

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Monday, August 2, 1971

No. 146

Report Sisco Warns Cease-Fire May Be Endangered If Israel Remains Inflexible

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Informed sources reported here today that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco has warned Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban that if Israel does not show enough "flexibility" to make an agreement possible with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the 11-month old Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire may be endangered. Sisco, who is in Israel for a week-long official visit, conferred Friday with Eban and then for four hours with Mrs. Meir and senior Israeli officials at the Prime Minister's office. The American diplomat will meet again tomorrow with Mrs. Meir to continue the discussions. According to semi-official sources, the main purpose of his visit is to explore "intensively" prospects for a long-debated interim agreement to re-open the Suez Canal. Strict secrecy was maintained over the initial Friday talks. An official bulletin from the Prime Minister's office said only that the talks were conducted with the "frankness and friendship characteristic of the relations between the two countries and covered a broad range of matters of current and common interest."

There have been consistent reports, since Sisco's visit was initially announced late in July that one of the "matters of current and common interest" was Israel's repeated but unfulfilled requests for agreement by the Nixon Administration to sell Israel more Phantom F-4 jets. An aide later told newsmen that there were no clashes of opinion at the initial talks but that was all he would say. A spokesman at the American Embassy, which is host to the visiting diplomat, referred newsmen to the Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman who also declined to comment. According to the sources, Sisco cited information from reports of Donald Bergus, the chief American diplomat resident in Cairo, and Michael Sterner, head of the State Department desk for Egypt, who conferred last month on a special mission. Sisco reportedly told the Israeli officials that Bergus and Sterner had concluded that Sadat was still "eager" to reach some sort of agreement with Israel on an interim pact from which he could gain political advantage.

However, Israeli officials said there had been no change in Sadat's demands for such a pact. These include Israeli troop withdrawal to a distance 90 miles from the Suez Canal and formal recognition by Israel that such a withdrawal would be a first step toward withdrawal to the pre-Six-Day war armistice lines, both of which remain completely unacceptable to Israel. It was understood that Sisco did not raise the issue of a general settlement under the "plan" proposed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, aimed at restoration of the 1967 borders with "insubstantial" changes. The sources said that the Nixon Administration apparently had shelved that "plan" at least for the time being. The participants at the Friday meetings included Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, and Walworth Barbour, the American ambassador to Israel. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan are expected to participate in upcoming meetings with Sisco who, it was unofficially reported, may also meet with Gen. Chaim Barlev, Israel's chief of staff, and Gen. Aharon Yariv, chief of military intelligence.

Harmel Says Peace in Mideast Must Be Based On Political, Diplomatic Harmony

BRUSSELS, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel, discussing at a press conference his recent visit to the Middle East, said today that his position on the European Economic Community's "working paper" on the Middle East -- which Israel opposes -- was similar to that of West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. The West Germany diplomat declared, during a tumultuous visit to Israel last month, that his country did not believe that "a total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories is a pre-requisite to peace in the region." The "working paper," fostered by France but still not officially issued, calls for total Israel withdrawal. Harmel was asked his views on the question of total withdrawal and his interpretation of the 1967 Security Council resolution 242, which proposed "withdrawal" without specifying total withdrawal. He replied: "I refuse to make interpretations," adding that such questions could "provoke differences" between the European countries. He said peace in the Middle East must be based on a continuation of political and diplomatic "harmony" and that he had found a "wish for peace" in all the Mideast countries he had visited. He discussed the crackdown by King Hussein of Jordan on guerrillas which reached a climax during his visit to Jordan. He said the situation in Jordan had become "much better."

Rabbi Levin Released From Hospital After Recovery From Serious Operation

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow was released from Hospital Six there late Thursday after five weeks' recovery from a serious operation, it was reported today by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue. Rabbi Schneier, after speaking with Rabbi Levin by telephone yesterday morning, said the 77-year-old patriarch quoted the doctors as saying there was "no point in maintaining me in the hospital any longer" and that he was "in need of an extended period of enforced rest and convalescence and total abstinence from all work and involvements." The elderly Russian spiritual leader is the only rabbi for Moscow's estimated 500,000 Jews. Speculating on a successor, especially if Rabbi Levin should not live much longer, Rabbi Schneier told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "This is the greatest tragedy -- that there is no one to take his place." In Kiev, he added, no replacement has been found in four years. Rabbi Schneier recently visited Russia again as president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation here, and on June 28 recorded a "first" when he substituted for the hospitalized Rabbi Levin.

Arab Summit Meeting Termed Success For King Hussein

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Arab summit meeting in Tripoli, Libya, called to consider the Jordanian regime's moves against the Palestinians, was termed by officials here as a success for

King Hussein. They said today that no operative decisions had been taken against Jordan. The Arab heads of states took Hussein to task verbally and issued threats. According to informed sources here, however, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is reluctant to put teeth into any such decisions and would rather work out a common solution with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. The other participants — Syria, Sudan, South Yemen and Yemen — are unlikely to act unless Egypt gives the lead, according to these informed sources. Reports here noted that Libya's military leader, Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi, met with much less success in his efforts to tighten Arab ranks against Israel than did the late Egyptian President Nasser. Qaddafi, who opened the Arab summit meeting last Friday, presented a plan to end by military intervention Hussein's crackdown on the Palestinian guerrillas. Much of the opposition by the Arab leaders at the meeting, according to reports, was based on grounds that such a plan would open the way for Israel to advance across the Jordan River cease-fire line. Israel had warned that she will not stand idle if Jordan's Arab neighbors move their armies against Hussein. Meanwhile, it was learned here that the Syrian-Jordanian border had not been closed despite a Syrian announcement last week that it would do so. Trucks are going through in both directions. It is, therefore, taken that the announcement was mainly a public relations device.

