minority group from the Jewish majority." It added that "more imaginative steps could have been taken to help make Israel's Arabs feel fully-fledged Israeli citizens."

Davar, the Histadrut daily, contended: "It is an over-simplification to maintain either that the incitement by Rakah was the cause of the unrest, or that the requisitioning of land was their main motive. These were catalysts in a situation of unrest that has built up over the years." Al Hamishmar, organ of Mapam which is a member of the Labor Alignment, stated: "There should be a reappraisal of policy towards the Arab minority in order to deal with the roots of the discontent and bitterness exploited by the Israeli Communist Party."

An Arab leader, Tarek Abdul Hai, chairman of the Kalansuwa town council, charged bluntly today that Israel's democracy was at fault for protecting inciters and other negative elements. He contended that the "silent majority" of Israeli Arabs opposed the strike and demonstrations but was compelled to cooperate with the strike organizers because Israel failed to protect the loyal majority. The lack of protection undermined those Arab elements who wanted to maintain law and order and strengthened the radicals who are hostile to the State, Hai said.

Efforts To Reduce Tensions

Large police forces remained concentrated in Galilee today. But they maintained a discreet distance from Arab towns and villages where the local authorities have apparently succeeded in restoring order. Curfews were lifted at Sakhnin, Araba and Dier Hanna, the scenes of some of the worst violence yesterday, and no new incidents were reported.

There was a minor stone-throwing melee in Nazareth last night but it was promptly quelled. Nazareth seemed normal this morning. Tourists were arriving and the local market was bustling as usual. No further trouble was reported in the so-called "little triangle," a group of Arab villages on the Sharon plain northeast of Tel Aviv.

Local leaders were making efforts to reduce the tensions arising from yesterday's disturbances. They seemed to be making headway. But most Israelis agreed that while life is returning to normal among Israel's Arab population, wounds were opened yesterday that will take a long time to heal.

FORD OPPOSED TO FOREIGN AID HIKE

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--President

Ford has cautioned Congress that he will "regard as unacceptable" the nearly \$800 million increase in the foreign aid program to take into account the transitional quarter between the current and new fiscal years. But he did not say that he would veto the legislation should it be adopted.

In a letter to the Senate and House managers of the appropriations legislation, made public at the White House today, the President said he "must oppose both the significant reductions and additions" in the legislation before Congress and described his original budget proposals as "adequate to meet the minimum needs of the recipients without placing unacceptable strains on our budget."

While media reports of the transitional quarter funding tended to point out that Israel is a beneficiary, neither Ford's letter nor responses by White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen, when questioned today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, supported such reports.

Israel Not Mentioned

The President's letter made no mention of Israel but did deplore the reduction in pending legislation for military assistance to Jordan and some other countries. Actually, Israel would gain about \$550 million in military and economic aid if a transitional quarter allowance ultimately becomes law. Egypt would gain \$175 million in economic assistance and Jordan and Syria and more than a score of other countries would receive comparable increases in their allocations.

Ford made his views known to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D,Hawaii), chairman, and Sen. Edward Brooke (R,Mass.), the ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Aid, and to Reps. Otto Passman (D,La.), chairman, and Garner Shriver (R,Kan.), ranking minority member of the corresponding House subcommittee.

In the legislative process thus far, the Senate adopted a ceiling of 25 percent of the appropriated funds for the three months following fiscal year 1976 which ends June 30 and preceding fiscal 1977 which begins Oct. 1. The House, however, had not included such funding in its appropriations bill.

Work On Bills Continues

The House-Senate Conference Committee will meet for the first time tomorrow to negotiate on this and other differences in the two bills. Since the Senate has approved increased funding, the JTA was informed that whether the bill will ultimately be adopted by Congress depends largely on the House conferees.

The House managers had indicated, prior to Ford's letter, that they did not include the transitional quarter funding in their bill because the White House did not ask for it. But they indicated they would go along with the Senate should that chamber approve the additional funding in this election year.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had indicated his approval of the transitional quarter funding when asked by members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about it while they were considering the authorization aspects of the aid program. However, the White House indicated shortly afterwards that it was not in harmony with Kissinger on that point.

