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## MRS. MEIR THANKFUL FOR U.S. AID BUT DOES NOT RAISE ISSUE OF MORE AID WITH HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Report No Basis For Claim Of Snag On Israel's Request For \$500 M

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said today that Premier Golda Meir was "very grateful in her thanks for the aid provided to Israel by the U.S. government and said Israel needed more." Rep. Thomas E. Morgan (D, Pa.), told reporters, however, that Mrs. Meir did not raise the matter of U.S. aid at her meeting with 28 members of the 39-member House committee which lasted over an hour this morning. "This question was raised by the committee. She did not bring it up," he stated in reply to a reporter's question.

According to one source here, the main purpose of Mrs. Meir's visit to Washington is to seek a \$565 million U.S. aid package for the coming fiscal year, including \$300 million worth of military credits for the purchase of the latest model fighter-bombers and helicopter gun ships.

A report today had it that President Nixon has deferred a decision on Israel's request for the \$565 million, partly to avoid further inflaming Arab response to the downing of a Libyan airliner over Sinai last week by Israeli fighter pilots flying Phantom jets supplied to Israel by the U.S. The report said Nixon may also be exploiting the aid request in order to elicit some diplomatic compromises from the Israeli Premier. According to the report, the President had been expected to approve the aid during Mrs. Meir's visit but administration officials have indicated that it will be left at the negotiating stage for the time being.

State Department sources said, however, that there is no basis for such a report. If there is any difficulty in meeting the same or higher level of fiscal assistance to Israel, the sources noted, it is likely to come from Congress in its consideration of budget outlays.

The present U.S. foreign aid program for fiscal 1973, which expires June 30, has earmarked some \$500 million in aid for Israel, including about \$300 million in military purchase credits. The aid bill has yet to be passed by Congress but is kept alive by continuing resolutions adopted by Congress. Mrs. Meir is said to be anxious to assure the continued flow of U.S. military hardware after the present aid bill expires.

### Chances Bright For Israel-Egypt Talks

Morgan told reporters that Premier Meir "seemed optimistic" over the chances of negotiations between Israel and Egypt "because the shooting on the (Suez) Canal has ceased for 18 months." He said she thought that the Libyan plane incident would not have an adverse effect on the possibility of negotiations with Egypt. Morgan observed that King Hussein of Jordan, who met with President Nixon here early this month, appeared to be the most friendly of Israel's neighbors. He said that if a settlement were to be negotiated between Israel and Jordan, "you could look for more progress in that area of the world."

This afternoon, Mrs. Meir emerged from a three-hour luncheon meeting with Acting Secre-

tary of State Kenneth Rush at the State Department and told reporters that they had "discussed" very many problems of mutual interest to both countries." She said the discussions were held in "the spirit of friendship that exists between the two countries." She declined to give any details.

Asked by a reporter about reports that she met yesterday with King Hussein of Jordan in Washington, Mrs. Meir drew laughter from the newsmen when she replied, "You already know about it?" (See separate story.) The Israeli Premier was meeting with Secretary of Defense Elliot Richardson at the Pentagon late this afternoon, will meet with Nixon at the White House tomorrow morning and then will address the National Press Club.

Mrs. Meir will meet Sunday with 200 Jewish leaders representing the 30 national organizations comprising the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, it was announced in New York today by Jacob Stein, Conference chairman. "This intimate briefing to the leaders of the American Jewish community," Stein said, "will be Mrs. Meir's report to the Jewish leadership of her meetings in Washington with President Nixon and other high government officials."

### DENY MEIR-HUSSEIN MEETING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The State Department and the Israeli and Jordanian Embassies emphatically denied today reports of communications yesterday between Israeli Premier Golda Meir and Jordanian King Hussein. They said there was no communication, either directly or indirectly between the two leaders.

The State Department did confirm that Hussein was in Washington yesterday to see his two children, but it was learned that his children were not in Washington. According to some reports, his visit to the capital ostensibly to see his children was a ploy to divert attention away from communicating with Mrs. Meir who was resting at Blair House after arriving here Monday afternoon.

