



# daily news bulletin

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## VICTOR LOUIS SAYS THERE MAY SOON BE UNOFFICIAL EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL BETWEEN ISRAEL, USSR

No Confirmation From Foreign Ministry

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA)--A Soviet journalist known to be close to the Kremlin hinted in a report from Moscow published here today that there might soon be an unofficial exchange of diplomatic personnel between Israel and the USSR. But Foreign Ministry officials said they had no information to corroborate such reports. They were commenting on a dispatch by Victor Louis which stated the exchange would come about because of the heavy administrative burden involved in processing the growing number of Soviet Jews leaving Russia for Israel. The burden falls on the Dutch Embassy in Moscow which handles Israeli affairs in the USSR and the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv which handles Soviet affairs in Israel in the absence of formal diplomatic relations.

According to Louis, "A number of Israeli diplomats would be attached to the Dutch Embassy while Russians would go to the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv." The writer added, "It is possible in a very short time that the voice replying to a phone call to the Dutch Embassy in Moscow would say 'shalom.'" The Louis story appeared in a London newspaper and was carried here in the evening newspaper Maariv.

Foreign Ministry officials noted that it was the Soviet Union which broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 and said that any initiative at renewing them in any way must come from Moscow. They added that if such a move was made, Israel was prepared to discuss it.

## Peak Emigration From USSR

Louis has been described as a sometime agent of the Soviet Union undertaking covert missions on behalf of the regime in many countries while active as a journalist. His visit to Israel last spring, ostensibly for medical reasons, was viewed in some quarters as a move by Moscow toward renewing contacts with Israel. He came here on an official Soviet passport and met with Simcha Dinits, Premier Golda Meir's political secretary.

Louis stated in his dispatch that the departure of Russian Jews for Israel has reached a peak of 100 persons per day which puts a heavy strain on the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, and the Ministry of Transport. He said the main component of the emigres are Jews from the Soviet Georgian Republic. Next will come Jews from Bukhara, Russian Central Asia, he reported. He said reports from Russian Jews who went to Israel and now wish to return to the USSR do not influence Jews desirous of leaving.

According to Louis, Soviet authorities have not decided what to do about the returnees. He said those who have already returned were given preference in housing and other fields. They are treated as political immigrants who "could not live elsewhere but in Soviet Russia," Louis wrote. Louis' dispatch was confirmed in certain details by local officials. The Absorption Ministry said yesterday that immigrants are expected to arrive

from Russia at the rate of a planeload a day for the balance of this month. Each plane carries over 100 passengers. Immigration officials also say that Georgian Jews account for about a third of all immigrants from the USSR.

## MRS. MEIR EXPRESSES HOPE HER VISIT TO U.S. PRODUCED 'ACTIVE RESULTS'

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir returned today from a two week visit to the United States and expressed the "feeling" that President Nixon "knows and understands our problems." Mrs. Meir told newsmen at an impromptu airport press conference that she hoped her visit would produce "active results" and that "good conclusions will be drawn therefrom." She said her talks with Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers gave her a "feeling that things were clarified."

But she refused to provide details of her discussions with American officials and evaded a question about the further supply of Phantom jets, remarking "What does it matter if I bring them in my shopping bag or if they come in a parcel?" There was no confirmation or denial in Jerusalem today of earlier press reports that Mrs. Meir was promised more Phantoms in a message from President Nixon just before she left the US.

The Premier was met at the airport by Acting Premier Yigal Allon, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and other members of her cabinet and the diplomatic corps. She said she had "a full opportunity to have a basic discussion with Rogers and Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and other aides as well as people from our side in order to try and clarify some misunderstandings and define what we think the US should do." Mrs. Meir said she found an enormous feeling of friendship among Americans in general and among American organizations toward Israel. She said there was great friendship for Israel among Congressmen and said there was common agreement between Congress and the Administration on the question of loans for Israel. She had warm words for American Jews who, she said, seemed to associate themselves with Israel bodily and spiritually.

