

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Monday, August 16, 1971

No. 166

'Final Date' For Settling Egyptian-Israeli Deadlock Comes And Goes With No Incidents

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)--One of the strangest trial balloons of Egyptian diplomacy -- a warning in an authoritative Cairo newspaper on Friday that President Sadat had set today as the "final date" for settling the Egyptian-Israeli deadlock -- was deflated when the appointed day came to an uneventful close. The report in Al Ahram, was written by its editor, Mohammed Husain Heykal, a confidant of President Sadat as he was of the late President Nasser. The report gave no indication whatever as to what action Sadat might order to implement the purported deadline warning. The Al Ahram report said that the alleged fixing of the date had been conveyed to Washington by Sadat in an exchange of messages with President Nixon but one highly placed Israeli source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday that Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco had not informed his Israeli hosts two weeks ago when he was in Israel of any such ultimatum. (In Washington, the White House and the State Department denied on Friday any information from Sadat to Nixon of an Aug. 15 deadline. Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler said Nixon had not received a letter from Sadat. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey said he could "confidently say" that no communication had stipulated "anything like" the purported deadline.)

The Cabinet, at its regular meeting today, was reported not to have taken the "deadline" seriously. Reliable sources said Israel had chosen the State Department version over that of Al Ahram. Foreign Minister Abba Eban was reported to have told the session that Egypt has been conducting a "selective offensive" against the United States since the Sisco visit, on its handling of the Mideast problem. Eban reportedly said that Egyptian diplomats have accused the United States of seeking a permanent settlement under the "guise" of a provisional one, a reference to U.S. efforts to achieve an interim Israeli-Egyptian interim agreement for reopening the Suez Canal. The Egyptians were reported to be saying that since the U.S. had not put forward any views of its own, Egypt was free to act as it chose. The Israeli evaluation was reported to be that this Egyptian stance had put an end to silent diplomacy as far as Egypt was concerned. The Cabinet also was told that the U.S. has not informed Israel as to its contacts with Egypt since the end of the Sisco mission and there is no authoritative information here as to whether the results of the Sisco mission -- as viewed by the Nixon Administration -- have been transmitted to Egypt.

Report East Germans See Possibility Of Establishing Relations With Israel

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 15 (JTA)--East German political personalities have expressed the hope that diplomatic and economic relations with Israel will soon be undertaken, a senior Danish statesman today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Vito Karpman, who was Denmark's Prime Minister from 1960-62, told the JTA correspondent here that he had met with various East German political personalities and that they expressed the view that relations would be established with Israel after Israel and the Soviet Union renew their diplomatic ties. The Soviet Union broke her relations with Israel during the Six-Day War while East Germany and Israel never established diplomatic or economic relations. According to Karpman, contact between East Germany and Israel, particularly along economic lines, could reach the scope equal to that now existing between Israel and West Germany. Karpman, who is well known for his friendship toward Israel is also chairman of the Denmark-German Democratic Republic Friendship Association.

Wife, Son Of Peretz Markish Stage Silent Demonstration; Kukul Appeal Postponed

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Mrs. Esther Markish and David Markish, the widow and son of the Soviet Yiddish poet Peretz Markish, who was killed in 1952 in the Stalin purges, staged an eight-hour silent demonstration in Moscow within recent days, it was reported today by Richard Maass, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Mrs. Markish and her son, who have been denied emigration permits without explanation, held their vigil outside the Council of Ministers building after cabling President Nikolai V. Podgorny about their plight. The Markishes wore crude yellow Stars of David on their clothing to emphasize the situation of Soviet Jews. They said they were in front of the Council of Ministers because they did not know the location of Peretz Markish's grave.

Maass also reported that the appeal of Soviet Jewish prisoner Valeriy Kukul, scheduled for Aug. 10, was postponed at the request of his new attorney. The date for the new appeal was not immediately known. Meanwhile, one of the Jews facing trial in Sverdlovsk, Vladimir Markman, has brought judicial proceedings there against the judge in the Kishinev trial of nine Jews, charging that the judge changed the meaning of his testimony to make it sound in support of the prosecution. Also reported by Maass was the case of the Zaslowsky-Malkov family of Kemerovo, Siberia. On July 9, he said, the family was promised visas to Israel, but four days later was advised they had been cancelled and that the family could leave only after the Middle East situation was settled. The Zaslowsky-Malkovs appealed to the head of the local ovir (visa office), a Mr. Vesovoy, who told them: "You have no rights. All the rights are ours."

