

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## McCloskey: U.S. Surveilling Cease-Fire Status; Statement On Violations Due Soon

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (JTA)--A State Department official said today that "having taken the lead" in initiating a cease-fire in the Middle East, "the United States feels it has a role in seeing that the agreement is carried out." State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey made the remark at a press briefing where he disclosed that "from time to time we are conducting high level reconnaissance flights to verify the situation in observance of the standstill" in the Suez Canal cease-fire zone. According to sources, the State Department is expected to issue a statement tomorrow or Thursday in response to Israel's claims that the Egyptians have violated the cease-fire by placing Soviet SAM missiles in the 32-mile standstill zone since it went into effect Aug. 7. It was understood that the statement will take into account Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's criticism of U.S. response to violation charges.

Israel's Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, is understood to have seen the State Department's statement in advance. Mr. Rabin met for a half hour today with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and shortly afterwards boarded a plane for Israel. He is returning on home leave and is expected to be away from Washington for a week to 10 days. Mr. McCloskey said that the U.S. was conducting high level reconnaissance flights over the eastern bank of the Suez Canal and would not be opposed to similar flights by the Russians over the West Bank. He refused to elaborate on the statement despite persistent questioning by newsmen. Israel occupies the East Bank of the Canal and Russian flights over the West Bank have been going on for months. Some newsmen believe Mr. McCloskey was saying that the U.S. was maintaining surveillance of the Egyptian side of the canal without violating Egyptian air space.

## Anxiety Mounts That Movement Of Missiles Prelude To Movement Of Troops

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Anxiety mounted today that Egypt has moved troops into the 32-mile cease-fire zone where, according to Israeli intelligence, it has been installing new SAM missiles, completing unfinished missile sites and repairing damaged ones since the cease-fire went into effect Aug. 7. According to Israeli circles, the Egyptian moves are premeditated. The first phase is to establish SAM missiles in the cease-fire zone in violation of the standstill elements of the cease-fire. The second phase is to bring troops into the zone, under protection of the anti-aircraft missiles should the shooting resume. Israelis believe Egypt intends to mass troops for a push across the Suez Canal should the 90-day cease-fire end before there is a peace settlement. The reluctance of the United States to take a firm stand on Israel's charges of cease-fire violations has angered many Israelis. Some circles here implied that Washington was hedging by asking for more time to study the evidence supplied by Israeli intelligence. They said it took the U.S. only one day--Oct. 14-15, 1962--to determine that Russian missiles had been installed in Cuba after they were photographed by U-2 reconnaissance planes. The U.S. reportedly is employing the high altitude U-2s in cease-fire surveillance over the Suez Canal zone.

There was no comment today on foreign press reports that the U.S. has agreed to provide Israel with "compensation" for violations of the cease-fire. According to the French newspaper, Le Figaro, the Nixon administration has assured Israel that it would not be permitted to emerge from the cease-fire in a militarily weakened position. Meanwhile the movement toward peace talks under United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring has stalled. Foreign Minister Abba Eban implied at his press conference yesterday that talks on the ambassadorial level would not be regarded by Israel as bona-fide negotiations. Egypt and Jordan have named their permanent representatives to the United Nations as their representatives at the Jarring talks. Israel insists on a higher diplomatic level if the talks are to be serious. Israel has named no representative but has indicated that it would like the talks to take place at the foreign ministerial level. The Israelis say that they have already yielded enough and the time has come for the Arabs to make concessions. They refer to the omission of Israel's terms of acceptance of the American peace initiative from the document reactivating Dr. Jarring's peace mission and to the alleged Soviet-Egyptian violation of the standstill cease-fire. The Arabs are also insisting on UN headquarters in New York as the site of the peace talks while Israel prefers a site close to the Middle East.

