

Hails Genocide Stand

NEW YORK (WNS) - The American Jewish Congress hailed the "statesmanlike and far-seeing action" of President Nixon in urging Senate ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention.

In a telegram to the White House, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president of the Congress, said President Nixon's initiative "will, hopefully, bring our country's national policy into conformity with the ardent wish of men the world over to end for all time the mass murder of human beings for racial, religious or ethnic reasons."

The full text of the telegram follows: "The American Jewish Congress wishes to convey its profound gratification over your statesmanlike and far-seeing action in urging Senate ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention after more than 20 years of heartbreaking and unwarranted delay. Your initiative will, hopefully, bring our country's national policy into conformity with the ardent wish of men the world over to end for all time the mass murder of human beings for racial, religious or ethnic reasons."

"Our country's proud history of sensitivity and concern for human rights has been tarnished by a refusal to join with most of the other nations of the world in establishing workable and practical safeguards to prevent the recurrence of this ghastly and barbarous crime. Your action helps to redeem our national self-respect. Your leadership in this area will help to restore our country to its rightful role in preserving and extending basic human rights."

"Signed
Arthur J. LELYVELD, President,
American Jewish Congress."

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) --Secretary General U Thant has asked Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring to return to the United Nations from his post in Moscow for discussion on the possible resumption of the Swedish diplomats Mideast peace mission. UN spokesmen said that Dr. Jarring would make the final decision on resuming the mission he suspended almost a year ago when the Big Powers began to hold talks on possible terms for a Mideast peace plan. Dr. Jarring, his nation's Ambassador to Russia, was reported to have said he would not take up his responsibilities as special UN Mideast envoy unless the Big Four acknowledged that their efforts had made no progress.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) holding their first convention in Israel, officially declared Yom Ha-Atzaut, Israel Independence Day, as a new festival observance on their religious service for use on this day will be released in April.

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Committee has urged Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz to set up a mandatory program under which on-the-job training would be required on all contracts for Federal or Federally-assisted construction.

NEW YORK -- Concerned at the latest outbreak of synagogue arson and vandalism, the American Jewish Congress asked Mayor Lindsay to make public the Police Department report on the epidemic of attacks against houses of worship in 1968 and last year.

Reds Never Wanted Peace

JERUSALEM (WNS)--The Soviet Union's apparent rejection of the United States plan for an Israeli-Egyptian peace arrangement was viewed by Israelis as confirmation of Israel's conviction that the Soviets do not really want a Middle East Settlement. The American plan was submitted to the Soviets privately last Oct. 28 and disclosed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in a speech on Dec. 9.

(The State Department announced that Soviet envoy Anatoly Dobrynin had delivered the Soviet Government's reply to Mr. Rogers and that a "preliminary review" indicated that it was "not a constructive response to our Oct. 28 formulations." The American proposal recommended an Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula to the pre-June 1967 boundaries in return for a binding Egyptian commitment to peace with Israel.)

Israeli sources said the Soviet reply confirmed Israel's contention that the proposals, which Israel regards as inimical to its security and future bargaining position, have not created a "change of heart" on the part of the Soviets. The U. S. plan has been rejected by the Arabs as well as by Israel leading Israel to reiterate that a change can be effected only by direct Israel-Arab talks.

State Department officials insisted that the Soviet reply did not constitute a "flat rejection" of American proposals. It was reported however that the Russians turned down one of the key points of the U. S. plan--that the "binding commitments" precluding hostile acts against each other by Israel and Egypt be reached by the two parties by Gunnar V. Jarring. The American proposal in effect called for a return to the so-called formula by which Israelis and Arabs negotiated the 1949 armistice agreements on the island of Rhodes.

The Soviets have never accepted the Rhodes principle as a framework for new Arab - Israeli negotiations but they have not excluded it until now. The Israelis said the Soviet reply to the U. S. proposals was a reversal of Moscow's previous position. They saw it as acquiescence to pressure from the Arabs who declared at the Arab summit meeting

in Khartoum in 1967 that they would never negotiate with Israel.

Israel's Ambassador to the U. S. Gen. Itzhak Rabin has returned to Washington.

He was called home last week to participate in an emergency session of the Cabinet to discuss the latest U. S. position. His parting remark at the airport was "we will overcome." Gen. Rabin told newsmen that he disagreed with Secretary of State Rogers' claim this week that American Policy does not jeopardize Israel's vital interests. However, the Ambassador said he did agree with the Secretary's assertion that there was no link between Israel-U.S. differences in policy and Israel's request for more American military equipment and economic aid.

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NEW YORK (WNS) - The American Jewish Congress called for sealing off from air travel all Arab countries whose governments provide "the protection and support that make Arab terrorism possible."

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