## EBAN: U.S.-ISRAEL DIALOGUE CONTINUING; JACKSON PREDICTS U.S. WILL REVERSE ITSELF AND SELL JETS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that the "dialogue" between America and Israel "is going forward" and will be "a determining factor in maintaining peace." Addressing 700 persons attending the annual dinner of the Zionist Organization of America, Eban made no reference to Premier Golda Meir's meeting a week ago with President Nixon. He said, however, "We have greater confidence this week than we had a week ago." Eban added that "It does no harm for friendly governments to remind each other of their commitments and interests," and described 1970-71 as the "golden years" of US military assistance to Israel.

Eban praised the peace-seeking role of the United Nations but asserted that Israel could not depend on the UN for its security. He said the

Security Council would do nothing if Israel were attacked. The presence of the Peoples Republic of China as a permanent member of the Council adds a level of "paralysis" to that posed by the Soviet Union, he contended.

The ZOA dinner was also addressed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.), a declared candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972. Speaking at a news conference before the dinner, Jackson chastized the Nixon Administration for withholding Phantom jets for Israel but predicted that it "will reverse the State Department and in due time will make jets available" to Israel. He said the Administration would have to do this "to implement the will of the Congress" as expressed in resolutions and legislation for military support for Israel.

### U.S. Is Key To Mideast Peace

According to Jackson, "the key problem facing the Israelis is the survivability of their air force." He said Israel must maintain its superior position in the quality of air power in order to offset the Arabs' greater manpower. Jackson said he didn't believe there would be an outbreak of war in the Mideast as long as the US maintains an unequivocal posture towards the Russians. The key, he said, is "the will of the US."

Herman L. Weisman, president of the ZOA, told the meeting that by withholding the sale of Phantom jets the US encourages Russia and Egypt to believe that they can demand conditions prior to negotiations. "As Americans, we say to our President that it is in the best interest of our country to stop pussy-footing about selling additional Phantoms to Israel," Weisman stated. This, he noted, would be the best assurance that Israel would not suffer from a military imbalance.

Earlier yesterday Eban spoke at a Labor Zionist luncheon honoring Howard Agronin of Queens, national vice-president of the Poale Zion-United Labor Zionist Organization. He told the 400 guests that Israel seeks arms not for victory but to prevent war. He said the decision for peace or war in the Mideast was up to President Anwar Sadat and warned Sadat that if Egypt made war, the consequences would not be different than under Nasser.

### ABZUG SAYS BEST HOPES FOR MIDEAST PEACE LIES IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Rep. Bella Abzug (D.N.Y.), hailed last night the "spirit of the Maccabees as personified by the men and women fighting for the right of Israel to exist as a nation," described Israel as "one of the liveliest democracies in the world," and declared that the best hopes for peace in the Middle East lies in direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

The fiery Congresswoman drew repeated applause from the more than 300 persons attending the annual Chanukah dinner of Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair, as she assailed the Nixon Administration for withholding the sale of jets to Israel and observed that the State Department's announcement that a balance of power has been reached in the Mideast "could encourage an aggressive attitude by Egypt and thus hurt the chances for a political settlement through negotiations."

Mrs. Abzug urged that a distinction must be made between support for Israel from those Congressmen "who view Israel as a convenient pawn in the cold war and those of us who envision her as a secure, independent nation living in

peace with her neighbors." She stated that it was not her role as an American to tell the Israelis how or on what basis they should negotiate the future of their land, adding:

"They have said that they are willing to enter negotiations with no pre-conditions. They have said that any agreement must accept their right to exist within secure and recognized borders. They have declared their willingness to negotiate a solution to the refugee problems." These positions, Mrs. Abzug said, "all provide an excellent basis for talks between the Israelis and Arabs that will allow all of the people in the Middle East to live in peace."

Recalling her visit to Israel last summer, the Congresswoman noted that of "all the forcible impressions" she got was the "frankness and liveliness of the discussion about national problems and goals, the wide range of opinion from extreme right to left, the freedom to analyze and criticize, and all within the context of unified dedication to the preservation of the Jewish homeland."

### SPECIAL TO JTA

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Looking happy but rather frightened at the size of the welcome accorded her, a shy Ruth Aleksandrovich Averbuch arrived last night at Kennedy International Airport to be engulfed by cheers and freedom chants from more than 100 well-wishers. They included rabbis, leaders and members of activist groups, teen-agers and two small girls bearing bouquets.

