

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Monday, December 7, 1970

No. 234

Israel Charges UAR Reconnaissance Party Was On Intelligence Mission

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6 (JTA)--Egypt is making a major effort to gather intelligence on the Israeli side of the Suez Canal, officials reported here today. The latest attempt was the landing of a small reconnaissance party on the east bank of the waterway Friday night, the first such landing since the cease-fire went into effect last Aug. 7. One Egyptian was killed when an Israeli patrol intercepted and drove off the landing party. A military spokesman said equipment found on the dead body included a new transmitter and other communications devices which indicated that the Egyptians were on an intelligence gathering mission. The landing occurred between the Great Bitter Lake and the southern entrance of the canal. Israel has filed a protest with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) which sent today observers to the site of the encounter. Egypt termed the Israeli report "utterly fabricated" and said the dead man was a civilian whom the Israelis "murdered." Egyptian officials have approached the Red Cross for return of the body. Israelis said the latest incident was part of an emerging pattern of Egyptian spying to find out what the Israelis are doing in the occupied Sinai peninsula.

Two weeks ago, a number of Egyptian planes over-flew Israeli positions on the east bank of the canal. Just a week ago, an Israeli Navy patrol boat sank an Egyptian motorboat believed to have been on an intelligence-gathering mission in Israel-held waters in the Gulf of Suez. Israel complained to UNTSO again on Friday that the Egyptians have advanced a number of SAM-2 missile positions in the Suez cease-fire zone in violation of the truce. It was Israel's second complaint of missile movements since the cease-fire was extended for another 90 days on Nov. 5. The two complaints appeared to contradict earlier assertions by military and Foreign Ministry spokesmen that the military standstill provisions of the Aug. 7 cease-fire agreement did not apply to the cease-fire extension. According to these sources, Israel was not technically extending the Aug. 7 cease-fire but was reverting to the cease-fire agreement of June, 1967 which ended the Six-Day War and which contained no standstill provisions. But according to Simcha Dinitz, political advisor to the Premier, Mrs. Golda Meir now regards the Aug. 7 cease-fire and its Nov. 5 extension to be "superimposed" on the 1967 cease-fire.

Report Moscow Preparing To Install SAM Missiles In Syria To Threaten Israel

LONDON, Dec. 6 (JTA)--Diplomatic observers believe that Moscow is prepared to install SAM-2 and SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles in Syria to threaten Israel if it refuses to return the occupied Golan Heights, according to reports from Beirut today. The reports said Syria's new strongman, Gen. Hafez Assad, plans to send military personnel to Egypt to train in the operation of Soviet SAM missiles deployed there. The reports said Gen. Assad has received approval from President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Syria has recently indicated that it wants to join the proposed federation between Egypt, Libya and the Sudan. In his first public address since he seized power last month, Gen. Assad told a cheering crowd of thousands in Damascus yesterday that his government's main objective is the liberation of Arab territory occupied by Israel. He promised to strengthen Syria's armed forces and to establish close military cooperation with Egypt under the federation plan. The effect of missile installations in Syria, military experts note, will be to place Israel in a pincer between that line of missiles and those already installed on the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal.

Cabinet Withholds Decision On Return To Talks; Nixon's Reassurance Not Sufficient

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided today to withhold a decision on Israel's return to the Jarring talks pending further "clarifications" from the United States on its backing of Israel. The decision was announced in an official communique following today's Cabinet session which discussed President Nixon's reply on Friday to a message sent to him by Premier Golda Meir earlier last week. The discussion of the Nixon letter was said to have been brief. The Cabinet's decision to delay a stand on reactivating the Jarring talks was reportedly made for all practical purposes at a private meeting yesterday of Mrs. Meir and her closest Cabinet associates and was endorsed by the full Cabinet today. They reportedly considered the Nixon letter satisfactory insofar as the President re-affirmed his promises of military and economic aid to Israel during the next two years. But it was said to fall considerably short of the political guarantees Mrs. Meir had asked for and therefore required clarification. Highly placed sources here said today that the subject of clarifications would be raised with the U.S. through diplomatic channels, not through Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who leaves for the U.S. next week for discussions with top Nixon administration officials. Gen. Dayan will be briefed by Mrs. Meir on Wednesday. The sources said the government would like to get its clarifications from Washington before Gen. Dayan's departure so that he can discuss final details with the U.S. without being hamstrung by uncertainty over the government's policy on major problems.

