

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Mrs. Meir Calls Special Cabinet Session To Consider State Of Israel-U.S. Relations

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21(JTA)--Premier Golda Meir has called a special Cabinet meeting for Monday to consider the latest developments in relations between Israel and the United States. It will coincide with the return from the U.S. and Britain of Foreign Minister Abba Eban who conferred in Washington last week with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, has been called home to participate.

Mrs. Meir called the meeting after reportedly urgent consultations with other ministers on what Israelis regard as a serious deterioration of the U.S. position in the Middle East conflict. The Cabinet wants to hear the details of Mr. Eban's talk with Mr. Rogers and it wants to hear from Gen. Rabin whose assessments of U.S. policy have been generally less optimistic than those of the Foreign Ministry.

The Israeli Government has been increasingly concerned over the drift of American Mideast policy since Secretary Rogers' Dec. 9 speech in which he proposed an Israeli withdrawal from virtually all occupied Arab territory in return for an Arab commitment to a binding peace. The Israelis believe that U.S. proposals undercut their bargaining position in any future negotiations with the Arabs. Even more serious, they fear that Mr. Rogers' speech indicated that America's stand is softening and edging closer to that of the Soviet Union.

According to reports reaching here, the U.S. demanded in the Rogers-Eban talk that Israel publish an unequivocal commitment to withdraw her forces from the occupied territories once peace is achieved. Up to now, the American formulation has been that Israeli forces would be re-deployed in accordance with the new borders agreed upon by the disputing parties.

Mr. Rogers' Dec. 9 speech dealt with the borders between Israel and Egypt. There are reports here that the U.S. is also engaged in proposing new borders between Israel and Jordan. Israelis were greatly disturbed by the Secretary's suggestion that Jordan should have a religious, civic and administrative role in Jerusalem along with Israel.

Israeli concern has been fed by the uncertainty about when the U.S. will respond to Israel's request for additional military equipment and economic aid. Mrs. Meir made the request when she met with President Richard M. Nixon in Washington recently. She reportedly returned home with the impression that the President would make his decision by the end of the year. The State Department said last week that it would be made in 1970. Israelis fear that their request for American aid will be made contingent on Israel's acquiescence to a Four Power formula for a Mideast settlement.

There is a "new atmosphere" in America's position toward Israel and it encompasses both the State Department and White House, Gen. Rabin told newsmen upon his arrival. He sidestepped a question about just how much the U.S. position has "deteriorated" by saying "the mere fact that Mrs. Meir found it necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet indicates that there are important things to discuss." He was asked about the possibility that he would be recalled to Israel to take a ministerial post in the new Government and replied that it is "important that Israel keep me in Washington which is an important front in Israel's political struggle."

### Rogers Will Receive Presidents Conference Delegation To Discuss Mideast Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21(JTA)--Secretary Rogers has agreed to receive a delegation of American Jewish leaders tomorrow to discuss the implications of his Dec. 9 speech on the Mideast. State Department officials said the Secretary may use the opportunity to explain U.S. policy to the delegation and ask their cooperation in seeking wider acceptance of efforts to attain greater flexibility by Israel. The delegation will represent the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Bernard B. Drenfeld, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, said that he had asked Secretary Rogers to clarify whether his recent statement on Mideast policy represents a departure from the policy espoused by President Nixon. Mr. Drenfeld said the Secretary's statement "appears to favor a concession by Israel for unilateral withdrawal without similar prior agreement by the Arabs to sign a real peace treaty. It is an apparent departure from the previous position of the U.S. and a seeming concession to the Arabs and the Soviet Union?"

### Kissinger Reported As Saying Nixon Most Disappointed About Mideast Situation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21(JTA)--Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's top adviser on international affairs, has reportedly disclosed that the President is deeply disappointed and pessimistic over the chances of a peaceful Middle East settlement as the year ends. It was learned that Dr. Kissinger told a selected group of journalists that the President was disappointed most, after a year in office, over his failure to obtain peace in the Middle East and Vietnam but was more discouraged about the Middle

East than about Southeast Asia. Dr. Kissinger reportedly said the President placed most of the blame for the continuing Arab-Israel violence on the "unyielding attitude" of Soviet Russia. Nevertheless, the President is still striving to replace confrontation with negotiation, Dr. Kissinger reportedly said. He was quoted as saying that the passions of the Arab states and Israel have dampened hopes that the Big Four can resolve the Mideast crisis.

