

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Eban Defends Government Veto Of Goldmann-Nasser Meeting; Opposition To Veto Mounts

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban criticized Dr. Nahum Goldmann in a Knesset speech today defending the Government's rejection of plans for him to meet with President Gamal Abdel Nasser in Cairo. The speech was followed by a lively debate in the chamber in which the Government's action was both supported and criticized. Premier Golda Meir rebutted the critics and explained why she had brought the issue before the Cabinet. During her remarks she contradicted an assertion made by Mr. Eban only a short time before that Dr. Goldmann had asked for the status of an emissary. Mr. Eban's speech was addressed to mounting criticism at home that the Government may have missed an important opportunity to make contact with Egypt. "There is no precedent in the annals of relations between nations to an effort to force a sovereign state into being represented in a first historic contact--open or covert--by a person who rejects the basic tenets of its policy," Mr. Eban said. He said Israel is ready to meet Arab representatives at any time, anywhere, at any agreed level and any subject may be brought up. "But Israel cannot agree that the other side should dictate who should represent her and what views would be stated on her behalf."

Mr. Eban spoke of efforts made by Israel in the past 30 months and especially of late to initiate negotiations with Arab states, including Egypt. He said some were conducted openly, through the United Nations special envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring and others were made secretly. "However, all initiatives have been rejected," Mr. Eban said. He described Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and for many years president of the World Zionist Organization, as a citizen of Israel who carries an Israeli diplomatic passport and claimed that he himself had asked to be accorded the status of an emissary. The Foreign Minister stressed that Dr. Goldmann's views of the Mideast problem diverge sharply from the official Israeli stand. He said however, that if Dr. Goldmann had gone to Cairo with the knowledge of the Israel Government, it would have been tantamount to being regarded as a spokesman of the Government. "Meeting Arab representatives is not an end in itself. It should serve the purpose of letting the other side know Israel's views in the most authoritative manner and with emphasis on the subjects which Israel seeks to emphasize," Mr. Eban said. "Therefore, Dr. Goldmann who differs with official policy on basic issues is not the right person to be an emissary of Israel."

In the debate that followed Mr. Eban's remarks, Gideon Hausner, of the Independent Liberal faction said Israel must be ever ready for new approaches and new initiatives to break the present deadlock. "Dr. Goldmann may not hold the same views as the majority in the Government and the Knesset," Mr. Hausner said, "but he certainly cares more for Israel than do U Thant or Dr. Jarring." Shlomo Gross, of the Agudat Israel, said an opportunity has apparently been missed. Former Police Minister Eliahu Sasson of the Labor Alignment said he agreed with the Cabinet's position but proposed the creation of a "brain trust" to examine and evolve new ideas. Yosef Serlin, of the Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) criticized Premier Meir for not rejecting the Goldmann proposal immediately instead of keeping the Cabinet busy with it for two meetings. Yitzhak Raphael, of the National Religious Party which normally follows the Government on foreign policy matters, said Dr. Goldmann should not be declared unfit for making a first contact.

## Mrs. Meir And Dayan Explain Their Views; Goldmann Scores 'Wall-To-Wall' Coalition

Premier Meir said she did not reject Dr. Goldmann's proposal immediately because she is accustomed to consulting with her colleagues before arriving at decisions which may have far-reaching consequences. However, she repeated her assertion that Dr. Goldmann had no invitation from Nasser, only a suggestion to go to Cairo made by a third party and under conditions laid down by Nasser. Those conditions were that the Israeli Cabinet be aware of his mission and that it be publicized, by Egypt. She said Dr. Goldmann did not explicitly demand that he arrive in Cairo as an official emissary nor had he said he would establish contact between Egypt and Israel. He himself said he would only listen to Nasser, Mrs. Meir said, adding that she doubted Dr. Goldmann was capable of listening without making his own views known. She said he could not have gone to Cairo as a private citizen without the Government's knowledge because that would have violated Israel's laws.