Observers here noted however that until today's Cabinet announcement it appeared that the government would wait until Gen. Dayan returned from the U.S. before it decided on the future of the Jarring talks. Gen. Dayan, in fact, was supposed to bring up Mrs. Meir's political points at his meetings in Washington which may include a meeting with President Nixon. The use of normal "diplomatic channels" to raise these points with the U.S. indicated a sudden down-grading of Gen. Dayan's mission and an assertion of the Foreign Ministry's authority in the sphere of foreign affairs. Foreign Minister Abba Eban is known to be less than pleased by Gen. Dayan's recent political statements and reportedly was opposed to having him meet with U.S. leaders on his forthcoming trip. But Mrs. Meir announced last week that the Defense Minister was authorized to speak in her name on "defense matters" while in

Washington. Observers here noted at the time that in the current situation there is no sharp distinction between "defense matters" and foreign policy matters. It was disclosed meanwhile that Mr. Eban has informed Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring that the Israeli government was willing to resume talks with Jordan which were interrupted last August when Israel withdrew from the peace negotiations because of Egyptian truce violations. The Foreign Minister also wrote to Dr. Jarring that Israel was interested in entering peace discussions with Lebanon. Mr. Eban's letter was in reply to a letter he received from the United Nations mediator in which the latter stated that he still considered his peace mission to derive from the UN Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967.

Galili: No Rush To Reach Decision; Eban: Test The Waters Before Plunging In

The Foreign Ministry said today that Mr. Eban will visit London for four days between Dec. 13-20 and could confer with Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home and possibly with other British leaders. President Nixon received Mrs. Meir's note last Monday and his reply was delivered to her Friday by U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour. The unexpected promptness of the reply indicated that the President wanted his letter to reach the Israeli Cabinet in time for today's session. Political sources here said the President considered his reply an adequate basis for Israel's return to the Jarring talks and hoped the Cabinet would make an affirmative decision today. The Cabinet apparently did not agree with Mr. Nixon because of his failure to provide certain political guarantees. Mrs. Meir had asked the U.S. for three promises: public dissociation from the territorial map proposed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers a year ago; American use of the veto in the United Nations Security Council to block Arab attempts to re-interpret the crucial Resolution 242; and more active political support in the General Assembly to prevent the adoption of resolutions unfavorable to Israel. Mr. Nixon's military pledges to Israel were reportedly "more specific than before." But he apparently did not offer to put them on a contractual basis nor did he offer any specific guarantee of what the U.S. would do if Soviet pilots and advisors became involved in a new outbreak of fighting between Egypt and Israel. Some observers believe that even without these guarantees, the U.S. expects an affirmative decision soon from Israel with regard to the Jarring talks.

Nevertheless, the Israeli government believes it still has ample time to reach a decision on the Jarring talks. Israel Galili, a Minister-Without-Portfolio who is close to Mrs. Meir, said at a Labor Party meeting yesterday that the Nixon letter will not be discussed hastily. He said military and political circumstances enable Israel to take its time in reaching a decision. Mr. Eban told a Labor Alignment meeting in Haifa Thursday night that while Israel could not boycott the Jarring talks indefinitely, she need not return to them blindly because of Egyptian pressure. Mr. Eban took an obvious slap at his Cabinet colleague, Gen. Dayan, when he said "We have decided not to plunge into the ice-cold waters before testing them with our toes." Gen. Dayan, in urging the resumption of peace negotiations without too stringent conditions, has warned on several occasions that Israel would have to "plunge into very cold water" in the interests of a peace settlement. He added, "having done that, the dipping into such waters would not be so cold after all." Mr. Eban maintained that Egypt needed the cease-fire more than Israel did and repeated his earlier rejection of President Sadat's demand for an Israeli timetable on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. "What is more essential is an Egyptian timetable for making permanent peace with Israel," he said. (Secretary of State Rogers told a NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels Thursday that in the Middle East "the climate for peaceful settlement has never been better." But according to most observers, American optimism is not shared by the other Western allies.)

