

OBJECT TO ROGERS' UN SPEECH

JERUSALEM (WNS) --A diplomatic and informational offensive by Israel--to convince the United States that Secretary of State William P. Rogers' speech in the United Nations General Assembly was not designed to promote peace and quiet in the Middle East --was foreseen by observers here.

Premier Golda Meir's recent statement, which criticized Rogers' approach to an interim Suez Canal arrangement, was followed by a spate of briefings and comments from official and semi-official sources. All were sharp in tone and warned of a serious erosion in the U. S. position. Particular stress was placed on Israel's intention to stand firm even if the U.S. should not lift its virtual embargo on supplies of warplanes to Israel.

That was one of the messages Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin

is understood to have conveyed to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco at their meeting in Washington. Rabin is also understood to have protested what he called news stories planted by the State Department in which Israel has been pictured as a kind of virtual superpower possessing medium-range guided missiles with nuclear warheads.

The general thrust of the statements here is that the U.S. is coming dangerously close to the point where it no longer can play the role of an impartial intermediary. The American position on the interim settlement, it is said, has moved so close to the Egyptian stand that the two positions are distinguishable only in details. If this convergence continues, it is said, it will inevitably lead to failure of the talks on a Canal settlement, and another chance for peace will

have been missed. But with all their firmness and strong wording, the Israeli statement leaves the door open for further American efforts. No other power is thought able to bring about a settlement.

In a later development, Ambassador Rabin stated in a taped interview in Israel that it should take a "forceful but well-weighted stand" against the approach suggested by US Secretary of State Rogers in his United Nations speech. (Related developments, reports reveal, indicate that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has begun talks in Moscow following the three-day visit of Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin in Morocco. Kosygin issued a warning in Rabat, Morocco's capital, that the Middle East situation can "degenerate into conflict" and urged a "rapid" and "peaceful" solution).

HOUSING PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV (WNS) --A planeload of Jews arriving at Lydda Airport from Soviet Georgia demanded quarters in Lydda or Jerusalem and adamantly refused to accept flats in Beersheba or Dimona in the Negev. Ministry officials have no alternative accommodations to offer and many of the newcomers staged a sitdown demonstration in the airport terminal.

After several hours, they finally departed with relatives but said they would visit the Absorption Ministry's regional office in a few days to demand housing in towns where they have friends among fellow Georgian Jews.

The emigration of Jews from Soviet Georgia has reportedly increased ten-fold since last August.

The Georgian Jews are for the most part semi-skilled workers and petty tradesmen.

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