Speaking last night at a meeting of the Labor Alignment, Mrs. Meir defended her Cabinet's veto of a meeting between Dr. Goldmann and Pres. Nasser, insisting that the Cabinet's decision was virtually unanimous and was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Knesset. But Defense Minister Moshe Dayan injected an element of doubt into the episode when he told a student audience in Tel Aviv last night that the Government did not reject Dr. Goldmann's trip to Egypt if he wanted to go there as a private citizen. "But if he wants to go there and represent the Israel Government, then it is the Israel Government that will decide who should represent it," Gen. Dayan declared. Dr. Goldmann told newsmen yesterday that he had intended to go to Cairo as a private citizen holding an Israeli passport. He said he could not claim to represent the Israel Government because as far as he knew the Government has no position.

Dr. Goldmann said he was disappointed over the Cabinet's rejection, observing that a meeting with Nasser "might have been the beginning of some way to avoid another war or escalation of the Mideast conflict." He refused to disclose who was instrumental in arranging the "suggestion" that he meet

Col. Nasser. Diplomatic observers here say Marshal Tito, of Yugoslavia, with whom Dr. Goldmann has met, engineered the plan and the Yugoslavian Ambassador in Cairo was an intermediary. Mrs. Meir said that the person who suggested to Dr. Goldmann that he visit Nasser was an ex-Egyptian colonel working as a newspaper man in Paris. She said the man had no official standing and yet on the strength of this conversation, which did not constitute an invitation, Dr. Goldmann had asked the Prime Minister to approve his journey to Cairo. Opposition to the Government's vein was expressed in the press and among Israeli citizens. Significantly, an editorial in *Devar*, organ of Premier Meir's Labor Party, criticized the brusque manner in which the Government rejected Dr. Goldmann's plans.

Independent and left wing students demonstrated outside the hall where Gen. Dayan spoke last night. One placard read, "You've Got the Telephone Call You've Been Waiting For--Answer it." The reference was to a statement by Gen. Dayan that Israel was waiting for a phone call to make peace but it never rang. A girl student at the Hebrew University said to a reporter yesterday, "What's wrong with her (Mrs. Meir)? Does she just not want peace?" Another student said, "It's that ridiculous Cabinet. It's too big to do anything." Dr. Goldmann also criticized what has been described as Mrs. Meir's "wall-to-wall coalition." He said "The Government is based on a decision not to decide, because the moment they do so, that's the end of the big coalition." Premier Meir remarked only last week that peace was more important than coalition. In his remarks to students last night, Gen. Dayan rejected the idea that the Government had missed a chance to open peace talks with Egypt. He said, "Let us for a moment think that Goldmann would have come to an agreement with Nasser. Would that mean peace? It might mean peace between Nasser and Goldmann but the conflict is between Nasser and Israel."

### French Intermediary in Goldmann-Nasser Talks Says It Was First Arranged in 1956

PARIS, April 7 (JTA)--A French journalist reported to have been personally involved in a planned meeting between President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said today that the Egyptian leader had acted in good faith and was seizing on a remark by Premier Golda Meir that she was willing to risk the unity of her coalition Government if an Arab state sincerely sought a peaceful settlement with Israel. Eric Rouleau, Middle East editor of *Le Monde*, said President Nasser agreed to a meeting with Dr. Goldmann last Feb. 23, five days after Mrs. Meir's statement. He said Nasser acted on the personal prompting of President Tito, of Yugoslavia. According to M. Rouleau, conditions laid down by President Nasser for the meeting were intended to avoid embarrassing Israel and Egypt. Those conditions were that Dr. Goldmann's visit to Egypt be made public; that he should obtain the Israel Government's authorization for the trip; and that the Jewish leader should inform Pres. Nasser of his own "personal opinions" on how Mideast peace can be obtained.

M. Rouleau claimed that Nasser believed these conditions would protect him from charges that he was acting against the interests of Palestinian refugees and that Mrs. Meir's coalition unity would not be risked before she had a chance to find out from Goldmann what the actual situation was. As for Nasser, he could have informed the Arab states and the Palestinians that he was not violating the 1967 Kharcum agreement of no peace, no recognition and no negotiations with Israel, the French journalist wrote. A meeting with Dr. Goldmann would not mean direct or indirect negotiations with Israel. M. Rouleau said Nasser wanted the meeting publicized to prevent an organized "boycott" after the trip that could have endangered his options.