Mrs. Averbuch, the 24-year-old Riga nurse who recently migrated to Israel after serving a year in prison for alleged anti-Soviet activities, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that she had felt "anguish" and "sorrow" about leaving the Soviet Union, but that Israel was "wonderful." She said that if free emigration were allowed, there would be a "chain reaction" and a "majority" of Jews would leave. Mrs. Averbuch accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, and her husband, Isalah Averbuch, told a press conference at the airport that "being anti-Semitic is a state policy of Russia."

The party then went to the International Synagogue on the airport grounds, operated by the New York Board of Rabbis. The chairman of the synagogue, Rabbi Saul Tepplitz, called the trio "modern Maccabees" who "have given all of us strength and courage." Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman, Chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry said: "We greet you with brotherly affection." Rabbi Charles Sheer of Columbia University remarked: "I think it would be an understatement to say that this is a joyful occasion." Rabbi Avraham Weiss read from a letter he had sent Mrs. Aleksandrovich in Israel two weeks ago but which had not yet arrived: "Our dream has come true, dear Rivka, Ruthie and Isay are free. . . Your happiness and exhilaration are our happiness and exhilaration. . . We shall not forget; we shall tell it all."

Mrs. Aleksandrovich thanked those Americans who had worked for her daughter's release: "I remember you not with my brain but with my heart," adding: "But it is not yet enough. Our hearts are still broken. We simply cannot stop. Without exaggeration, Silva (Zaimanov) is dying in prison." Averbuch joined in a rousing Russian dance with Rabbi Weiss as a hundred men, women and children--led by the band of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry--played "Am Yisroel Chai," "Kachol Velavan," the Soviet Jewry anthem, and Hatikvah.

# EBAN REFUTES CHARGE BY ZAYYAT THAT ISRAEL DISTRIBUTED 'MUTILATED' VERSION OF AFRICAN PEACE MISSION REPORT TO UN

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Egypt accused Israel today of circulating a "mutilated" version of the report of the African peace mission. The chief Egyptian delegate, Dr. Mohamed H. el-Zayyat, charged in the General Assembly that the version Israel has circulated internationally has only eight pages, with a ninth and final page "taken out of it." That ninth page, he said, contains three paragraphs declaring that Egypt should not have to give up "any part of its national territory" and that Israel should "give its accord" to a declaration against "territorial annexation."

After the Assembly adjourned for lunch, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that the phantom page indeed did not exist in the version of the report--which has not been officially released publicly--distributed by Israel. Eban suggested that the alleged additional material has been devised by Egypt to advance her case. Eban addressed the Assembly just before Dr. Zayyat did. The Assembly will vote this evening on three draft resolutions on the Middle East.

Israel supports two of them--one, sponsored by Barbados, endorses the African conciliation report, a reactivation of the Jarring mission and a resumption of the peace talks; and another, co-sponsored by Costa Rica and Uruguay, also supports the African study and urges Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nation's Mideast intermediary, to redouble his efforts toward negotiations. Egypt supports an 18-power draft, usually referred to as the Afghanistan resolution, that emphasizes Israeli withdrawal. Israeli officials declined to predict the outcome of the voting.

In his Assembly remarks today, Eban lauded the "high level of objectivity and international courtesy" in the report of the Organization of African Unity. He said Israel was entitled to "deep preoccupation with physical security," and asserted it was "not true" that Israel has "an arbitrary appetite for expansion." Eban said he was "at a loss to understand" objections to "anything whatever" in the drafts of Barbados and of Costa Rica and Uruguay, which "would have the effect of renewing the negotiations tomorrow."

Dr. Zayyat asserted that Israel should commit itself to the 1947 lines instead of "violating the borders" of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The Jarring mission, he said in English, "has reached already an impasse," having been "blocked by the refusal of the State of Israel to reply (positively) to Jarring." If no such reply is forthcoming by year's end, the Egyptian stated, the Security Council should take Resolution 242 and "declare it dead and nonexistent" and Dr. Jarring should be relieved of his mission.

# SOVIET IMMIGRANTS SAY 1970 HIJACK PLAN WAS BASICALLY WORK OF RUSSIAN AGENTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Jewish immigrants from Russia involved in the Leningrad hijack plot of June, 1970, said here today that basically the idea to steal an airplane was implanted by agents of the Soviet regime but Jews easily fell into the trap because they were desperate to leave the USSR. The emigres addressing a press conference here for the first time since their arrival in Israel, were Meri Mendelovitch Khanokh, 21, whose husband Leib G.