The Presidential adviser reportedly said that Mr. Nixon remains hopeful of making progress toward a settlement in 1970. The U.S.-Soviet bilateral discussions have increased each nation's understanding of the other's position, and have thus reduced the chances of an American-Soviet embroilment that could lead to a nuclear war. But after eight months of intensive negotiations, the Administration felt it could not claim that Mideast tensions have been reduced of a major war averted, Dr. Kissinger was quoted as saying.

### United States Said To Have Made 'Concrete and Specific' Proposals On Jordan

NEW YORK, Dec. 21(JTA)--The United States has reportedly made "concrete and specific" proposals concerning Israel's future borders with Jordan. New York Times correspondent Henry Tanner said today that the proposals were presented by Ambassador Charles W. Yost, the American envoy to the United Nations, at last Thursday's meeting of the Big Four (U.S., Soviet Union, Britain and France) on the Middle East conflict. Mr. Tanner attributed his information to "informed sources" at the UN.

According to the Times report, the U.S. proposals favor border adjustments that would transfer limited areas from the sovereignty of one country to another. They are also said to include recommendations on the refugee issue and Jerusalem.

They reportedly differ from the American proposals on Israel's future frontier with Egypt which Secretary of State Rogers made public in a speech Dec. 9. Mr. Rogers suggested a return to the pre-June, 1967 war boundaries. But the U.S. is understood to recognize Israeli security interests in the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip and proposes to protect them by the establishment of demilitarized zones and a possible international peace-keeping force, Mr. Tanner reported.

He said the new American proposals left the status of Jerusalem open for negotiation between Israel and Jordan. The proposal is understood to reiterate Mr. Rogers' Dec. 9 statement that Jerusalem must remain a unified city in which both Israel and Jordan would have religious, economic and civic roles.

According to the correspondent, the new U.S. initiative was linked to the Arab summit conference which opened today at Rabat, Morocco. American officials hope to deter the Arabs from foreclosing a diplomatic solution in the Mideast by demonstrating that progress is still possible on the diplomatic front, Mr. Tanner said.

The UN correspondent outlined the differences between the U.S. and Soviet positions which, he said, have been defined by high ranking Western diplomats familiar with them. The differences appear to be more a matter of degree than substance.

The Soviets want an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-June, 1967 lines in exchange for a "weak" peace commitment by the Arabs. The U.S. supports withdrawal in principle but favors minor border adjustments and demands a stronger peace commitment in which the obligations of both parties would be spelled out including, for the Arabs, the obligation to prevent further guerrilla attacks on Israel, Mr. Tanner said.

The Soviet Union wants the Four Powers to work out a detailed settlement which would be presented to the Arabs and Israelis to implement. The U.S. favors no more than a Big Power agreement on a framework with essential details to be worked out by the Arabs and Israelis in further negotiations. The Soviets want the Big Powers to concern themselves with the Israeli-Syrian aspects of the dispute, but the U.S. specifically excludes Syria from the discussions because the latter has rejected all efforts towards a peaceful solution, Mr. Tanner reported. He said that a French proposal leaning heavily toward the Soviet position was rejected out of hand by the Israelis prior to being introduced at the Big Four talks.

### Eban Says Event Have Borne Out Israel's Position On Big 4 Talks

LONDON, Dec. 21(JTA)--Abba Eban, Israel's Foreign Minister, told a press conference here that events had confirmed Israel's prediction that the Four Power talks on the Middle East would be fruitless and added that "everything in the area has gone amiss". He said that international policy for the area should have the goal of bringing the two sides together for a settlement.

He also indicated again that Israel had softened its demand for direct talks with the Arabs, saying that Israel's policy was not "direct talks" but "peace" and that talks, whether direct or of the "Rhodes" type--under an objective chairman--were considered only a matter of technique once the principle of negotiation was accepted by the Arabs. He said Israel would agree to any reasonable form of talks as long as they were between the parties to the dispute. The negotiations which culminated in the 1949 armistice agreements between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries were conducted on the Island of Rhodes under the chairmanship of Dr. Ralph Bunche as a United Nations mediator.

On the substance of the talks, the Foreign Minister asserted that "everything is negotiable." He specified Israel's recognition of the universal religious significance of Jerusalem and he hinted about the possibility of establishing some kind of "community relationship" with Jordan once peace was established.

He said he agreed that his talks in Washington last week with Secretary of State Rogers were cordial

but emphasized that Israel was worried about "contradictions" in the U.S. attitude, particularly on American suggestions about Israel-Egyptian boundaries. He said that the new U.S. policy contradicted the U.S. principle that there could not be a Mideast settlement without agreement by both Israel and the Arabs. He added that these differences did not mean any "collapse" of American-Israel friendship.