Peking Newspaper Says Report Of Meeting Between Chinese, Israelis Deliberate Lie

LONDON, Aug. 16 (JTA)--An article in the Peking newspaper, Peoples Daily, this weekend denied that contacts had taken place between the Peoples Republic of China and Israel in order to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries. The article described the reported contacts as "lies deliberately fabricated to confuse public opinion." On July 27 it was reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that repeated contacts between Chinese diplomats of the Peoples Republic and Eli Ben-Gal, representative of the Israeli Mapam Party, had been conducted in Paris. According to JTA, Ben-Gal met various Embassy staff members and that some of the conversations were held at the Chinese own

request. At the same time, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Paris, Tsa Kwei Seng, told the JTA that "no member of the Embassy had met Ben-Gal" and asserted that information to the effect that meetings had occurred "is pure fabrication and a provocation." The article this weekend in the Peoples Daily stated that the Chinese government had always supported the struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples and would continue to do so. The article took exception to the fact that reports of the alleged contacts had been repeated by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. This was, in the Chinese view, an attempt to conceal the Russians "own sinister activities" in the Middle East and their "collusion with Israel."

Syria-Jordan Clashes Abating; Hussein Seeking Ways To Coexist With Arab States

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Border clashes between Syrian and Jordan forces continued last night and this morning but not on the scale of the clashes late last week when Syria claimed the destruction of several Jordanian tanks. The Syrian armed force reportedly stemmed from the crackdown by King Hussein of Jordan against the last remnants of organized terrorist groups in Jordan. King Hussein was reported to have demanded an end to the campaign by other Arab countries of political and economic pressures against Jordan as one of the terms of his proposed new agreement for a settlement with the Palestinian terrorist groups. However, the Lebanese-owned Middle East Airlines temporarily suspended service from Beirut to Amman after receiving an anonymous threat. The airline has been the only carrier flying the two cities since Syria barred its airspace last week to the Royal Jordanian Airline. The airline company said in a statement it had decided to suspend flights to Jordan temporarily because the "prevailing reported unrest" requires it to safeguard its passengers, crews and aircraft. Iraq barred Jordanian planes previously.

According to another report, Hussein's plan for a new pact with the guerrilla groups requires that he be recognized by all terrorist groups as the unquestioned sovereign and representative for Palestinians on both sides of the Jordan River, thus including the residents of the occupied West Bank. It was also reported that Egypt sent its Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Saad el din Shazli, to Damascus less than 24 hours after a visit there by the Egyptian War Minister, Gen. Mohammed Sadek. The Egyptian moves were considered here as an effort by Egypt to retain the initiative in seeking to cool off the evident Syrian desire for a military showdown with Hussein. Two official mediators on behalf of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, State Minister Omar Sakkaf and special emissary Hassan Sabri el Khoulfi, out short a visit to Damascus and flew to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Faisal. The Beirut daily, Al Nahar, blamed the Soviet Union for the Jordanian-Syrian border clashes. The daily said that after the "fiasco" in Sudan, where an aborted coup led to a crackdown against the Communist party there, the Soviet Union ordered its Syrian "satellites" to threaten Jordan to prove that Soviet power in the Arab countries was not on the wane.

Gaza Strip Shop Owners, Bus And Taxi Drivers End General Protest Strike

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA)--A crackdown by Israeli occupation officials brought a quick end today to a general protest strike by Gaza Strip shop owners and public transport drivers which had been called by Arab terrorist groups. But Gaza Strip residents expressed fears of being caught in a squeeze between the terrorist and the Israeli army. Thousands of pamphlets, distributed clandestinely Friday by El Fatah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, urged a week-long general strike against the evacuation of families from Gaza Strip refugee camps to make way for roads to improve security in the camps. Shop owners began to close their places yesterday and bus and taxi drivers stayed home. Some Gaza Strip residents told their Israeli employers on Friday that they might not report for work today because of "transport difficulties." In fact, authorities said, the residents feared the murderous activities of terrorists who have slain hundreds of Arabs in the Strip for alleged collaboration with Israeli authorities. On Saturday morning, the strike appeared to be a success. Then Israeli army engineering corps units began to move from one closed shop to another and sealing the doors. Within minutes other shop owners reappeared and rushed to open their shops.