Nevertheless, both the Senate and House approved authorization measures that, like the subsequent Senate appropriations legislation, raised funding for some 50 countries by 25 percent of the allocations made for them. It was

noted in any case that the ultimate expenditure would rest with the President since he can either spend or withhold the funds in the absence of specific direction from Congress. (By Joseph Polakoff)

COSTA RICA PRESIDENT PRAISES ISRAEL

* JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Visiting Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber Quirós warmly praised Israel's democratic socialism at a dinner in his honor here last night after addressing a special session of the Knesset. Toasting his host, President Ephraim Katzir, he said:

"You have sought progress and achieved, through energy and through science, the blooming of deserts....I want the same for my people. You have achieved a just social order that ensures that the fruits of your labors are enjoyed by all.... I want the same for my people. You bear aloft the banner of dynamic democracy....I want to maintain and strengthen this for my people."

Oduber also praised Israel's respect for the holy places in Jerusalem which he had visited earlier in the day on a tour guided by Mayor Teddy Kollek. Today he and his party toured Galilee.

Addressing the Knesset, Oduber drew warm applause when he declared: "Here in Jerusalem, the mystic city of peace and the capital of the State of Israel, I have a better understanding for the eternal link between the Jewish people and its love for Zion."

He said that just as Costa Rica had backed Israel at its inception, it would continue to back the Jewish State in its effort to achieve genuine peace within secure and recognized borders. He promised firm support at the UN and other forums, and referred to Israel as a "sister-state." Speaking from the Knesset rostrum is an honor conferred only upon visiting heads of state.

LEVINGER TRIAL BEGINS

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the militant leader of the Orthodox community of Kiryat Arba near Hebron, went on trial today before a three-man military court in Ramallah on charges of insulting an army officer and interfering with the officer's performance of his duties. After the charges were read the trial was adjourned until April 22 when the prosecution will call six witnesses.

The army colonel presiding rejected Levinger's demand for a civil trial on grounds that, as a resident of the administered territories, he was subject to the jurisdiction of the Military Government. Levinger contended that the entire Kiryat Arba community was on trial. He charged that the Jewish settlers there were treated like "step children" because they did not enjoy the protection of regular Israeli law and were denied the normal legal process.

Kiryat Arba had its beginnings several years ago as an illegal squatters' movement aimed at establishing Jewish settlement rights adjacent to the Arab town of Hebron. After a period of confinement to the local military compound, the government yielded to pressure from religious and nationalist elements and allowed the squatters to establish their own township.

Levinger is specifically accused of insulting and disobeying an Israeli officer who ordered him out of Hebron during Arab disturbances there two weeks ago. Levinger may also face prosecution for incitement to violence on a television appearance during the disturbances when he exhorted the Kiryat Arba townspeople to "shoot to kill" if

they were menaced by Arabs.

Attorney General Aharon Barak is studying Levinger's remarks to determine whether formal charges are warranted. Meanwhile, Levinger has been barred by the Military Government from visiting the Machpela Cave in Hebron, the tomb of the Patriarchs which is a sacred shrine to Muslims and to Orthodox Jews.

STATE DEP'T. PICTORAL DISPLAY OF JORDAN SHOWS HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM AS PART OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM.

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--Diplomatic correspondents at the State Department were taken aback today over the pictorial display of Jordan in the Department's lobby in honor of King Hussein's visit that included an entire panel of holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The State Department promised under questioning that it would supply a response as to how this took place. But, meanwhile, considerable questioning indicated a feeling among some of the reporters that the display reflected a change in American policy away from Israel and in favor of Jordan.

When the question was raised whether the display implied that the Department considered East Jerusalem a part of Jordan, spokesman Robert

Funseth said that "the exhibit does not imply anything except that it is an exhibit for the King." When a reporter pressed why the holy places were shown as part of Jordan, Funseth said he did not know but that he would not attach political significance to the people who put pictures on panels. He said the policy on occupied territories was fully explained by William Scranton, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, at the Security Council last week.

However, a reporter pointed out that the Department's Jordan desk officer said that the inclusion of the holy places in Jerusalem in the display on Jordan was not a mistake but deliberate policy and an indication that the U.S. recognizes the holy places as part of Jordan. Funseth then said he would make inquiries about that and discuss it with the press later.

