

## AFTER PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

by Esther Vilenska

The press, radio and television gave a wide coverage to the meeting of Golda Meir and U.S. President Nixon. No doubt, the people of Israel needs good relations with all countries of the world. But it is a mistake to think that the positions of the United States in the Middle East will be preserved forever. They are constantly weakened. The influence of American imperialism in the Middle East is a temporary phenomenon. On the other hand, the peoples of the region are a permanent element. Therefore it is a vital necessity to mould an independent national Israeli policy, that must find a common language with the peoples of the Middle East, based on the mutual recognition of the just national rights of the peoples.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry circles put forward the demand that Egypt declare her readiness for peace with Israel. This is certainly a legitimate demand, but it must not be ignored that the Israeli side, too, must make a move to bring nearer the hour of negotiations. Israel must declare that she does not desire territorial expansion and that all one-sided accomplished facts are invalid.

Shortly after the publication of the report that Golda Meir announced her consent to "Rhodes-style" talks with Egypt, the "Gachal" (block of right-wing parties) ministers in the government appealed against her consent to such talks. It appears that the "hawks" in Israel, too, cannot bear the situation when a first prospect of negotiations appears.

An interesting view is that of the Anglican Archbishop in the Middle East, Dr. George Appelton, based on talks he had recently with Arab inhabitants of Israel and of the neighbouring Arab countries. Being in charge of the Anglican churches, he recently visited Israel, Jordan,

Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan and Lybia. His view was published in a letter to the editor of the Jerusalem Post on 29.9.69. His optimism is based, i. a. , on the announcement of the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, on the possibility of a "package deal" regarding the withdrawal and other points. The Archbishop also praises the declaration of Golda Meir, the Israeli Premier, on her willingness to go anywhere to discuss conditions for peace. He pointed also to the remarks of Morocco's King Hassan against terrorist activities. The Anglican Archbishop put forward some ideas in a direction that may lead to peace. One of them is a desirable declaration on the part of Israel, that if she were given secure borders, she would not have any more expansionist aspirations. We understand, that secure borders will be only those that will be agreed upon between the parties involved.

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More than two years after the victory in the Six Day War, the "national unity" government has not fulfilled the main political task imposed on it. It has not moulded a long-range political programme. Because its partners have not positive common denominator, it is doomed to political paralysis.

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