Hussein left Washington last night for Florida where he had been staying since his meeting with President Nixon. He and his entourage left Florida today for Amman.

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) this afternoon adopted an Egyptian draft resolution condemning Israel for the Libyan airliner disaster. The vote was 105-1 with Israel the only dissenting voice. Colombia and Malawi abstained, and four nations, including Libya, were absent. (See P. 3 for full story.)

### GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRST STEP TO PAY FAMILIES OF LIBYAN AIRLINER DISASTER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The government took the first step today toward implementing its decision to pay the families of the victims of the Libyan airliner downing. Acting Premier Yigal Allon has requested Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro to suggest the composition and terms of reference of a ministerial committee which would establish criteria for the payments. The Justice Minister's proposals are expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval at its next session.

Allon's request was based on the Cabinet's Feb.

25 resolution which expressed Israel's readiness to make ex gratia (of free will) payments to the families of the 106 persons who lost their lives. The Cabinet made it clear that the offer stemmed entirely from humanitarian considerations.

A precedent was the payment made to Israel by Bulgaria after an El Al airliner that strayed into Bulgarian air space in 1955 was shot down by Bulgarian fighters, killing all 58 persons aboard, including 22 Israelis. The aircraft was shot down on a routine flight from Vienna to Lod Airport. Israel claimed \$7,462,803 in damages for the disaster. The protracted negotiations over the question of compensation was finally concluded with the signing of an agreement by Bulgaria in 1963--eight years later--paying Israel a total of \$195,000. The Bulgarian government had earlier settled most of the claims brought by families of the non-Israelis aboard the plane.

#### BOMB SCARE ON ISRAEL-BOUND PLANE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA)--An Israel-bound Alitalia plane with 134 passengers aboard returned to Rome Airport today after Alitalia offices in Israel were warned that a bomb would explode aboard the aircraft as soon as it landed at Lod Airport. The DC-8 resumed its flight after a search in Rome yielded nothing and arrived at Lod six hours late. The bomb warning was telephoned to the company's offices in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa. The caller was described as a man speaking English with an Oriental accent.

#### MASSIVE MAN HUNT FOR TERRORIST LEADER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA)--A massive man hunt is underway in the Gaza Strip for Muhammad el Assad, the "Che Guevara" of Gaza, who is believed responsible for at least 20 political assassinations. The 32-year-old terrorist assumed command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Gaza several months ago after its former leader was killed. But police say he is acting as a lone wolf, terrorizing the local population and particularly Gazans holding public office.

Assad is believed responsible for the murder Monday of a Catholic priest, Father Hanna el-Nimri, and for the kidnap-slaying of Deib Ismael el Arbitti on Feb. 11. Both victims were members of the Shatfi refugee camp neighborhood council in Gaza.

According to police, Assad disappeared from the Shatfi camp after the 1967 Six-Day War. He is known to have stayed in Jordan and Syria and to have gone to China where he trained in guerrilla warfare. Police said that the wanted terrorist was a dedicated Maoist when he returned to the Gaza Strip in 1968. He was dubbed "Che Guevara" because he always carried the writings of the late Cuban revolutionary as well as Chairman Mao's Red Book. Police said that Assad has managed to elude many traps so far.

Meanwhile, six more Druze were arrested in the Golan Heights last night, bringing to 53 the number of detainees being held in connection with a Syrian-backed Druze spy ring said to have operated from Majdal Shams village on the Golan Heights.

#### RUSSIAN WARNS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN U.S., USSR, IF TRADE BILL IS BLOCKED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--G.A. Arbatov, a Soviet authority on the United States, told American business leaders here last night that anti-Semitism will arise in the U.S. and in the Soviet Union if Congressional legislation aimed at removing Soviet restrictions on emigration blocks

the pending Soviet-American trade agreement. Arbatov, director of the Institute for U.S. Studies at the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow, also warned that if "normalization" of trade relations between the two countries does not result it would be "a harmful thing for Soviet-American relations as a whole," and would have "serious political repercussions." He indicated Jews would be blamed for those circumstances.