Khanokh is presently serving a 10-year sentence, her brother-in-law Dr. Pinchas Khanokh, Marina Tartakowskaya and Nina Lutzova; all are from Riga.

Mrs. Khanokh arrived in Israel several days ago with her 10-month-old son Yigal. Although arrested in Israel in June, 1970, she was released because she was pregnant, the reason being, according to her, that a pregnant woman did not fit into the image of desperate criminals that the Soviet authorities were trying to present to the world.

Under questioning by reporters, she did not deny that her husband and others planned to seize a plane at Leningrad airport in order to flee Russia 18 months ago. Dr. Khanokh, who arrived in Israel eight months ago and works at the Chupat Holim Hospital in Afula, said that he had known of the hijack plan though he denied knowledge when interrogated by the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

He said he believed at first that the plot was "100 percent provocation" intended by the authorities to frighten Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. Now, however, he said he thinks provocation was 80 percent accountable for the deed and the rest was due to the strong desire of the Jews to leave Russia and their belief that it would be impossible to do so legally.

# EGYPT SETTING STAGE FOR RENEWED WARFARE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The Cabinet met yesterday to discuss the situation along the Suez Canal amid indications that Egypt was setting the political stage for a renewal very soon of warfare against Israel. The quiet along the waterway was shattered Saturday when Egyptian forces opened fire twice on an Israeli patrol. There were no casualties and Israeli soldiers did not return the fire. But the incident was the first time since the cease-fire went into effect in Aug. 1970 that an Israeli patrol came under direct attack. But tension increased nevertheless and Israeli forces were placed on the alert in view of recent war threats from Cairo.

According to Western observers, Egyptian preparations along the canal tally with indications in Cairo news media that at least a limited resumption of war against Israel is planned. The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram, which often speaks for the government, said Egypt will ask within the next 10 days for an emergency session of the UN Security Council. It will seek a resolution demanding that Israel reply affirmatively to UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's Feb. 8 memo asking Israel for a withdrawal commitment. If Israel rejects such a resolution--it is expected that Israel will do so--Dr. Jarring would be asked to issue a "final report" on his peace mission that began in 1968. The final report would be a concession of failure of that mission which in turn, according to Al Ahram, would provide justification for Egypt to end the cease-fire.

# FORMER NAZI GOES ON TRIAL

BONN, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The trial of a Lithuanian charged with having personally murdered 1150 Jews during a three-month period in 1941, opened several days ago before a Frankfurt court. John Stasaitis, 49, was charged with shooting Jewish inmates of a slave labor camp at Tauraggen in Lithuania while he served as a guard there. The prosecution revealed at the opening of the trial that Stasaitis had acted on his own initiative and that the SS commanders of the camp deplored his action which presumably deprived them of the forced labor on which they had counted. Among the 25 witnesses, five are from the US.

**MRS. MEIR: ISRAEL READY TO NEGOTIATE  
REAL PEACE; WARNS EGYPT IT WILL FACE  
ANOTHER DEFEAT IF IT ATTEMPTS WAR**

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Israel's Premier Golda Meir declared last night that Israel was willing to sit down with her neighbors and arrange for a "secure" and "real peace" in the Middle East and not just sign "a piece of paper." She told some 2000 persons attending a dinner in her honor under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization that Israel was willing to reach an agreement on borders "safe for us--any borders will be safe for the Arabs for we shall not attack them" and "borders from which we can defend ourselves with as few casualties as possible if war breaks out."

Mrs. Meir warned, however, that "if war comes, a heavy defeat faces" Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "in a short time." She added that "if we work on the assumption that war will come and it doesn't come, we can live with that." The Israeli Premier expressed amazement that after all these years "people do not understand us" and "expect us to do the things we cannot do--save the face of those who cannot face the defeats they have suffered in war."

In the past, Mrs. Meir noted, Israel was told that the former Egyptian President Nasser was frustrated and, therefore, he could not make peace with Israel. "He was not frustrated over his inability to improve the living conditions of the Egyptians," she said. "No, that did not make him frustrated. He was frustrated the three times he tried to defeat Israel, and the intransigent, stubborn, uncooperative people of Israel would not cooperate."