Three Officials Held Responsible For Air Disaster; New Air Crash Kills Four

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6 (JTA)--Three officials of the Lydda Airport control tower have been held directly responsible for a fatal accident on the airport's main runway last week and have had legal proceedings instituted against them, it was announced today by a special committee investigating the disaster. The officials--civilian and military--have been suspended from their duties pending a full inquiry. The accident involved a TWA cargo plane which collided with an Israeli military transport plane on the ground while taking off. The transport plane was being towed by a tractor across the main runway although the control tower had cleared the TWA jet for take-off only moments before on the assumption that the runway was clear. Two civilian-military employees on the tractor were killed instantly. A third employee died today of his injuries. Both planes were demolished. Public confidence in Israel's civilian air traffic control system was further jolted today by the crash of an air taxi fatal to four, and the apparent disappearance of a cloud-seeding plane with three men aboard. The air taxi of the Bial Co. crashed near Hebron at mid-day killing its pilot and three passengers who were on a flight from Jerusalem to Eilat. The bodies were found near the wreckage. The missing Cessna aircraft was reported overdue last night on a flight over northern Israel. The plane was spraying cloudbanks with silver iodide in an effort to stimulate rainfall. Searches of the Zevulun Valley north of Haifa today failed to reveal any trace of the aircraft or its occupants.

The committee investigating last week's disaster was named by Transport Minister Shimon Peres immediately after the accident and completed its work last night. Mr. Peres presented a summary of its findings to the Cabinet today and will report to the Knesset tomorrow. The committee's report stated in part that "the direct cause of the accident lay in shortcomings of the gravest nature in the alertness of three officials who were on duty in the control tower at the time." According to an unofficial account, the collision occurred because one of the traffic controllers in the tower, apparently an Air Force man, authorized the towage of the transport plane across the runway without making certain that the civilian traffic controller was aware of his order. The latter cleared the TWA plane for take-off without knowing of the presence of another aircraft on the runway. A strike that would have paralyzed all Israeli airports was narrowly averted today when air traffic controllers at Lydda agreed at the last minute to call off a planned six-hour warning strike scheduled for this morning. The strike was aimed against the alleged "lynch campaign by the Israeli press in the aftermath of last week's fatal accident. The traffic controllers maintained that the news media were blaming them unjustly for the crash.

Protest Of Youth Termed 'Religion At Its Finest'; Synagogue Building Costs Scored

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., Dec. 6 (JTA)--The protest of youth "is what religion, at its finest, has always been about," a leading American rabbi told delegates to a three-day Reform Jewish convention which ended here today. Speaking at the banquet of the biennial convention of the Mid-Atlantic Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, central congregational body of Reform Judaism in the United States and Canada, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, vice-president of the parent organization, declared that youth's protest "is essentially an affirmation of faith" and that "our young people are profoundly religious, in the highest sense of that term." Urging the adult community to "look beyond their unkempt hair, their extravagant dress and their outrageous manner of speech," Rabbi Schindler said: "Of course they are rebels. And they rebel against religion, too, but only as it is narrowly, mistakenly conceived. They reject institutionalism with its swollen pride and its divisiveness." But, he noted, they do not reject "the concept of human worth. They hold life sacred. They speak of man's relationship to man--and they really feel it! They insist that life must yield its meaning, and they persist in the quest to discover that meaning. This my friends, is what religion, at its finest, has always been about."

Reminding his listeners that Jewish tradition calls for involvement in matters of social concern, Rabbi Schindler warned that "we will lose our youth" if the synagogue fails to join the young in their condemnation of racial discrimination, poverty and the war in Vietnam, which "has torn apart the very fabric of our nation." Rabbi Schindler urged that "the counsel of timidity" be rejected and he criticized those who "withdraw and close the door" in the face of controversy, or follow "the concept of protective mimicry." In a report delivered at a plenary session, Rabbi Richard S. Sternberger, director of the Mid-Atlantic Council, deplored "staggering building ventures" in light of the ever-increasing mobility of society. Excessive expenditures for new synagogue structures, he said, "are paralyzing to so many good and essential programs of congregational life." He recommended "joint ventures in building and usage of these buildings with, for example, churches." He added that, "in addition to being more feasible and practical, it would provide more opportunities for valid and meaningful ecumenism than all of the programs I know." He also urged that we "rethink our directions" in synagogue programming. "If we are to survive," Rabbi Sternberger declared, "I believe that we must strive to eliminate so much of the wasteful duplication within our synagogues and seek more joint programming among our synagogues in metropolitan areas."

