

### Rabin's Outlook

By David Benarone

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin's latest statement to the effect that no agreement with Egypt could be reached without "face-to-face negotiations" -- which news disturbed officials here at the UN whose hopes had otherwise been raised high with the Egyptian approval of UNEF's extension for another three months -- led to conjectures among observers in this world organization as to what really motivates the seemingly quiet - appearing successor to Golda Meir.

One observer, a consistent non-Jewish friend of Israel, met with this writer the day the Security Council held its meeting last week to adopt the resolution that put its official seal of approval on the renewal of the UNEF mandate. Hailing Rabin as a great statesman, he noted that the 'shy' Premier, while dedicated totally to the cause of his people, had a philosophy of life that was universal but believed that the world must still learn about the uniqueness of the reborn Jewish State and the role the Jews of the world play in its stability.

In this regard, the observer alerted the writer to an interesting declaration the young Premier had made earlier this year before the Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress held in Jerusalem. Dealing with Israel and its relation with the Jewish world, it contained the following significant points:

"The Jewish world today is made up of three components: the State of the Jews; the Jews who live in democratic countries, and thirdly of those who live under totalitarian regimes. It is a triangle of inter-related problems.

"The State of Israel is fighting for its existence, for its reinforcement, for the attainment of peace while it is trying to find the uniqueness of the Jewish State. It is doing it not in any abstract or generalized form, but in the terms of what does a Jewish State mean and what its uniqueness is. Is it only a refuge for Jews or something more? On this exceptionally important issue a comprehensive view has not yet emerged because of the many other problems Israel is being faced with.

"The issue is probably the most simple and self-evident to the religious Jews, but an all-embracing assessment, especially in the secular domain, still has to be formulated. Doing it should be a challenge to Jewish intellectuals. In a Jewish State there was always a king, a priest and a prophet. What should be the divisions between these three spheres in a new Jewish State? It is a question undoubtedly worthwhile to entertain in the minds of Jewish intellectuals.

"For the Jews in the democratic countries the primary problem is how to preserve their Jewishness. My experience in this regard is limited. I was born in Israel and have not lived in the Diaspora, except for five years when I was serving as Ambassador in the U.S. Though

no expert, therefore, on the Diaspora, I nevertheless gained the impression that religion continues to be the most embracing framework for Jewish life. But if the Diaspora communities do not place Israel -- and not only concern about her -- into a central place in Jewish life, they will lose the most crucial element of Judaism and, thus, probably the hope to preserve their Jewishness.

"To the Jews living under totalitarian regimes, Israel represents the only chance for living once again as human beings and as Jews. I am certain that the Jewish communities in the free world will do whatever is necessary to enable their oppressed brethren to live again as Jews and to emigrate to Israel if they so desire... I believe that Jewish activities can be carried out only within a religious framework and when they are centered around Israel and contain a deep responsibility towards brethren who are persecuted or oppressed.

"The key to the understanding of the contemporary Jewish scene is in the recognition of the triangle, composed of Israel -- the State of the Jews -- of the Jews of the democratic countries and of those who live under oppression..."

Premier Rabin concluded his historic statement by noting that "we must find new venues, refreshed contents and some new organizational framework to facilitate the fuller expression of the will of all three components of this Jewish triangle so that a better understanding, a more meaningful exchange of ideas and more joint action could be achieved between the Jews of the State of Israel and the Diaspora."

Here, then, we have an insight into the soul and spirit of the Sabra who now guides the destiny of the Third Hebrew Commonwealth.

### SKILLED VOLUNTEER WORKERS FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK (JTS) -- "ACTS for Israel" (American and Canadian Trade Skills for Israel) opened their offices here. The organization has been formed for the express purpose of recruiting skilled labor to work in a civilian capacity in Israel during a crisis. It is only during times of mobilization that volunteers will act as back up specialists.

ACTS is now ready to seek volunteers from all over the United States and Canada. This includes heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, electricians, automom-

bile mechanics and technicians in many other fields.

Al Bazel, executive director of ACTS said: "We are confident that in the event of a crisis the economy of Israel could have some semblance of normalcy through these efforts." He went on to say "the weeks before the Yom Kippur War no one knew or surmised that war would come. We therefore urge concerned people to volunteer now so we will be ready if there should be another sneak attack." ACTS is in the process of setting up regional offices or liaison in key cities so that registration and information can be gathered on a local level.

NEW YORK -- YAVNEH, the National Religious Jewish Student Association, which has chapters on college campuses throughout North America and Canada is holding its 16th Annual National Convention at Camp Moshava in Indian Orchard, Pa., August 28 - September 1.

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