His threats came at a briefing session for the press and many of the approximately 800 businessmen at the two-day U.S.-Soviet trade conference at the Shoreham Hotel sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers with the backing of both the Soviet and American governments. The briefing was held to report on the discussions by panels behind closed doors on various topics concerning "advantages and pitfalls" of U.S. trade with the USSR. A 15-member Soviet trade delegation is attending the conference along with more than a score of Soviet Embassy officials. They are participating in the discussions.

Arbatov predicted that the proposed Congressional legislation "would revive anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union" because it would give "Soviet Jews a special status and treatment." He added: "We have to think not only of that part of the Jewish population that wishes to go to Israel--three or four percent--but also of the more than 90 percent who want to stay. They would not feel good if they were put in an unfavorable light."

He warned that "if this question (Soviet emigration) becomes really insurmountable" this "would spur anti-Semitism in the United States itself" because many would use it "as a pretext against the SALT talks and detente."

Two Israeli soldiers were slightly injured yesterday when their vehicle struck a mine near Sheikh Zueid in northern Sinai. Security forces are searching the area for terrorists who may have planted the mine.

Hafez Ismail, President Anwar Sadat's personal envoy, is due in Bonn today for three days of talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt and other top West German officials. The Egyptian diplomat, who met with President Nixon in Washington last Friday, is expected to discuss the possibilities of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, Foreign Office sources said today. The sources made it clear that while Bonn wants a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, it is not interested in playing the role of mediator and insists that a settlement should be based on the Security Council's Resolution 242.

The Warsaw Yiddish Theater announced today that it will tour West Germany during the latter half of March. The tour has been organized by a German impresario from Duesseldorf and will offer a musical comedy based on Abraham Goldfaden's early musical comedies, titled "A Goldfaden Dream." The play has been produced by the veteran Yiddish actor, Jacob Rotbaum.

The Board of Delegates of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, representing all facets of the British Columbia Jewish community, sent telegrams to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Canada's Minister of External Affairs Mitchell Sharp expressing "horror and anguish" about the reported executions of nine Jews in Iraq. The telegrams, signed by I.M. Wolfe, chairman of the CJC, Pacific Region, stated in part: "We call on you to use your good offices to raise this matter with the Iraqi government either directly or indirectly to learn the exact fate of the nine Iraqi Jews" and the Jewish community.

### ISRAEL STANDS ALONE AT ICAO MEETING; U.S. EFFORT TO SOFTEN WORDING OF EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION QUASHED

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization by an almost unanimous vote, today condemned Israel for downing a Libyan airliner over Sinai Feb. 21 and called on the United Nations Secretary General to initiate an immediate investigation. The ICAO voted 105-1 in favor of the Egyptian draft resolution condemning Israel. The lone dissenting vote was cast by Israel. Two states--Colombia and Malawi--abstained, and four, including Libya, were absent from the General Assembly Hall when the vote was taken.

An attempt by the United States to soften the language of the resolution by substituting the word "deploring" for "condemning" was quashed before the American proposal came to a vote. The U.S. delegate, Mrs. B. C. Dillone, argued that there could be no condemnation before an investigation and warned that use of that term might prejudice the investigation and effect its impartiality. But she withdrew her motion at the behest of the British, Belgian and other delegates who asked her to do so in order to avoid a new controversy.

The text of the resolution as adopted was virtually identical with that of the Egyptian draft submitted at the opening of the ICAO's 19th session yesterday. Only one word was changed, at the insistence of the resolution's 21 Arab and Afro-Asian co-sponsors. The final paragraph of the resolution which called on all parties involved to "cooperate fully" in the investigation, was altered to read, "cooperate unreservedly."