Brandt Under Fire For Not Inviting Jews To Go To Warsaw For Signing Of Pact

BONN, Dec. 6 (JTA)--An opposition member of the Bundestag criticized Chancellor Willy Brandt and his government today for failing to invite any Jews to accompany the Chancellor to Warsaw for the signing of the new pact between Poland and West Germany. Werner Marx, a deputy of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU), noted in an article published in the Berliner Morgenpost that several Catholics and Protestant personalities were invited and accompanied Chancellor Brandt, but no Jews. Mr. Marx said that representatives of Catholic and Protestant churches declined invitations from the Brandt government. Sources here said the Polish government had hinted to West Germany that it would prefer not to have Jews accompany the Chancellor. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's West German correspondent, Alfred Wolfmann, was the only foreign correspondent denied an entry visa by Polish authorities. No reason was given. Mr. Wolfmann is a correspondent for an Israeli newspaper and holds an Israeli passport on which he applied for the visa. The passport was returned to him without the entry stamp.

Unionists, Housewives Battle Neo-Nazis; Some 60 Neo-Nazis Beaten

BONN, Dec. 6 (JTA)--A neo-Nazi demonstration yesterday in Essen turned into a street brawl with trade union members. Housewives, doing their Christmas shopping, joined with the trade unionists to battle the neo-Nazis. It happened when the right-wing "action resistance" group held a rally through the main streets. The police had tried to prevent it, but the neo-Nazis were granted permission by the court here to hold the rally. The local Council of German Trade Unions wanted to hold a counter-demonstration simultaneously but was given permission to do so only when the Nazi rally had been concluded. Angered by the Nazi demonstration, union members, unable to wait for the Nazis to leave, stopped cars bearing slogans favoring the Nazis, dragged their occupants out and beat them up. In all, some 60 cars were damaged. North Rhine Westphalia's Prime Minister Heinz Kuehn said later on television, "I will no longer tolerate the neo-Nazis to demonstrate in this manner here."

ZOA Head Warns Mideast Peace Talks Will Fail Unless U.S. Provides Safeguards

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA)--The head of the Zionist Organization of America cautioned President Nixon that by pressuring Israel back to the peace table, without new safeguards, such negotiations are doomed to failure and play directly into the Soviet Union's policy to dominate the Middle East. Addressing the ZOA's National Executive Committee last night, Herman L. Weisman called upon Mr. Nixon to end "a vacillating and indefinite American diplomacy towards the Soviet Union" which he said "must result in eliminating the United States as a force assuring peace in Europe and the Middle East." He said that despite President Nixon's "well intentioned" communication Friday to Israeli Premier Golda Meir, providing renewed American assurances and pledges, "will not curb the tensions in the Middle East which are increasing despite the renewed cease-fire." Mr. Weisman noted that "America's substantial aid to Israel may suffice to deter a fresh Arab aggression, but will not halt Russia's design to dominate the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf." Ambassador Netanel Lorch, member of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, told the ZOA that while Israel is interested in prolonging the cease-fire, "let no one think that we are willing to pay any price in order to see the cease-fire prolonged." He declared "the cease-fire at any price, like peace at any price, ultimately defeats its purpose. We feel the prolongation of the cease-fire is in the interest of all concerned and is a necessary condition for meaningful negotiations." Menachem Beigin leader of the Gahal in Israel, will be principle speaker and guest of honor at the annual banquet of the ZOA next Sunday. Mr. Weisman said the Zionist leader would deliver a major address to the more than 1,000 persons expected there.

Histadrut, UJA Conclude Fund-Raising Pact For Six-Month Period

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA)--An agreement whereby the Israel Histadrut Campaign will avoid scheduling "public, fund-raising dinners and events in Jewish communities during the period December 15, 1970 to June 1, 1971" so as not to conflict with the 1971 United Jewish Appeal Emergency Fund Campaign has been announced by Jack Weller and Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, co-chairmen of the Committee on Control and Authorization of Campaigns of the Jewish Agency. The Committee on Control is composed of the leading officers of the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The agreement on the Histadrut Campaign, announced here Friday, was approved by the Board of Directors of the Histadrut Campaign (National Committee for Labor Israel) of which Leon H. Keyserline is president. The announcement stated that the agreement on the Histadrut Campaign in the U.S. is in accord with a previous understanding reached in Jerusalem on Nov. 10 between leading officers of the UJA, the Jewish Agency, the Histadrut in Israel, the National Committee for Labor Israel and the Israel government. Although calling for the continuation as heretofore "of the traditional activities of the Histadrut Campaign, including organizational and educational functions," the Histadrut Campaign will also recommend to the Labor Zionist Movement that they join with the Labor Council for the UJA, in the organization of a "Histadrut-Labor Zionist Division for the UJA Campaign 1971."