Government officials also visited the homes of the striking bus and taxi drivers to warn them they would lose their licenses. Soon buses and taxis began reappearing on the streets. As life began to return to normal this morning, residents told Israeli officials: "We are pressed between Fatah and the Israeli army and we are afraid of both. What shall we do?" The resumption of public transport came too late to prevent a substantial drop in the numbers of Gaza Strip residents reporting to jobs in Israel. Officials said only a few thousand, rather than the known 8,000 such workers, reported for work today. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities resumed today the transfer of refugees from camps to alternative housing in El Arish in northern Sinai and in the West Bank. Evacuation was continued in the Shati and Jabellyah camps where work was pushed on creation of new roads for security. The first 40 families in the Raffah camp, one of the largest in the Strip, were evacuated today and transferred to other flats. Later today, two Israeli army officers toured Gaza and the surrounding area. Gen. David Elazar, chief of General Headquarters, and Gen. Aric Sharon, chief of the Southern Command, reported that conditions had largely returned to normal, with shops almost all open but with fewer than the usual number of people in the streets. Public transport was virtually normal. Officials said they believed that intellectuals among the Arabs in Gaza and the Strip were the driving force behind the aborted general strike.

Denial Issued That Rabin Reported Sisco Proposed Israeli Withdrawal, UAR Advance

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy has categorically denied a published statement attributed to Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin regarding a suggestion by Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco for a plan leading to the reopening of the Suez Canal. The Washington Post, in a front-page story, said last week that according to Rabin, Sisco "suggested to Israel a deep withdrawal from the Suez Canal and an Egyptian advance across the waterway to within 15 miles of the Israeli positions." Staff writer Stephen Klaidman added that "These suggestions, made in Jerusalem earlier this month, are reliably understood to be unacceptable to Israel." Klaidman did not say when or where or to whom Rabin disclosed Sisco's reputed suggestion.

"Everything in the Post story as allegedly said by Ambassador Rabin on alleged proposals allegedly made by Mr. Sisco simply is untrue," and Israeli press spokesman said last Friday. "They (the suggestions) have never been said anywhere." The Post story said that the Sisco ideas allegedly referred to by Rabin were reportedly similar to those in a memorandum handed to the Egyptian government in May by the top American diplomat in Cairo, Donald C. Bergus. Sisco returned here from Israel a week ago after more than a week of consultations with top Israeli officials. Rabin returned here from Israel this past weekend. Both the State Department and the Israeli Embassy have repeatedly declined to be drawn into public discussion on the details of the Sisco meetings in Israel, citing commitments to that effect. Even officials who sometimes disclose points to newsmen in whom they have confidence have declined to discuss the Sisco talks.

Israel Organizing Plans To Counter UAR Diplomatic Offensive At General Assembly

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Israeli leaders are quietly organizing plans to counter a possible Egyptian diplomatic offensive to isolate Israel at the United Nations General Assembly which opens next month. Gideon Rafael, the director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry left Friday for a tour of Scandinavian countries to which he was officially invited. He was expected to use his visit for high level contacts for the Assembly session. The Foreign Ministry also was reported to be planning to send delegations, official and unofficial, to other countries. The background of the planning is the fact that the Arab-Soviet group at the UN has nearly 70 votes at the Assembly if the Arabs decide to present any anti-Israel resolutions. Rafael is due next week in Stockholm, Sweden, and Reykjavik, Iceland where he will meet the Foreign Ministers of those countries, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported from Stockholm. An Egyptian government official, Hezzet Usmal, will visit Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway at the end of this month.

In a related development, it was reported here that Jordan may raise at the Security Council its complaint that Israel is "Judaizing" East Jerusalem. Other Arab countries indicated little enthusiasm for the idea when Jordan announced that intention a month ago and it was assumed here that Jordan had abandoned the idea. But in recent days Jordanian delegates have been sounding out other delegations at the UN as to their views on the issue. It was also reported that there may be an effort for creation of a UN commission on behalf of the Security Council to look into the Jordanian charges. It was expected that if this is done, Israel will boycott such a commission as it has the commission named by Secretary General U Thant to report on Israel's treatment of the Arab population in the occupied areas. That commission, named over Israel's objections, is composed of Ceylon, Somalia and Yugoslavia, all openly anti-Israeli. Somalia and Yugoslavia have no diplomatic ties with Israel.