## Thant Receives Israel's Complaint On Cease-Fire Violation; Jarring Waiting, Optimistic

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Secretary General U. Thant was reported today to have received Israel's complaint that Egypt was continuing to construct missile sites and to deploy weapons close to the Suez Canal in violation of the cease-fire standstill agreement. The complaint had been sent yesterday to Maj. Gen. Ensio Silavsuu, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and publicly disclosed by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban. The complaint charged that five sites in the standstill zone, which had been empty earlier, now revealed construction activity. Spokesmen for the UN said this was the second complaint of a cease-fire violation Mr. Thant had received from Israel through UNTSO. The previous one, last Wednesday, dealt with the firing of two shots across the Suez Canal. Spokesmen also stated that a third complaint had been registered by Israel but termed that complaint "confidential." At the same time, UN spokesmen denied that Maj. Gen. Silavsuu's trip to Egypt and specifically to the Ismailia area from where the two shots were fired last week was in any way connected with Israel's complaints of a missile buildup within the 32-mile standstill zone. His trip was described as merely routine and as part of his function as the chief of staff of UNTSO.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN's special Middle East peace negotiator, was reported "continuing consultations and is working on general problems." UN spokesmen declined to elaborate on this and on whether or not Dr. Jarring is still waiting for word on the site, time and level of

negotiations from Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Although Egypt and Jordan named last week their respective UN ambassadors as negotiators and indicated that their site preference was New York, Israel has not yet named its negotiator and has indicated that it prefers to hold talks in Cyprus and on a ministerial rather than on an ambassadorial level. There was no confirmation here regarding reports that Dr. Jarring agrees with Israel that the talks should be held on a ministerial level nor that the negotiations are being delayed because agreement on the level of the talks has not been reached. Spokesman for the UN hinted that talks could begin and even continue if fighting resumed. They said there was no prior condition that a cease-fire had to prevail for talks to take place. The United States Ambassador Charles W. Yost, they said, had given Mr. Thant the cease-fire agreement "in confidence and it is going to remain confidential." Asked if this cease-fire agreement was the same version as that released last Thursday by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, a spokesman said, "Dayan is a knowledgeable person - in this case," but declined to elaborate.

Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, Egypt's ambassador to the UN, told newsmen yesterday that Dr. Jarring appeared optimistic about the prospects for talks but refused to discuss Israel's charges about the cease-fire violations. It was reported, however, that he denied these charges in his talks with Dr. Jarring. He also met with Mr. Thant and Mr. Yost. Dr. Muhammed H. el-Farra, the Jordanian ambassador, also met with Dr. Jarring and was later reported to be returning to Jordan today to consult with his government. UN officials are reluctant to offer an estimate of when the talks might begin. Arab delegates are reported not to have rejected the idea of meeting on the ministerial level but contend that the first stage of the negotiations should be conducted on the ambassadorial level. (During his press conference yesterday, Mr. Eban stated: "If it (the talks) will be at the level of United Nations representatives, then this mountain of expectations will bring forward a mouse. The Arab governments must understand that this is to be a very specific and particular occasion, at which governments will get together at a level of commitment.")

### Israel May Have More Than Aerial Photographs To Prove Missile Movements

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA)--A military spokesman hinted today that Israel had evidence other than aerial photographs to back up its charges that the Egyptians have violated the cease-fire by installing Soviet SAM missiles in the 32-mile wide standstill zone. The spokesman said that he could not disclose the nature of the evidence for security reasons. He denounced Soviet claims that Israel's charges were an "hallucination." "The Soviet claim is untrue and amounts to a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts," the Israeli said. Meanwhile, Israeli newspapers today urged Washington to make Egypt observe the provisions of the 90-day cease-fire. While most newspapers were critical of Washington's refusal to support Israel's charges of Egyptian violations of the cease-fire, the independent daily Haaretz urged the government to "look forward, not backward" and accepted as American policy Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird's statement that America would try to maintain the arms balance in the Mideast during the 90-day truce period. The National Religious Party newspaper Hatsofeh said the American stand on the violations had "seriously undermined Israel's faith in the U.S." It called for an American reaction that would "ease" Israel's anxiety. The English language Jerusalem Post, which sometimes reflects official policy, said that Israeli faith in American policy had been undermined by "The American refusal to accept the inconvenient facts of the Egyptian breach of the standstill cease-fire." The paper declared, "If the Americans place serious hopes in their initiative they will have to act fast and in the open. Secret promises and secret warnings are losing their value on the diplomatic market."