According to Rouleau a Nasser-Goldmann meeting had been arranged in 1956 and would have taken place if not for the Anglo-French-Israeli attack on Egypt. He said it took many months of explanations afterwards to convince Nasser that Dr. Goldmann was not part of a "conspiracy" against Egypt. M. Rouleau reportedly served as an intermediary between Dr. Goldmann and certain Egyptian representatives in Paris who "suggested" that the Jewish leader go to Cairo. In a taped interview on the French radio today, Dr. Goldmann said there had been no clear understanding that he would meet with Col. Nasser, merely that he would have met the "foremost Egyptian political figures" had he gone to Cairo. French press comment on the Goldmann affair generally blamed the Israel Government for having failed to seize the opportunity offered to renew some sort of dialogue with the Arab side. (Dr. Goldmann said in a taped interview on the Cologne radio yesterday that a public opinion poll in Israel found that 63 percent of the Israelis favored a Goldmann-Nasser meeting.)

### State Department Denies Phantom Jet Piloted By American Downed Over Golan Heights

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA)--The State Department today denied a Syrian claim that a United States Phantom jet, piloted by an American, was shot down over the Golan Heights during a Syrian-Israeli air battle last Thursday. The Syrians claimed it was a carrier-based jet from the U. S. Sixth Fleet "loaned" to Israel. State Department spokesman Carl Barich said "The story is not accurate. It is one of many stories we have all seen. All of these stories are totally false. No U.S. plane from the Sixth Fleet or any place has ever been shot down over Syria. We do not fly missions there." The Syrian announcement said it identified the plane as American because the markings were English, not Hebrew and because it had an arresting hook and folding wings indicating that it was based on an aircraft carrier. Israel admitted the loss of one jet in last Thursday's air battle with Syria and said it downed three Syrian MIGs. Reports that the Israeli plane was a Phantom were not confirmed in Tel Aviv.

### Eban Says Jewish Settlement in Hebron Will Not Prejudice Future Agreement With Arabs

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said that government plans to establish a permanent Jewish settlement in the West Bank town of Hebron would not prejudice any future political agreement that might be reached with the Arabs. He said that whatever future settlement is reached, the frontiers must remain open. "Israel will not resume living in a ghetto," he said.

**Miss Brooks Gave Kosygin Requests From Former Soviet Jews To Let Relatives Emigrate**

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA)--Miss Angie Brooks, president of the United Nations General Assembly, disclosed today that she has passed on to Communist Party Chairman Alexei N. Kosygin, requests from former Soviet Jews to let their relatives join them in Israel. She said there has been no response from the Soviet Government so far but she hoped it would act on some of the specific cases she brought to its attention. Miss Brooks noted that the Soviet Union ratified the portion of the UN's Civil Rights and Freedoms Convention stipulating that persons are entitled to choose their own place of residence. Miss Brooks made her disclosures at a farewell press conference marking the end of her visit to Israel.

She defended her visit against sharp criticism from the Arab countries. Miss Brooks said the leaders of nations should be encouraged to go to areas of conflict such as the Mideast to study at first hand what the feelings and interests and the mood of the people concerned are. She told newsmen she has had no response so far from the Arab states to her offer to go anywhere in the interests of peace. She said she felt it was pointless to take further initiatives because to be of use an emissary has to be trusted and accepted. Miss Brooks said that while in Israel she found no real hostility between Jews and Arabs as one might tend to expect from reading newspaper accounts. She said she believed the two nations could live together.

**Italian And New Zealand Jews And Non-Jews Protest Soviet Treatment Of Jews**

ROME, April 7 (JTA)--The Italian Jewish Youth Federation collected 3000 signatures yesterday on a petition to the Soviet Ambassador in Rome asking full constitutional rights for Soviet Jews, including the right of emigration, and the release of two young Jews arrested in Riga. At a rally on Place Navona, the group distributed pamphlets, displayed posters and engaged in heated discussions with Communist propagandists until midnight. One sign read: "If Karl Marx lived in 1970 Russia he would be a second-class citizen. (In Wellington, New Zealand, seventy delegates to Zionist Conference marched to the Soviet Embassy in protest against the treatment of Soviet Jews. Marchers carried banners demanding justice. Soviet Embassy officials refused to accept a petition from the marchers. The United Synagogue of New Zealand also protested against the treatment of Soviet Jews as did Jewish students who staged a sit-in at Auckland University's Jewish Community Center. Their sit-in was joined by many non-Jews.)