Eban: Visit To Israel By Prominent Guests From 63 Nations Proof Israel Not Isolated

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban declared Friday that "all the attempts to isolate Israel have not been effective." This, he said, is the political significance of the expected arrival in Israel this week of 175 prominent guests from 63 African, Asian and Latin American nations to attend the Sixth Rehovot Conference. The guests will include vice presidents from two African states, Gambia and the Malagasy Republic, and 20 cabinet ministers. Eban told reporters that the interest of world leaders in Israel is "greater than ever." He added: "If the effort to turn Israel into a sort of leper colony had succeeded, I would not have to spend two-thirds of my time at Lydda Airport" welcoming dignitaries. Eban, who is the moving spirit behind the Rehovot conferences, also spoke of the fruitful results of the previous conferences. He said the ideas discussed at them have been utilized in the developing countries. This year's subject is "Urbanization in Developing States." The meeting, which opens tomorrow in Jerusalem and then moves to the Weizman Institute in Rehovot, will also be attended by representatives of 11 international organizations and by dozens of distinguished scientists.

U.S. Delegation Wins International Israeli Youth Festival Sports Competition

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA)--The sports segment of the Second International Israeli Youth Festival held in Beit Berl, outside of Tel Aviv, was completed Friday. The U.S. youngsters, 18 years and under, won most of the sports honors in competition with youth from Israel, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Mexico and Holland. Outstanding American participants in the sports competition included Mark Sanders of Brooklyn who took first place in the 100 meter dash. Richard Schulman of Brookline, Mass., won two track gold medals capturing the 400 meter and 800 meter runs. On the distaff track side, Fran Leibelowitz of Baltimore, Md., cleaned two gold medals with a first place in the 60 meter dash and a first in the long jump. In the swimming competition at the Brookdale Swimming Pool, located at the Ordewingate School of Physical Education, Jeff Roth of St. Louis managed three gold medals with a first in the 50 meter butterfly and wins in both the 50 and 100 meter free style.

Abbey Boskoff of Brooklyn was the top girl contender with a first in both the 50 meter and 100 meter breast stroke. Jim Schpelser of Lynn, Mass., placed first in tennis, beating Allen Goldberg of Great Neck for the gold medal. Another individual gold medal went to Elliot Sternlicht of Staten Island, N.Y., who placed first in the chess competition. In team competition, the U.S. team placed first in track and field, swimming, tennis and boys basketball. Israel won the volleyball championship, defeating the U.S. sextet; while the Mexican girls eliminated the U.S. feminine contingent in the same sport. The American teenage delegation will now tour Israel, highlighting their cultural experience with a visit to former Premier David Ben Gurion at his Sde Boker home in the Negev Desert.

Restraining Influences Keep Order On The Sabbath In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)--It was tense and noisy here yesterday but the Sabbath passed without violent demonstrations such as those which occurred here last week when religious zealots threw stones at Egged buses injuring a number of persons. Yesterday, groups of ultra-Orthodox demonstrators gathered at the city's main thoroughfare, Jaffa Road, and spat at passing cars, including Egged tourist buses. But restraining influences were obviously working, for the demonstrators did not actually interfere with traffic. A group of non-religious youths gathered on the opposite sidewalk jeering at the Orthodox. Police kept the two groups apart.

Jewish Students Cite Need For Changes In Jewish Community

CHICAGO, Aug. 15 (JTA)--According to 65% of 600 respondents to a questionnaire sent to one thousand Jewish students on campuses all over the country, changes will have to be made in Jewish communal life if the Jewish community wants to encourage youth to participate in it. The survey, conducted by the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, sought to elicit responses from students on: "Jewish establishment;" religious services; Jewish identity; Jewish education; reading matter, and reactions to Israel. The complete report, entitled "Not Just A Number..." was written by Sheryl Leonard, AJC's Midwest Director of Public Relations and Education. In explaining the title, Miss Leonard stated: "Young people are not numbers or categories. They are distinct individuals with deep perceptions, concerns and ideas." Dr. Bernard Beck, Associate Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University, in his commentary on the survey said: "While there is some independence of answers to different questions, there is a core of agreement on the 'positive' side of all major questions. Even allowing for the weakness of ecological correlations, it appears that most respondents have a pattern of opinions which should be reassuring to anyone worried about the waywardness of Jewish youth." Some of the findings of the survey were as follows: On what represented the "Jewish establishment" to the student, 17% replied that it was Jewish organizations; 15% - financially powerful and influential Jews; 13% - the Jewish community; 8% - synagogues and temples, and 5% - the family structure. To 30% of the students, "establishment" was a combination of 2 or 3 of these categories; 6% found it was all of the above, and 5% gave no answer.