### Allon Says Rogers, Nixon Approaches To Mideast Differ; Rejects Rogers' Approach

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon differentiated yesterday between the Nixon approach and the Rogers approach to the Middle East conflict. He said that Israel flatly rejected Secretary of State William P. Rogers' original plan which he enunciated last December. Addressing a meeting here, Mr. Allon said that whereas Mr. Rogers went into territorial matters and even drew maps of future boundaries, President Nixon has assured Israel that the U.S. would maintain Israel's deterrent strength and see to it that the balance of forces does not turn against Israel. It was on the basis of the President's assurances, not Mr. Rogers' plans, that Israel accepted the current peace approaches including the cease-fire, Mr. Allon said. He said Soviet Russia was not interested in peace in the Middle East but wants to dominate the area without having to confront the Americans.

### Single Shot Fired From West Side Of Canal; Israeli Patrol On Golan Heights Hit By Mortar Fire

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--A single shot was fired from the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal last night. There were no casualties and the shot was not returned, a military spokesman reported today. An Israeli halftrack was damaged when it hit a mine near the Lebanese border this morning. There were no casualties. An Israeli position near Buq'ata in the Golan Heights was hit by mortar fire from Syrian territory last night. The fire was returned. There were no casualties.

### Fate Of Two Algerians Uncertain; No Decisions Reached On Release, Says Allon

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Uncertainty prevailed today over the fate of two high ranking Algerian nationals detained since last Friday when they were removed from a BOAC airliner in transit at Lydda Airport. Government officials indicated yesterday that they would be released in a few days. But Deputy Premier Yigal Allon said in reply to questions at a meeting last night that no decision has been reached yet. The Algerians are Maj. Khatib Jaloul, secretary of the Algerian government and Ali Bel Aziz, a senior ministerial secretary. The newspaper Maariv claimed in a report from London today that Maj. Jaloul is the head of the Algerian secret police. The paper did not explain his comparatively low rank for such a post. Reporters and press photographers waited for hours at Lydda Airport today in anticipation that the Algerians would be released. Two BOAC flights departed but there was no sign of the detainees. Meanwhile the wives of Israelis held captive in Arab hands have demanded that the government hold the Algerians for a prisoner exchange.

## 25 Jews Reported Arrested In Soviet Union; 10 Kiev Jews Ask For Israeli Citizenship

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--At least 25 Jews have been arrested in various parts of Russia in recent weeks, apparently because they signed letters, published abroad, appealing for aid to emigrate to Israel. It was claimed here today. The alleged arrests were reported by Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University, and S.Z. Abramoff, a Knesset member, who are co-chairmen of the Israel Council for Soviet Jewry. They said reports of Jews being arrested have come to the Council from the Caucasus, from Kishinev, Kharkov and Leningrad since an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner at Leningrad Airport two months ago. The purported hijackers were described at the time as Russian dissidents, including several Jews who wanted to leave Russia. According to the Council for Soviet Jewry the arrests are part of a campaign of intimidation being waged by Soviet authorities against Jews who sign petitions or letters asking for exit visas to emigrate to Israel. Mr. Harman said that a Russian Jewry day would be observed on Sept. 20 as the occasion of a world-wide information campaign on the situation of Russian Jews.

Meanwhile, ten Jews in Kiev asked Premier Golda Meir to grant them Israeli citizenship in a letter made public here today. The letter, bearing ten signatures and street addresses, said the writers were applying for Israeli citizenship, though still in Russia, in order to "give you the right to defend our interests and to undertake any measures directed at our speediest departure for Israel." Copies of the letter were sent to United Nations Secretary General U Thant, the World Jewish Congress, the International Organization of Concentration Camp Inmates and Resistance Fighters and the parliaments of countries that have ratified the UN's convention on the abolition of racial discrimination. The letter writers claimed that they had submitted all necessary applications for emigration to Soviet authorities but were refused without explanation. They said they wanted to join relatives in Israel.