### Doron: Tragedy Did Not Occur In Vacuum

The vote was preceded by a lengthy debate during which more than 40 nations were heard from, most of them condemning the Israeli action. The Israeli delegate, Yaacov Doron, reiterated Israel's sorrow over the loss of 106 lives but observed that the tragedy did not occur in a vacuum.

He said the chain of errors that led to the downing of the commercial airliner resulted in part from widespread Arab terrorist outrages against Israel. He cited the Lod Airport massacre and the murder of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes at Munich last Sept. and noted that the Black September organization which committed the Munich outrage received a \$5 million "reward" from the Libyan government.

Doron said that in view of past terrorist acts and threats of new ones, the Israeli pilots who shot down the airliner were suspicious of its intrusion into Israeli air space. He also blamed the pilot of the Libyan plane and the Cairo control tower for the tragedy. He noted that Israel will offer payment to the families of the victims.

The Egyptian delegate, Foad K. Moursy, described the Sinai incident as a "tragic murder" and said that Israel had issued contradictory statements to hide its responsibility. The Egyptian claimed that there was clear evidence "that the Israeli fighters shot the civilian airplane without warning." He called the incident "a slaughter" and "murder in cold blood."

B.M. Morozov, the Soviet delegate, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives. He said the incident was one further "act of terrorism" by Israel. Y.M. Lambert of France, said the French government solemnly protests and condemns the incident. The Syrian delegate claimed that shooting down the plane was "a deliberate act" by the Israelis.

The delegate from Guinea said the ICAO has never faced such a "flagrant violation of its rules." He announced that Guinea was co-sponsoring the Egyptian draft together with Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Tanzania, Yemen, Chad, Niger, Tunisia and India.

### MEIR-RUSH MEETING TERMED POSITIVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Golda Meir's three hour session with Acting Secretary of State Kenneth Rush "constituted another in a useful, positive discussion with distinguished visitors from the Middle East," the State Department said today. Reading from a prepared statement, Department spokesman Charles Bray said:

"The conversations ranged across the board and focused on the Middle East situation in general and bilateral matters in particular. It was a useful exchange of views conducted in a spirit of friendship." Asked whether U.S. economic assistance and continuation of military supplies to Israel were discussed bilaterally, Bray said these are "traditional subjects" with Israeli leaders. "There has been no fundamental diversions between the two governments for many, many months," he said in response to a question.

### MEMORIAL FOR YANEVE, JEWISH TOWN DESTROYED BY NAZIS, PUBLISHED

LONDON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--A 470-page memorial for a Jewish town in Lithuania wiped out by the Nazis and their henchmen has been published here. It is titled "Yaneve-On-The-Vilija" and is a detailed illustrated history of the former Jewish community of Yaneve, published by the Association of Immigrants from Yaneve and edited by Shimon Noy, of Kibbutz Amir, a former member of the editorial staff of the newspaper Al Hamishmar.

The book represents extensive research by Yitzhak Burstein, chairman of the immigrants' association. It contains individual essays, memoirs of survivors and facts and figures on the Jewish community of Yaneve. The volume is illustrated with some rare photographs and drawings by Larissa Bolnik who comes from the town, located on the Vilija, a Lithuanian river.

### KISSINGER MAY HAVE MIDEAST ROLE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The White House acknowledged today that Dr. Henry Kissinger and Hafez Ismail, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's personal emissary, had met briefly while Ismail was at the White House last Friday for his meeting with President Nixon, but indicated Dr. Kissinger does not have a "primary" role in the American government's participation in the Middle East situation.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Dr. Kissinger, President Nixon's National Security Advisor, "dropped in" for "the last five minutes or so" of the Nixon-Ismail talks at the White House and later spoke "for a few moments" with Ismail before the latter departed for the State Department to meet Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

In an interview last Sunday night on NBC News, Dr. Kissinger said that the role that the U.S. can play will be decided "after Prime Minister Meir has been here, and we have been able to assess the result of the conversations with King Hussein" with Mr. Ismail and then with Prime Minister Golda Meir. He added "I will certainly not turn my primary attention to the Middle East."