**Report That New Surge Of Anti-Semitism In Argentina Portends Danger For Jews**

BUENOS AIRES, April 7 (JTA)--The DAIA's monthly plenary session was told today by its secretary, Dr. Jose Kestelman, that a new surge in anti-Semitism evidenced recently held danger for Argentinian Jewry. Dr. Kestelman referred to an increase in attacks on Jewish institutions, anonymous phone threats to more than 20 Jewish physicians and other professionals, and the general context of Latin American violence. He warned against Jews "getting accustomed" to such manifestations of hatred. The headquarters of Die Yiddische Zeitung, a Jewish newspaper, was tarbombed several days ago. There was slight damage reported. Leaflets insulting Jews, found at the scene, were signed by a group called "Guardia Restauradora Nacionalista." The police are investigating the incident.

**Israel Official Terms Amnesty International's Conduct Verging On Blackmail**

JERUSALEM, April 7 (JTA)--Amnesty International's conduct has verged on blackmail and Israel no longer has faith in it, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel told the Knesset last night. He emphasized that the private organization devoted to aiding political prisoners had threatened several times to publish its report critical of Israeli detention methods if Israel continued to reject its demand for an international inquiry. Israel had tried to explain, Mr. Hillel said, that it could not submit to a move reflecting lack of trust in its judicial and democratic processes.

**Rabbi Charges BOAC Cancelled Kosher Meal To Avoid Incident Upon Landing In Cairo**

NEW YORK, April 7 (JTA)--A New York rabbinical leader has to date received no reply to his March 24 letter to the British Overseas Airways Corporation office here protesting the cancellation of his kosher meal because his plane was to stop off in Cairo. Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, chairman of the International Synagogue and chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the New York Board of Rabbis, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that on his March 6 flight from Ceylon to Singapore he was told that his pre-arranged kosher food had been removed from the London-originating plane flight prior to landing at Cairo to avoid an "incident." Rabbi Mowshowitz said the apologetic stewardess had shown him a flight manual stating such a policy. In his letter, the rabbi called the decision "ridiculous" and told the British airline that an Egyptian would be "insulted" at his own government for taking such a position. A public relations spokesman for BOAC here said he had not heard of the development, adding that BOAC made two daily stops at Cairo and that the pre-arranged-kosher-meal policy still stood. He said he had probably not been informed by BOAC in London because it "is important to a group of people but is not of major importance."

**Israeli Planes Attack Egyptian Targets; Israeli Forces Capture Arab Terrorists**

TEL AVIV, April 7 (JTA)--Israeli Air Force planes made two attacks today on Egyptian targets in the central and southern sectors of the Suez Canal and on the western shore of the Gulf of Suez. During the day there was intermittent firing for three and a half hours, with an additional 10-minute attack in the evening. All planes reportedly returned safely. Early this morning Israeli forces killed two Arab terrorists and wounded two others and captured 12, according to reports. The terrorists, suspected of sabotage in the Gaza Strip, fired on the Israelis during an attempt at arrest, with two killed by return fire. Israel reported no casualties.

## State Department Contends There Is No Firm Plan For Sisco To Meet With Nasser

WASHINGTON, April 7 (JTA)—A State Department spokesman said today that there were no firm plans for Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, to meet with UAR President Nasser despite earlier reports from here, Jerusalem and Cairo that the two officials would meet. Administration officials were reported yesterday as saying that Mr. Sisco and Pres. Nasser would confer next Friday. One report noted that the one-day visit was arranged in Washington and that Cairo accepted the proposal and sent a formal invitation. Asked whether the United States had sought this meeting, State Department spokesman Carl Barth declined to comment. Diplomatic sources in Cairo said over the weekend that Mr. Sisco was due here next Friday for talks with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad and possibly with Pres. Nasser. Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem have already declared that Mr. Sisco's visit to Cairo and Jerusalem is welcomed because it would give him a chance to assess Egypt's "war of attrition" and compare it to Israel's orientation toward peace.