## Israel Embarks On Campaign To Arouse World Opinion On Mistreatment Of Israeli POW's

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Israel embarked yesterday on a campaign to arouse world-wide public opinion to protest the mistreatment of Israeli prisoner-of-war in Arab hands and to effect an exchange of Israeli and Arab prisoners. Sixteen Israelis are held by the Arabs. One, abducted by terrorists, is held by Jordan. Three, all pilots, are held by Syria. The remainder, including two civilian canteen workers, are held by Egypt. Israel holds 117 Arabs from Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as POWs. Israel complains her soldiers are being held prisoner under "inhuman conditions," are deprived of "adequate" medical treatment, are not permitted to be visited by representatives of the International Red Cross and are not permitted to correspond with their families, all in violation of the terms of the Geneva Convention dealing with POWs. An offer to exchange the 117 Arab prisoners for the 16 Israelis was rejected by the Arab governments, according to an Israeli spokesman, because the Arabs are willing to have their soldiers remain prisoners since they know they will be treated according to the terms of the convention. If a prisoner exchange cannot be effected, the spokesman said, "at least we can try to improve their conditions."

## Lebanon's New President Favors Palestinian Arabs' Rights But Not At Lebanon's Expense

LONDON, Aug. 18 (JTA)--Lebanon's newly elected president Suleiman Franjeh believes that the Palestinian Arabs have the right to "liberate their homeland," but not if their activities jeopardize Lebanon's safety by inviting Israeli retaliation. To emphasize this belief, he last year organized his own private army of 700 or 800 men for use if the commandos "got out of hand." Mr. Franjeh, a Maronite Christian in a land where traditionally all presidents are Christian, was serving as Minister of Justice and Economy before his election. He is regarded as being generally favorable to the west and is expected to continue Lebanon's present policy of permitting the Palestinian terrorists to camp in the country's southeastern border areas and to cross into Israel to mount guerrilla attacks.

## Austrian Government Agrees To Extradite Belgian Nazi Julien Van Dooren

BRUSSELS, Aug. 18 (JTA)--The Austrian government has agreed to extradite Belgian Nazi Julien Van Dooren, it was announced here today. In 1947, Van Dooren had been tried in absentia by a Belgium court and sentenced to death for his activities during the war. He had lived in hiding in Austria from 1947 until his arrest by Austrian police in 1968. Van Dooren had fought extradition claiming to be a political refugee, but Austrian courts have declared him to be just an ordinary criminal.

## Wage-Price Stabilization Pact On Verge Of Collapse; Prices On Most Commodities Soar

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--The shaky wage-price stabilization agreement engineered by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir earlier this year appeared to be on the verge of collapse as the result of an increase in excise taxes and customs duties that has just gone into effect. Prices soared on almost all commodities, especially dairy products, eggs and cigarettes. Workers are demanding wage hikes and businessmen say price increases are inevitable. It was in order to avert an inflationary situation that Mr. Sapir worked out an agreement with labor and management whereby each agreed to hold its demands in abeyance in the interest of a stable cost of living. But the government, burdened by the demands of a growing defense establishment, reneged on its part of the deal which was to avoid substantial tax increases. Sharp words have been exchanged between Mr. Sapir and Histadrut leaders. "The package deal is dead," said Yehoshua Peretz, secretary of the militant Ashdod longshoremen's union. He said port workers will demand wage increases now. Marc Moshewitz, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association said there was no way to avoid a general price increase in view of the increased tariffs on imported raw materials and other items. He said manufacturers would not be able to absorb the increase and would have to pass it on to the consumer.

## Fully Punctuated Bible In Hebrew, To Be Published Soon, Will Make For Easier Reading

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA)--It will soon be easier to read the Bible in Hebrew. A fully punctuated Hebrew text of the Pentateuch, complete with taamim (vowel symbols), prepared by Dr. Moshe Annat, will be published shortly by the Am Oved Publishing House. The Pentateuch will be prepared in stages.