He echoed recent complaints by Premier Golda Meir about the positions of Britain and France. He said that if those countries had bowed to Arab pressure and refused to sell arms to Israel, they had no right to act as "umpires" in the Big Four talks. He said Britain was now not "in the middle of the road" but "on the wrong side of the road."

He said Israel was entitled to both Mirage planes from France and Chieftain tanks from Britain because it was recognized that Israel needed those weapons to maintain the balance of power in the area. He said the two countries had barred those weapons to Israel out of fear of an unfavorable reaction from the Arabs. Israel bought and paid for 50 Mirage jets from France but Gen. Charles de Gaulle, as French President, embargoed their shipment to Israel in June, 1967, an embargo maintained by his successor, Georges Pompidou. The Eban press conference received nationwide television, radio and press coverage.

### **Israel Calls In French Envoy To Discuss Reported Sale of Mirages To Libyans**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21(JTA)--Israel is perturbed over a reported \$400 million French arms deal with Libya. That and France's continued arms embargo against Israel will be the subject of talks shortly between the French Ambassador, Francis Hure, and Gideon Rafael, director general of the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Hure has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the talks.

Press reports said that President Georges Pompidou has approved the Libyan deal which is said to involve the delivery of Mirage jets to Libya, tanks and an air base agreement. The latter reportedly would involve France's take-over of U.S. and British airbases in Libya that are being evacuated on the demand of the new Libyan regime.

Fear was expressed in some sources, here that the French weapons, particularly the Mirages, would find their way into the arsenal of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. They said the Libyan Air Force lacked the technical proficiency operate the highly sophisticated supersonic Mirages and that they were unnecessary to Libya's defense. These sources said that despite the usual safeguard clauses forbidding "third party" use of military material, the French could not prevent Libya from lending its jets and tanks to Egypt.

### **Israeli Commando Unit Crosses Suez Canal, Drives 20 Miles Into Egypt To Shell Camp**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21(JTA)--An Israeli commando unit crossed the Suez Canal on Thursday night and drove more than 20 miles into Egypt to shell an Egyptian Army camp, one of the largest in the rear of the Suez Canal frontline. An Israeli Army Spokesman said all members of the unit returned safely to base.

The raid was the first crossing in three months and was announced as Arab leaders assembled in Rabat, Morocco, for a summit conference, convened to discuss a unified Arab stand against Israel. The commandos used rockets to shell the Salliah camp, 30 kilometers west of the El Ballah station on the west bank of the Canal. The spokesman said that the commandos apparently were unnoticed during their advance.

Israel jets, artillery and mortars mounted one of the longest and heaviest attacks on targets in Jordan today. Their mission was to knock out positions from which Jordanian, Iraqi and guerrilla artillery have been shelling Israeli settlements in the Beisan Valley and along the shores of Lake Tiberias. The action lasted four hours. All Israeli planes returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman reported. Observers on the Israeli side said columns of smoke were seen rising from scores of enemy positions in the Gilead Hills opposite the cease-fire lines.

Israeli officials said the attack was ordered because of a rising incidence of attacks in the area by Jordanian regulars and Iraqi troops deployed in northern Jordan. In the previous 24 hours there were 13 artillery and rocket attacks aimed at Geshur, Kfar Ruppin, Maoz Chaim and other settlements they said. An Israeli settler was quoted as saying that "work under normal conditions has been impossible for some time."

### **3 Armed Arabs Arrested In Athens Before Boarding Plane, Seen As Possible Hijackers.**

LONDON, Dec. 21(JTA)--Three armed Arabs, all alleged terrorists, were arrested at Athens Airport today as they were about to board a TWA airliner which they apparently intended to hijack, it was reported here. The three were seized after a TWA employe found hand grenades in the luggage of one of them.

The Arabs were identified as Miss Abou Jhalil, 22, Issan Doumit, 20, and Sami Abdoul 18. Police said they were carrying forged Lebanese passports. The three carried tickets for Rome and Milan. They were among 13 passengers preparing to board TWA flight 841 which originated in Tel Aviv and was bound for New York via Rome. The flight was delayed three hours while police searched all luggage and cargo aboard.

Police said that Frixos Servetopoulos, the TWA baggage master in Athens, spotted the grenades concealed among personal belongings in Sami Abdoul's bag. Athens Airport officials have been examining the luggage of passengers carrying Arab passports because of a recent series of hijackings and other incidents by Arab commandos. Palestinian Arabs have been banned from entering Greece since two terrorists threw a grenade into the El Al ticket office in Athens last month killing a two-year-old Greek boy. Athens Airport was the scene of a grenade and machinegun attack on an El Al airliner last Dec. 26 which took the life of an Israeli passenger. The three Arabs arrested arrived in Athens from Beirut on Friday.