**Worry About Our Friends**

Now there is a new man (Sadat) she continued, and people have forgotten 1967. "Now we are asked to save his face because he knows he can start a war but cannot win it." Mrs. Meir noted that "our friends tell us that we can win any new war. But we don't want any new war." Sometimes, she observed, "we worry about our friends--let's not put it in the plural--one government really. We ask them to sell us arms for defense. When they agree we ask them to help us pay for them. Your government has been very good."

Praising the work of the Israel Bond Organization for its continuing and tireless efforts to help Israel with large-scale resources for the developments of its economy, Mrs. Meir declared: "We must cut our budget, but how can we choose, where can we cut? Can we tell the Soviet Jews that we want them but have no houses for them? Can we tell the Jew in the ghetto in Arab lands that he will have to stay there? How can we cut our defense budget when Sadat threatens war?"

Before entering the grand ballroom of the Americana Hotel, Mrs. Meir was almost knocked down on the street outside the hotel by some 100 demonstrators protesting against "Israel's conscription of religious girls to serve in civilian government agencies" and against "indiscriminate mass autopsies." The 100 persons, part of some 2500 Orthodox Jews and Satmar Chassidim who were demonstrating outside the hotel, broke through police barricades and rushed her police escort. Mrs. Meir's bodyguards shielded her from the surging group and escorted her into the hotel.

The dinner, attended by communal, civil, religious and business leaders from the New York metropolitan area, gave special impetus to a national effort to sell \$50 million in State of Israel bonds this month to bring to \$250 million the total proceeds for 1971.

**STATE DEPT. DISMISSES NEW SADAT  
INTERVIEW AS OLD HAT; DECLINES  
COMMENT ON ALLEGED SECRET U.S.-ISRAEL  
ACCORD**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA)--An interview with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, published in the New York Times, was dismissed by the State Department today as containing nothing new. Department sources declined specifically to comment on Sadat's allegation that a "secret agreement" existed between the U.S. and Israel dating from the Johnson Administration or Sadat's assertion that he has been "deceived" by the U.S. Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said at today's news briefing, "We made a judgment not to comment on it (the interview) because in general there was not all that much new revealed."

Department sources indicated privately later that Sadat has never said he would not provide bases for the Soviet Navy at Egyptian ports and that he has indicated that some Soviet forces would leave Egypt if there was an agreement with Israel. According to the interview with New York Times correspondent C.L. Sulzberger, Sadat said he would continue to provide naval bases for the Soviet fleet, even after a possible settlement with Israel and that he would retain Soviet advisers with the Egyptian Army.

The interview was Sadat's second to appear within a week in a major American news organ. Last Monday Newsweek published an interview with President Sadat. Observers here said the Egyptian leader was apparently seeking publicity in the American press to counteract the remarks of Israeli Premier Golda Meir during her visit to the U.S. McCloskey told newsmen the State Department did not have a transcript of the Times' interview and was not asking for one.

**FRANCE DUE TO REIMBURSE ISRAEL  
\$52M FOR EMBARGOED MIRAGE JETS**

PARIS, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The Secretary of the Parliament's Defense Commission told the National Assembly several days ago that the government has slated 287 million francs (\$52 million) for the reimbursement of the 50 Mirage planes bought by Israel and embargoed since the Six-Day War. Joel Le Theule, the Secretary, said this sum does not include compensation and interest, which Israel demands. He added that negotiations were in progress on the degree of compensation on the basis of 6.5 percent interest a year, less than Israel demands. Negotiations were reported to have been resumed last week after an extended interruption. The talks are being held at the "experts" level and deal mainly with financial and technical aspects.

**JEWS ARRESTED IN MOSCOW**

LONDON, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported yesterday that a group of Moscow Jews visited the United Nations Mission headquarters in the Soviet capital on Friday to demonstrate for exit visas on the occasion of Human Rights Day. According to Western press reports, at least five Jews were taken into custody by Moscow police before their demonstration got underway. There was no immediate confirmation of the arrests from Jewish sources. According to the press reports, at least three police vans were spotted near the UN Mission as the demonstrators gathered for what was to be a 24-hour vigil. Militiamen guarding the building told persons trying to enter that it was closed for the day.