Ford, Hussein Discuss Mideast

Meanwhile, the White House said today that President Ford and Hussein devoted their 85-minute meeting this morning mostly to discussion of processes toward peace in the Middle East. But no indication was given as to what movement was in prospect. In a notice to the press issued on the Ford-Hussein meeting, the White House stated that "a just and durable peace in the Middle East" is of the "utmost importance to both the United States and Jordan."

The notice said the President "reiterated his determination to see that the momentum of the peace process is maintained." It added that the two leaders had "reviewed various possibilities for diplomatic action which might offer realistic hopes for additional movement toward peace." President Ford and King Hussein also "reviewed briefly the latest developments" in Lebanon, the White House said.

Resolution On Lebanon

In an action related to the situation in Lebanon the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee unanimously adopted a resolution last night requesting

Ford to use his good offices to "secure an end to the civil strife and national discord in Lebanon."

The resolution, offered by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,NY), stated that "The Congress views with grave concern any outside efforts to exploit the current strife with the purpose of transforming Lebanon into a radical state in confrontation with Israel." Javits remarked that the U.S. cannot carry out military intervention because "we are living in a different world today." He commended the President for dispatching Ambassador G. Dean Brown as a special envoy to Lebanon to help arrange a settlement there.

JEWS IN RHODESIA FACING DANGER

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Isaac Zwebner, of Rhodesia, said here that the 4000 Jews in that central African country face potential disaster at the hands of anti-Semitic whites and rebellious Blacks, but are too complacent or fearful to heed his warnings that they pull up stake and immigrate to Israel. Rabbi Zwebner, and his wife, Aurelia, recently arrived in Israel to join their four children who have settled here. They said they intend to remain.

In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, Zwebner described Rhodesia as a powder keg that will inevitably blow up and claimed the Jews there will be the principal victims because they are caught between two opposing forces. He said the white minority that rules the country includes anti-Semites who blame Jews for the "Communist menace" with which they are obsessed, particularly since the left-wing victories in neighboring Angola and Mozambique, two former Portuguese colonies.

He said that in his farewell address to his congregation in Bulawayo he held up a letter addressed to the entire Jewish community bearing the official stamp of the White Peoples' Party and swastikas. The letter contained quotes from "Mein Kampf" and threats that "Hitler hasn't yet finished his job." Zwebner said that swastikas have also appeared lately on Jewish shop windows and cars. "I'm afraid the Jews aren't aware of the danger or don't want to think about it," he said.

Mrs. Zwebner made it clear that the Jews, like the rest of the white minority, lead the good life in Rhodesia and are loathe to give it up. "They are spoiled by luxury and comfort," she said. The rabbi said the Jews "say they can help Israel best by staying in Rhodesia and giving money, but we told them that is no longer true."

MANNA FROM A SPACE MACHINE?

LONDON, March 31 (JTA)--Two Cambridge University engineers have come to the conclusion that the manna eaten by the Israelites during their wandering through the Sinai was a single cell protein produced by a machine from outer space. Rodney Dale and George Sassoon, both well-respected in the field of engineering research, air their theory in the equally respected magazine New Scientist.

They argue that in the Kabbala the miracle in the wilderness is attributed not to the Almighty but to "the ancient of days." From the Kabbalistic description of "the ancient of days," they deduce that it might have been how a primitive culture would have described a sophisticated machine. The article appears tomorrow--April Fools Day.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--About 300 candidates have already registered for office in the West Bank municipal elections to be held April 12.

RA DEFEATS MOVE TO REPLACE JEWISH LAW AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

GROSSINGER, N.Y., March 31 (JTA)--The 76th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly overwhelmingly rejected yesterday a resolution that would have "dissolved and replaced the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards with a new committee to function on an advisory basis."

The decision, made after a heated debate, was precipitated by recent rulings on the status of women in the synagogue, particularly a 1973 decision that women could be counted in a minyan. The Law Committee, which was established in its present form in 1948, has made policy rulings for the guidance of Conservative rabbis on such subjects as marriage and divorce, Bat Mitzvahs, kashruth, the Agunah problem and mixed seating, as well as other aspects of the place of women in Judaism.

According to Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Professor of Theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative seminary, the law committee, of which he is chairman, has been "charged with responsibility of interpreting Jewish Law for the Conservative movement. In addition to answering inquiries from member rabbis about Halachic problems, the committee has also attempted to make Jewish Law relevant and responsive to the needs of the Jews of our time."