Egypt, 8 West European Nations Sign Accord On Suez Gulf-Mediterranean Oil Pipeline

LONDON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Egypt signed an agreement yesterday in Cairo with an eight-nation Western European consortium to construct a 209-mile long pipeline system linking the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean. Work on the two and a half year project will begin within three months. Cost of the dual 42-inch pipeline system is estimated at \$280 million. The pipeline will be able to handle 80 million tons annually their first year of operation, after which booster pumping stations in Cairo will increase the lines' capacity to 120 million tons a year. Thus the pipeline will be the largest in the Middle East. It will cut 14,500 miles off the present tanker route from the Suez Gulf round the Cape of Good Hope to European markets. The countries contributing money to the project are France (\$44 million), West Germany (\$44 million), Italy (\$40 million), Britain (\$29 million), Spain (\$20 million), Holland, Belgium, and Greece (\$10 million each).

Also, the Saudi Arabia monetary agency has granted Egypt an unconditional guarantee for \$20 million and Kuwait will provide \$5 million. American interests are represented by Mobil and Amoco, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana operating in Egypt, each contributing \$7.5 million. The Egyptians plan to repay the debt over eight years from completion of the pipelines. Experts declined to predict the effect the new lines will have on existing facilities in view of the circumstances which might prevail at the time of their completion. One specialist on the area noted that the loading terminal at the Suez point is within Israel artillery range but the lines move farther away as they go northward to the Mediterranean. Israel has a 42-inch pipeline from Eilat to Ashkelon which can handle 22 million tons a year for trans-shipment to the Mediterranean. Plans have been announced to increase that line's capacity to 45 million tons.

Israel To Discuss Issue Of Admitting Red China To UN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Israel's stand on the issue of admitting the People's Republic of China to the United Nations will be discussed here with Yosef Tekoah, Israel's ambassador to the UN, when he arrives later this week. The government's official position has conformed to the theory of "two Chinas" — admitting Peking but not at the expense of Taiwan. However, when questioned tonight on this theory, Foreign Ministry spokesman Avraham Avidar declined to reiterate this stand. Israel recognized Communist China in 1949 but no diplomatic relations were established. The Peking government has been a consistent and sometimes extreme supporter of Arab anti-Israeli moves.

Transfer Of Arab Refugees From Nuizerat Camp To El Arish To Be Resumed

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The transfer of Arab refugees from the Nuizerat camp, the largest refugee camp in the Gaza Strip to empty apartments in El Arish, will be resumed this week after an initial resettlement of 60 refugee families in the northern Sinai township, officials here reported today. They said there are now more than 1,000 such empty flats in El Arish, vacated by the Egyptian administration and military personnel. The flats have been renovated and connected to electricity supplies and have indoor water. The officials also said that the number of refugees transferred to El Arish, a key point in the 1956 and 1967 wars, was about half of the refugees removed from their homes in the refugee camps to enable the Israeli occupation officials to pave roads in the camp. The other refugees have found their own new housing or have been settled in other parts of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza town.

The "thinning out" of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip was ordered for security reasons and not as part of any general solution of the Gaza refugee problem, according to Gen. Shlomo Gazit, the officer in charge of the coordination of activities in the occupied areas. Speaking on a radio broadcast last night, Gen. Gazit also said that some 200 houses already demolished in the project had been chosen in line with the master plan for road building and that every house in the route of the road project will have to be demolished. There were no indications of refugee opposition to the Nuizerat transfers, it was reported, but some of the refugees shifted to the modern housing in El Arish told authorities they had trouble getting used to the running water and indoor toilets and that they would prefer to live under the admittedly worse camp conditions. However, all have been provided with work and those eligible for help from the United Nations Relief and Works Administration are getting it. The transfers are being carried out without the cooperation of UNRWA but the UN agency is being given details of the transfers so that the refugees qualified for UNRWA aid can continue to get it in their new housing.

Arab Terrorists Arrested In Refugee Camps; Bank In Gaza Damaged By Explosion

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Three wanted Arab terrorists were arrested during the weekend by Israeli defense units in two of the Arab refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, officials reported today. One was arrested by an army patrol in the Nuizerat camp and two others in the Shati camp. The terrorist seized in Nuizerat camp was injured in an encounter with Israeli troops. Officials said that, during his interrogation, he confessed to participation in a number of murders in the Gaza Strip. They reported also that the

Bank Leumi branch in Gaza was damaged early Friday morning by an explosive charge apparently placed against a wall of the bank building. They said this was the first incident of its kind in more than six months. An investigation was started.

