

US ISRAELI RELATIONS CHILLY

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A thaw has begun in American - Israeli relations but the chill that developed after the collapse of the Israel-Egyptian negotiations conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is still felt in Washington, according to Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

He made this assessment after returning to Jerusalem from a week-long tour of the United States on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal which wound up with a three-hour meeting in Washington with Kissinger.

Before leaving the U.S., Allon told some 50 leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that the "resumption of the U.S. - Israeli dialogue had begun but it may be a long one." He expressed gratification over his meeting with Kissinger and their agreement on the main point -- the necessity to preserve the momentum toward peace. Allon told reporters upon arrival in Israel that he and Kissinger had agreed not to divulge the details of their talks. He said he had expressed Israel's desire to keep up the diplomatic momentum and the view that there is still room for a settlement with Egypt. "All the options are open," he said.

Allon said his meetings with American Jews were "both moving and encouraging." He said he had been able to explain in detail to the Jewish leadership groups Israel's position in the recent Sinai negotiations and found "total identity with Israel" among American Jews. Earlier, Allon told a UJA meeting in New York that "I go back home with the true feeling that we are one." He added that "Our togetherness means more than organizational unity...as long as we are together, we will live together."

Meanwhile Premier Yitzhak Rabin told an audience of industrialists that recent developments in the Arab world indicate that the Arabs are preparing for a possible new war against Israel rather than laying the groundwork for peace.

He said Israel's policy must therefore be based on improving its strained relations with the U.S.; preparing politically for new efforts to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict by peaceful means, and intensifying its military preparedness to meet any eventuality. Earlier Rabin told a gathering of top level officials that Israel would probably have to bring a map to Geneva along with suggested principles for peace. But he rejected demands being made inside and outside Israel for an elaborate peace initiative.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban told Jewish leaders in New York that Israel must present new ideas and a specific policy because diplomatic nature abhors a vacuum. He said that in the absence of Israeli proposals, the possibility of an imposed settlement increases. But, Rabin told the Jerusalem gathering that Israel was correct to stick to its original position. "Sometimes a strong stand, sticking to far-reaching proposals which may advance peace, have better prospects to bring peace than new initiatives which only raise the question of how seriously Israel took its previous suggestions," the Premier said.



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FORD COOL

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adopt policies that will lead to still another Arab attempt at the military destruction of Israel. At the same time, we share the President's sentiments that progress toward peace in the Middle East must not be interrupted and that the good offices of the United States are essential for resuming the momentum toward peace that led to the first disengagement agreement."

During the interview, Ford said he would not make "any commitment" on a meeting with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin until "we are further along in our reassessment" of U.S. Mideast policy and any meeting with one government leader would require meetings with others. Asked by Walter Cronkite if that meant "there won't be any favored nation treatment of Israel in the future," Ford replied, "I think we have to, in this very division, where the possibility of war is certainly a serious one, if you have war you are inevitably going to have an oil embargo--I think we have to be very cautious in our process of reassessment." Ford said the U.S. was "committed, at least in principle, to going to Geneva." But he said the U.S. still has three options: to resume the "suspended negotiations without making a commitment to go to Geneva;" "go to Geneva and try to get an overall settlement," or while negotiating for an overall settlement, "you might have an interim negotiated settlement between two of the parties, such as Israel and Egypt."

In other remarks by Ford, the President said he does not "foresee" any reason for American military intervention in the Mideast and he continues to "hope" that there will be no need for either the U.S. or the Soviet Union to have "peace keeping responsibilities with their own forces" in the Mideast. The President also stated that the "impasse" between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization "will be one of the most difficult things that will have to be worked out, if it is worked out at Geneva."

PERCY URGES FACE-TO-FACE TALKS

WASH. (WNS) -- Sen. Charles Percy (R, Ill.) has urged "face-to-face negotiations" between Israel and the Arabs in a 91-page report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Percy, who recently completed a 23-day, 12-nation tour of the Middle East, warned his fellow committee members that a "very

real danger exists" of a fifth Arab - Israeli war this year unless "significant negotiating progress is made in the near future." Percy also urged that "efforts for a pre-Geneva arrangement -- either partial or total -- be accelerated and pursued on an urgent basis" because the "suspension" of the step-by-step negotiations conducted "raises the specter of further stalemate at Geneva."



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ISRAEL PEACE PLAN

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Cabinet has agreed to hold a full-dress "political debate" on the possibility of drafting an overall Israeli peace plan in advance of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East. Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon are to bring in draft resolutions for the debate, but Cabinet secretary Gershon Avner said it is not known whether they would cover a partial or an overall settlement. At the same time, Independent Liberal Party ministers Moshe Kol and Gideon Hausner again urged the Cabinet to begin preparing a peace plan for presentation at Geneva. But Yitzhak Raphael, of the National Religious Party opposed their suggestion saying that to present new partial settlement ideas would appear to be knuckling under to pressure. He also said that no overall settlement plan proposed by Israel would be acceptable to the Arabs.

CAMPUSES IMMUNE TO ARAB PROPAGANDA

WASH. (WNS) -- The expressions by some Jewish spokesmen that Arab propaganda, increasing because of petro-dollars, is making anti-Israel or anti-Jewish inroads on American college campuses "are still unwarranted fears," according to Dr. Norman Frimer, national director of B'nai B'rith Foundations.

He told the annual meeting of Hillel's national commission, that a Hillel analysis based on a poll of its field directors at 120 major schools "does not show any significant shift in campus opinion which by and large, supports Israel's right to survival." Frimer noted that efforts by pro-Arab campus groups distributing literature, screening films, organizing exhibits and convening rallies with speakers hostile to Israel "may create a sense of discomfort among Jewish students and others on campus, but the extent of their productivity has been

minimal." He added that campus appearances of a Moshe Dayan or Ephraim Katzir often evoke some form of protest from pro-Arab groups

Dr. Seymour Martin Lipset a Harvard University sociologist, who was elected chairman of the 80-member commission, said the task of explaining Israel to the campus community has been complicated by a widening of isolationist views brought on by the failure of American policy in Southeast Asia. He said this was not due to an identification of Israel with South Vietnam but to "a pessimistic view of America's capacity to play world leadership roles." But he added, "Israel, unlike Vietnam, has repeatedly demonstrated the capacity to defend itself" without involving Americans in military campaigns, a self-reliance that finds popular appeal.

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