He also said the "decisions of the committee have reflected the various views of the members of the Rabbinical Assembly. Where there is no unanimity," he explained, "the local rabbi may decide which of the options presented by Jewish Law he wishes to institute in his congregation."

The defeated resolution, which was presented to the resolutions committee by Rabbi David Novak of Baltimore on behalf of a group of more traditionally minded members, would have seriously curtailed the authority of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and changed the makeup of the membership of a successor committee.

Dynamic Period Of Jewish History

At an earlier session, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, who marked his 25th anniversary as a leader of Conservative Judaism, expressed optimism about the future of American Judaism. The executive vice-president of the 1000-member association of Conservative rabbis said he doesn't "mourn for the good old days" but rather feels that this is "one of the most dynamic periods of Jewish history."

He told the convention delegates, in response to tributes from many of his associates, that Judaism despite the problem of changing neighborhoods, economic inflation and a diminished birth rate, is at "the threshold of a creative age which has been unsurpassed in recent centuries." Kelman noted particularly the phenomenon in Judaism of the steady flow of the "baal teshuvah" -- the returning ones -- often whose parents dis-regarded religion; with the new generation rediscovering the faith of their grandparents.

He expressed belief that a great many American Jews have "moved away from an age suspicious of emotion, skeptical about the transcendent dimension of our lives and inhibited by public displays of our Jewishness." Although this new Jewry which has emerged "doesn't worry too much about ideology. It has sought to establish a sense of identity for themselves as Jews," Kelman said.

Focusing on the growth of Conservative Judaism in the past 30 years, Kelman attributed this

to its "non-fundamentalist but intensely traditional approach to contemporary Jewish life and living. It is because Conservative Judaism recognizes that there are some areas in which the tension between modernity and tradition cannot be fully resolved by any slogans or other instant solutions."

'MINI-BRUSSELS CONFERENCE'

PHILADELPHIA, March 31 (JTA)--More than 1000 Philadelphians of all faiths rallied on behalf of Soviet Jewry's struggle for freedom at a "mini-Brussels Conference" held here last Sunday under the sponsorship of the Soviet Jewry Council of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia.

Albert D. Chernin, executive vice-chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said that, like the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels Feb. 17-19, the Philadelphia rally was intended to "trigger a rejuvenation of programs to aid Soviet Jews."

The "mini-Brussels Conference" differed in one respect, however, from the larger event in Belgium in that a Jewish Defense League statement identical to the one that JDL leader Meir Kahane was prevented from delivering at Brussels II was read to the gathering here by Joseph Smukler, co-chairman of the JCRC's Soviet Jewry Council. The statement called for an end to U.S. trade relations and cultural exchanges with the USSR and an escalation of anti-Soviet demonstrations.

Alex Einbinder, a reporter for the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent, who covered the rally, reported that Smukler prefaced the JDL statement with the explanation that "its reading in this conference is in no way an endorsement by any of the participants but merely permitting another opinion to be heard."

John Cardinal Krol, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, headed a Roman Catholic delegation to the rally which was attended by Protestant and Greek Orthodox representatives as well as Jews. The spokesmen for all faiths joined in demanding that the Soviet Union end the persecution of its Jewish citizens. Rep. Lawrence Coughlin (R, Pa.) declared that American citizens and officials must maintain moral leadership by continuing to press for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate.

ZALMANSON CHARGED WITH 'BRIBERY'

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Shmuel Zalmanson, brother of former Prisoner of Conscience Silva Zalmanson, who was arrested late last week by Riga KGB officials, is being charged with "bribery" and "theft of State property." It was reported today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Conference chairman Eugene Gold condemned this latest act of Soviet harassment as a malicious attempt by the Soviets to destroy the Zalmanson family. Shmuel's two brothers, Israel and Vulf who were among the Leningrad trial defendants, are presently serving eight and ten-year terms in Soviet labor camps.

The Conference also learned today that former POC Yuri Pokh has been granted a visa to Israel after months of harassment. Pokh had been threatened with army conscription and was detained for three days last month when he refused to enlist voluntarily. He had been ordered to report for active military duty on April 12.