Treatment Of Holocaust "Astonishing" Says Canadian Textbook Survey

TORONTO, Aug. 1 (JTA)--An agency of the Province of Ontario, in a three year survey of text books in use in public high schools in that Canadian province, has discovered that in none of the text books studied was there "adequate" presentation of "what must be considered one of the most atrocious chapters in the whole history of mankind" — the Nazi treatment of Jews and other minorities. The information was compiled in a 130 page volume entitled "Teaching Prejudice," prepared by Garnet McDiarmid and David Pratt of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for report to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Nineteen textbooks in courses of history and world politics from grade 10 to grade 12 constituted the sample for judging the adequacy of treatment of Nazi persecution of minorities, of these eight textbooks did not mention the topic at all, nine were adjudged poor and two were adjudged fair. None were deemed to be adequate. The writers state "It is astonishing that this issue was not even mentioned in many texts and that in many others purporting to deal with modern history it was treated so casually." In most cases, the issue was disposed of in a few sentences.

The writers added: "On the whole, the texts mention only Jews among the persecuted groups and are vague about the total number killed. Most of the discussions neglect to mention the philosophical or social roots of anti-Semitism, the Allied failure to assist the Jews, or the Nazis' treatment of political opponents, gypsies, Slavs, and Poles. Above all, there is little or no attempt to indicate to students that the gas chambers and ovens of such concentration camps as Dachau, Auschwitz, and Treblinka are the outcome of discrimination against minorities taken to its extreme conclusion." On the question of stereotyping in textbooks, Jews fare much better than most other minority groups. The positive and "favorable" adjectives or expressions great, faithful, just, wise and genius are the evaluative terms most applied to Jews. The other group with similarly positive attributes are Christians and "immigrants" (in general) whereas Moslems, Negroes and Indians are described by such words as fanatical, superstitious, savage. In 1966, the Canadian Jewish Congress in a brief to the Hall Committee on Aims and Objectives of Education deplored the treatment (or non-treatment) of the Nazi period in schoolbooks. Referring to a book entitled "The Modern Era" it pointed out that in three chapters on World War II exactly one short sentence referred to the Hitlerite racial persecutions. The book is still in use in Toronto high schools.

Hebron Settlers Insist It Must Be Religious Community

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--A dispute has developed between Orthodox Jewish settlers in Hebron and the Housing Ministry over who can live in the new Jewish quarter being built by the Government in that West Bank, formerly all-Arab town. Housing Minister Zeev Sharef said that he was advising young couples who could not find flats in Jerusalem to apply for one of the new housing units rising in Hebron. Sharef made it clear that the group calling itself the "Hebron Settlers" will not decide who is and who is not eligible for housing there. The Housing Ministry has taken the view that the new quarter, to be called Kiryat Arba, should reflect the average composition of the Israeli population and not any single community. Leaders of the Hebron settlers, all Orthodox Jews, have denounced the plan. They insist that Kiryat Arba must become an exclusively religious settlement or, as they put it, a "tradition bound community" which means enforced observance of the Sabbath and other religious customs.

They said however that they did not object in principle to non-religious settlers, apparently as long as they submitted to religious rules. The Kiryat Arba project was originally initiated against the government's own wishes under pressure from the religious parties and the nationalist Herut faction. The Hebron settlers established themselves in the town two years ago in defiance of Military Government orders. They were quartered in an Arab hotel and later moved into the Military Government compound for protection. They and their supporters have been agitating ever since for adequate housing which the government finally agreed to build with public funds.

Bar-Ilan U. Establishes Institute On Judaism And Contemporary Thought

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--A summer institute on Judaism and contemporary thought has recently been established at the Bar Ilan University through the initiative of a group of faculty members. It is the first of its kind, and its purpose is to explore the issues which confront the present day committed and thinking Jew. Professor Harold Fisch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The new institute is supported by the Bar Ilan University, the Jewish Agency, the Israeli Ministry of Education, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and a number of individuals in Israel and in the diaspora.

New Religious Legislation Has 'Romantic Value Only'

LISBON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--New legislation, formalizing the religious freedoms granted to non-Catholics in Portugal, was passed unanimously here by the Portuguese Parliament. The new law changes little in practice, as Portugal granted de facto religious freedom to Jews and Protestants as long ago as 1910. Before this date the only recognized religion in Portugal was the Roman Catholic. Parliament passed the legislation very swiftly. Usually, the Portuguese Parliamentary Assembly discusses at length all legislation introduced. Observers say the swift passage of the legislation means that the legislators considered the law as a minor matter.

Dr. Senegre, President of the Lisbon synagogue and General Secretary of the Portuguese Jewish Community, told JTA. "We have been enjoying all freedoms a community may be granted for a long time now. Therefore this piece of legislation has romantic, but not practical value." He added, "Now the Catholic religion has become but one of many." The new legislation does not legalize divorce. In 1940 Portugal signed a concordat with the Vatican prohibiting divorce on its territory. Jews may divorce before a rabbinical court but this divorce, while binding in communal matters, is not recognized by the state.