## Rabbinical Assembly Considers Whether To Remain Member of Conference Of Presidents

NEW YORK, Dec. 21(JTA)--An official of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis, dismissed today that the association was conferring with leaders of American Reform Judaism and with the Conservative congregational organization on the question of continued membership in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, said the development stemmed from dissatisfaction over the fact that in the 15 years of existence of the Presidents' Conference, it has never had a Conservative or Reform organizational president as chairman. He said that except for three B'nai B'rith presidents and a Reform rabbi who, was at the time, president of the American Jewish Congress, the chairmen have been Orthodox leaders. Dr. William A. Wexler, B'nai B'rith international president, was elected last week to a one-year term as chairman, succeeding Rabbi Herschel Schacter, president of the Orthodox Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, who served one-year terms.

Rabbi Kelman said that he and Rabbi Ralph Simon, Rabbinical Assembly president, were authorized at a meeting last Tuesday of the Assembly's administrative committee, to confer on the matter with the presidents of the United Synagogue of America, the Conservative congregational body, and with the presidents of the (Reform) Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the (Reform) Central Conference of American Rabbis.

He stressed that the Rabbinical Assembly action was not to be considered "in any way" as a reflection on Mr. Wexler, for whom, he said, there was the highest regard. He added that he and Rabbi Simon were in contact with the other Conservative and Reform leaders to determine what action should be taken on the issue.

The conference was set up in 1955 as a coalition organization of the leaders of 23 national Jewish organizations for cooperative actions on matters affecting the security and well-being of Jews in Israel and elsewhere.

## Tel Aviv University Gets \$1 Million Toward New Center For Technological Studies

NEW YORK, Dec. 21(JTA)--A contribution of \$1 million to Tel Aviv University toward the establishment of a new center for technological studies was made last week by Leonard Rosen, president of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, at that organization's annual dinner. Mr. Rosen, a resident of Miami, Fla., is also deputy chairman of the university's board of governors.

Contributions of \$500,000 to the University's scholarship fund were reported by Eugene Ferkauf of New York, chairman of a special leadership committee which has been soliciting this form of support. More than 700 friends and supporters of the Tel Aviv institution attended the function at which honorary fellowship awards were made to Herman Stein and William Levi.

Gov. Frank Licht of Rhode Island, who recently visited Israel with a party of governors, told the assemblage that the interests of the United States in the Middle East were tied to the survival of Israel. He declared that "Russia cannot make peace in the Middle East. The U.S. cannot make peace in the Middle East. France and Britain cannot make peace in the Middle East." He described as an "Alice in Wonderland situation" the fact that Israel, the victor in three wars, has to ask the Arab states, the defeated, to sit down and negotiate peace, and that the Arab states have refused.

Dr. George S. Wise, president of Tel Aviv University, warned that unless Israel can bring the number of its university students up to 70,000 and triple the number of science students, it will fall behind the Arab states in technological manpower. He cited the rapidly increasing number of Arab students in universities in Arab countries and abroad and declared that "we are no longer dealing with felaheen but with a generation of young, well-educated people."

In the long run, he said, Israel's security and welfare depend on the development of science and technology. He pleaded for support for all of Israel's higher institutions of learning and urged their expansion so that they can receive ever increasing numbers of students. In stressing the need for Israel to maintain its technological lead, Dr. Wise declared that a center for technological studies would be established at Tel Aviv University such as existed, he said, at only two other universities in the world.

## Labor Department Aide Says Action Planned Against Executive Level Discrimination

NEW YORK Dec.21(JTA)--A group of 75 top executives of leading American corporations has been told by a Government official that the Labor Department was planning a series of "positive actions" to combat problems of religious discrimination against Jews and Catholics in executive level positions.

John L. Wilkes, deputy assistant secretary for contract compliance and director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, addressed the group at a dinner meeting of the National Advisory Committee on the Executive Suite, representing the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Occupational Council. The executives were invited to the meeting by the AJ Committee and the Occupational Council.

Mr. Wilkes listed several plans for action by the Labor Department. He said a new directive on religious discrimination will be issued emphasizing the Administration's commitment in this area; the department is considering establishment of an advisory committee on religious discrimination at the executive level; it plans to issue guidelines against such discrimination for contractors and sub-contractors covered by an Executive order which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin wherever government funds are involved; and it plans the wider use of a questionnaire in focusing on problems of religious discrimination in several industries.

Mr. Wilkes said, "Many people don't even realize that this kind of bias exists. But the figures show differently. We don't believe in quotas, but when we look at the figures...they don't fit with the statistics."