When the State Department first announced on March 31 Mr. Sisco's trip to the Middle East it termed it a routine visit to Teheran for a meeting with the chief of the United States Mission in the Middle East. The State Department Robert J. McClosky said then that Mr. Sisco had no plans to travel elsewhere in the area but added that it was "always possible." The announcement of his pending Mideast trip came at a time when Mr. Sisco had resumed meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin in what some Washington officials termed the resumption of the Two-Power talks. Mr. Sisco and Mr. Dobrynin met again yesterday but there was no comment from either side on what transpired or on when the two officials would again meet. The feeling among some in Washington was that Mr. Sisco might convey the general nature and tenor of the talks with Mr. Dobrynin to Egyptian and Israeli officials and in turn transmit their response in further talks when he returns home. It is possible, some observers noted, that a new meeting date between Mr. Dobrynin and Mr. Sisco is contingent on what happens during his Middle East trip.

## UN Committee Expresses Hope Israel Will Allow It To Visit Occupied Territories

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 7 (JTA)—The chairman of a United Nations special committee investigating human rights in the Israel-occupied Arab territories has expressed hope that the Israel Government will relent in its refusal to permit the committee to visit the territories. The committee arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, April 5 following hearings in London on the status of the civilian population in the occupied areas. It is scheduled to visit Amman, Cairo and Damascus and Geneva prior to returning to UN headquarters here to render its report. Hamilton Amerasinghe the Ceylonese Ambassador to the UN who heads the investigating body said in Beirut that "the committee will make further approaches to Israel to allow a visit to the occupied territories and hopes that Israel will cooperate in this vital matter." He said the committee declined to characterize in any way Israel's refusal so far to cooperate with it or to characterize the evidence heard so far. The committee's view is that all evidence must be in before commenting on any part of it, Mr. Amerasinghe said. He disclosed that the committee has instructed the placement of advertisements in newspapers of the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel calling on witnesses to come forward.

Witnesses at the final hearings in London last week were Christopher Mayhew, a member of Parliament, Mrs. Leila Mantoura, described as a British subject of Palestinian origin and Richard Slotover, a 32-year-old British law student. Mr. Mayhew, regarded as the leader of a pro-Arab faction in the British Labor Party, admitted that his personal knowledge of conditions in occupied territories was limited to a five day visit last January to East Jerusalem, Gaza and Ramallah. But he claimed that tension and fear were unmistakable. According to Mr. Mayhew, the fear in Gaza is of physical confrontation with the occupying forces while in East Jerusalem there was psychological tension because intellectuals were afraid of deportation or detention without trial. Mayhew said he had no first hand knowledge of force being used during the questioning of Arab prisoners but cited a report published, at his urging he said, by Amnesty International of which he is a member. The report presents the unretorted testimony of Arab prisoners as "prima facie" evidence of maltreatment of prisoners in Israeli jails.

Amnesty International, whose report, released last week, created a furor in Israel and in its American section, said it sent the committee copies of its report. The committee spokesman said his group will try to hear Amnesty members but did not indicate when or where. Mrs. Mantoura claimed she had been spat upon by Israelis in Gaza in 1968 because she wore a cross and when she spat back she was forced to stand in detention for six hours. Mr. Slotover said he visited the occupied territories in 1967, 1968 and 1969 and saw no signs of discomfort or unhappiness among the people. Among earlier witnesses at committee hearings were two Israeli Jews, Moshe Machover who described himself as a former lecturer at Hebrew University and currently a university lecturer in London and Abraham Heilbrons who said he was currently a research assistant at the University of London. Both testified that there was abuse by Israelis of Arabs in occupied territories. The Israeli Embassy in London has identified the two as members of Maspen, an ultra-left splinter group in Israel which it knows there as the Israeli Socialist Organization. An Embassy spokesman said the Embassy did not know the two Israelis were giving evidence at committee hearings.

## President Of Rabbinical Assembly Urges New Approach To Converts And Conversion

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., April 7 (JTA)—A challenge to the American rabbinate and to American Jewish communities to evolve a new approach to converts and conversion was issued yesterday by Rabbi Ralph Simon, spiritual leader of Rodfei Zedek, Chicago. "The threat of intermarriage, the inevitable price we pay for the privilege of living in an open society, can be converted to a new source of strength," Rabbi Simon told the more than 500 rabbis gathered here for the 70th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis. Rabbi Simon urged the Assembly to create a commission to help Jewish communities develop an "atmosphere of general hospitality and helpfulness for the newcomers."