On the subject of attendance at religious services, 48% attend on holidays only; 19% attend regularly; 17% stay away entirely, and 16% go occasionally. Regarding the question as to whether or not something should be done to encourage greater participation with the religious community, 65% stated "yes" and 34% said "no." Those who expressed having no concern in this topic were less than 1%. Some of the specific statements by students regarding change in the synagogue structure were: Don't engage merely in rituals and unrelated prayers. Spend more time on philosophical and cultural meanings rather than on repetition of rigidly structured services; Help the family to learn about holidays and customs together; so they can be enjoyed as a family unit; Sermons are often too long and meaningless to the immediate urgencies and relevancies of today's burning issues; Redirect "establishment" groups back to religious ideals instead of using the synagogue as a fund raising device; Sponsor more youth-centered activities and make facilities more readily available to them. On the Shabbat and holidays, invite students away from home to the homes of congregants. Students should not be charged a fee for attendance at High Holiday services. Engage the interest of youth and demonstrate that they, too, have a stake in their religious and cultural heritage. Along with their suggestions for change, a number of students expressed their frustrations with statements to the effect that "what's the use of responding...no one's going to change anyway."

On the subject of having a sense of Jewish identity, 93% responded in the affirmative and 6% responded negatively. Less than 1% left the question unanswered. Although the majority expressed a sense of Jewish identity, only 54% of this group felt something should be done to encourage greater participation with the religious community. In giving their reasons for what constitutes the basis for their sense of Jewish identity, the following emerged: 24% cited cultural/intellectual reasons; 13% - moral/ethical; 11% - religious; 10% - family; 7% - social; 7% - Israel; 28% felt it was a combination of the above factors. The word "pride" was used quite frequently in many of these positive responses. On the subject of a need for more basic Jewish education, 80% responded there was such need and 20% felt Jewish education was unnecessary. 50% stated that Jewish education should begin at the pre-school level; 25% at the primary grade level, and 16% at the upper grade level. While "home" was not included in the questionnaire as one of the levels for starting Jewish education, it was written in by 7% of the respondents. The remaining 2% had no response to this question. Some of the comments written in by students on the subject of Jewish education included such remarks as: "As schools are constructed now, they create apathetic Jews...make Sunday School progressive and experimental...include what is happening today... more sociological information on Jews in America...teach more comparative religion and basics of love and humanity...more history and heritage..." On the subject of Israel, 88% stated that it did have special meaning for them; for 12% Israel had no meaning. Yet 8% out of the 12% who had a negative response to Israel, did express a strong sense of Jewish identity, and 5% felt there is a need for more Jewish education.

80 Venezuelan Friends Of Hebrew University Touring Israel For Three Weeks

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)--A group of some eighty Venezuelan friends of the Hebrew University is currently touring Israel as part of a three week program which will include the cornerstone laying of Casa Venezuela, a teaching building on Mount Scopus for the University's Department of Latin American Studies. This is the first such tour of university friends from Latin American countries. The visitors range from six to almost 70 years of age. During the first week of their visit, adults are participating in a seminar dealing with Israel and diaspora problems. The teenagers have a program of tours and lectures which will bring them into contact with Israeli youngsters, while the under twelve set is attending a special summer camp. Next Friday the entire group is to start a countrywide tour which will end on Aug. 31, when the group is scheduled to leave for home.

Costa Rican Official Says Israel Justified In Standing Fast On Cease-Fire Lines

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA)--Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio said yesterday during a visit to Nazareth that Israel is fully justified in exercising its basic right to stand fast on the cease-fire lines in order to ensure self-defense. He said that while visiting Sharm El Sheikh, which overlooks the mouth of the Red Sea, "I realized how important the site is for Israel as the gateway to the Gulf of Elath." Facio has been in Israel since last Tuesday. At a dinner given in his honor last week by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Facio said that the American doctrine barring the acquisition of rights to territory through conquest does not apply to Israel. He explained that the doctrine applies only to aggressors, whereas in 1967, Israel had been attacked and was fighting for its life in its own land. He added that in the future, the doctrine will be applicable to Israel after she has acquired through direct negotiations with its Arab neighbors the secure peace borders to which it is entitled.