The Histadrut Campaign pledged that it will "place at the disposal of such a division its facilities everywhere and to make a concerted effort to mobilize maximum support of the UJA Campaign among those active in the Histadrut Movement." It was further agreed that "all contributions received from the special effort of the Histadrut--Labor Zionist Division will be payable to the respective Welfare Fund--UJA drives" and that in the New York area "the Histadrut Campaign will cooperate in every way to determine an early date for the launching of the drive of the Histadrut-Labor Zionist Division to involve the Labor Zionist leadership in New York." In those few instances where public Histadrut fund-raising affairs have already been scheduled, it was agreed that "the Jewish Agency and the UJA, will confer with the communities involved to obtain necessary clearance for these dates or to arrange alternative dates." The agreement gives the Histadrut Campaign the right to hold "public fund raising dinners in honor of trade union leaders that involve primarily attendance and gifts that will not compete with the UJA."

AJCommittee Finds Unsolved Problems In Jewish-Catholic Relations; Scores New Left

HOUSTON, Dec. 6 (JTA)--Jewish-Catholic relations have improved during the five years since Vatican Council II but can stand considerably more improvement, according to Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee. Addressing the AJCommittee's national executive council meeting here, Mr. Hoffman said a half decade study of the impact of Vatican Council II's Conciliar Statement on the Jews showed several "unsolved problems." Mr. Hoffman noted inadequate Catholic teachings of the validity and relevance of Judaism but also blamed inadequate Jewish understanding of Christianity. He said there was inadequate treatment of each religion in the other's textbooks. He found that there has been progress in the United States, Western Europe and Latin America but that there is still an absence of understanding by Catholics of Israel's meaning for Jews and Judaism. Mr. Hoffman said that the AJCommittee study found that in Mexico and Central America there has been no fundamental improvement in ecumenism and that Arab-inspired anti-Semitic organizations and publications persist.

He said there has been no systematic effort to expunge prejudicial material from Catholic and other textbooks and publications. The study Mr. Hoffman referred to was conducted by the AJCommittee's interreligious affairs commission headed by Arthur N. Greenberg and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum. Mr. Hoffman and the AJCommittee's honorary president, Morris B. Abram, both scored the New Left. Mr. Hoffman called it a "global phenomenon" which posed a "serious danger" by its use of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism "interchangeably." He said that a further menace was that the New Left "freed the radical right" from its "inhibitions." Mr. Hoffman criticized New Leftists for their "selective compassion" expressed in being "stonily indifferent if not heatedly inimical" to Jewish and ethnic problems. Mr. Abram, former president of Brandeis University, denounced Jews who "out of a sense of guilt or for masochistic delight, accept the abuse of the New Left radicals and try self-purification in ceremonies of self-flagellation." He said "These people are fools who have neither dignity nor sense. They are more ignorant than those Jews who joined the Old Left which gave us Stalin and the whole sorry inheritance of Soviet anti-Semitism."

The political tactics of Vice President Spiro Agnew were condemned at the AJCommittee meeting by Mr. Agnew's fellow Republican, Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York. The Senator said Agnew's "politics of positive polarization" was self-contradictory "because a strategy to polarize seeks negatively to pull people to extremes, not to bring them together." He urged President Nixon to assert "national moral leadership" and not "pursue partisan goals." Jordan C. Band, chairman of the AJCommittee's committee on the Middle East, said the organization has been seeking in many ways to promote Arab-Israeli understanding. He mentioned several projects, including informal Arab-Israeli discussion groups in private homes. He noted that Hebrew was being taught in an Arab Christian school in Jerusalem, that Haifa University has conducted a sensitivity training workshop which has brought Arab and Israeli students together and increasing use by Arabs of the AJCommittee's specialized reading and research library in Jerusalem.

Coordinating Committee Established To Prepare World Conference On Soviet Jewry

BRUSSELS, Dec. 6 (JTA)--A coordinating committee of Jewish organizations has been established here to prepare the "World Conference of Jewish Communities on the Soviet Union." A spokesman for the coordinating committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Conference will be held in late February. Attending the Conference will be communal bodies, representatives of youth groups and a number of individuals who have expert knowledge on the plight of Soviet Jewry.