



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St, New York, N.Y. 10036

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XL - Fifty Sixth Year

Tuesday, March 6, 1973

No. 45

BIG QUESTION IN ISRAEL:

WILL MRS. MEIR REMAIN IN OFFICE?

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA)--Israelis are pondering today whether Premier Golda Meir's remarks on an American television interview yesterday indicated that she plans to remain in office after this year's national elections, contrary to her often stated intention to retire. Responding to questions from newsmen on CBS-TV "Face The Nation," Mrs. Meir said that her political future would be decided by her party.

The Labor Party leadership, fearing a bitter struggle for succession, has been urging Mrs. Meir to stay on. Party officials took her television statement as an indication that she intends to do so and called it a "very valuable decision."

Aharon Yadin, the Party Secretary, said, "I always hoped Golda would respond to our members' appeals since the State needs her." But he said he was puzzled "why she had to announce her decision in New York." He said it was possible that her American visit had added weight to her resolution to stay in office.

But the newspaper Maariv reported today that Mrs. Meir telephoned her party colleagues from New York last night to tell them that her remark was for foreign consumption and that she firmly intends to retire when her term of office is up. According to Maariv, Mrs. Meir said she made a deliberately evasive reply to the American newsmen because she didn't think they had a right to intrude into Israel Labor Party affairs.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources that no such phone call was made by Mrs. Meir. The reaction of Labor Party leaders did not indicate that they had received any message from the Premier retracting or watering down her television remarks.

ISRAEL RECEIVED SMALL PORTION OF

U.S. LOANS, GRANTS IN FISCAL 72

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA)--The U.S. government "paid out" \$11,343,900,000 in grants and loans for military and economic aid to foreign governments in the U.S. fiscal year that ended June 30, 1972, and also provided almost \$5 billion in grants and guarantees. Of these totals, Israel received only \$50 million in grant aid--a single item for supporting economic assistance. It also received \$171 million in loans. Government backed guarantees for credit and insurance to Israel reached \$688 million.

These figures were made available today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by the office of Senator Clifford Case (R,N.J.) following an announcement made jointly by him and Senator William Proxmire (D,Wis.) that they have just received the first report from the Nixon administration on "the bill for foreign aid" incurred by U.S. taxpayers for that year.

The Senators said that the grants and loans in fiscal 72 totaled \$5,274,800,000 in military aid and \$6,069,100,000 for economic aid. In addition, various agencies of the government guaranteed and insured \$4,910,200,000 worth of loans and investments to foreign countries, contributed \$163,400,000 to international organizations, and turned over military facilities to foreign governments worth \$631,200,000.

"These figures are staggering, and they should be carefully scrutinized in light of our

pressing domestic priorities," the Senators said in a statement. They cautioned that while they sought to bring some order "out of the chaos of various foreign assistance programs being run by at least six different government agencies," like "the problem of adding apples and oranges and getting fruit salad, all the figures cannot be brought together into a grand total."

Most of the grants and loans went to South Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. Military aid to Jordan totaled \$104 million; Iran, \$118 million; Lebanon \$10.2 million; and Turkey, \$152 million.

JEWISH MEMBER OF NEW IRISH PARLIAMENT

DUBLIN, March 5 (JTA)--Ben Briscoe, of the Fianna Fail, the ruling party of President De Valera and Premier Jack Lynch was re-elected last week to the Irish Parliament for South Central Dublin. He is the only Jew among the new Irish MPs. Another Jewish candidate, Mervin Taylor, Labor, was defeated. Briscoe is the son of the late Robert Briscoe, one of the leaders of the Irish Republican Army, a member of the Irish Parliament for many years and a Lord Mayor of Dublin. South Central Dublin is a two-member constituency.

MURDERED ISRAELI AGENT CONDUCTED

PROBE OF JEWISH-ARAB SPY RING

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--Baruch Cohen, the Israeli undercover agent murdered on a Madrid street in Jan. was the man who conducted the investigation that led to the exposure of a Syrian-directed Jewish-Arab spy ring in Israel, it was disclosed today. Cohen interrogated Daoud Osman Turki, the alleged spy ring leader. Turki's statements and confession, made to Cohen, were read in court today where Turki and five other alleged members of the ring are on trial.

MRS. MEIR DISCUSSES U.S. AID, TERRORISM,

SOVIET JEWS, WITH U.S. JEWISH LEADERS

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said yesterday that her talks with President Nixon in the White House last Thursday were "serious, frank and productive," according to an Israeli spokesman at a press briefing for members of the Israeli press and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after she addressed a closed-door meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Waldorf-Astoria. Mrs. Meir said the talks included continuing economic assistance and loans to Israel and the purchase of armaments.

Mrs. Meir reportedly said part of her meeting with the President was devoted to the question of whether there was any chance for a settlement in the Middle East and the attitude of the Arab states. She expressed the belief that Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian emissary Hafez Ismail did not bring any new suggestions to their meetings with American officials in Washington. The situation, she said, is at present static, but she hoped it might change.

In response to questions by the Jewish leaders concerning Arab terrorism, the Premier was reported to have said there was no recipe for waging a war against terrorism. In conducting actions against Arab terrorist bases where Japanese and Europeans are also trained, she said Israel is preventing terrorist acts against itself.

She pointed out that there is almost no terror-

ist activity in Israel or in the administered territories, and that ironically Arabs suffered more from terrorism within the Jewish State. It was recalled that Secretary of State William P. Rogers last Dec. had called upon the United Nations for punishment or extradition of international terrorists, but that the General Assembly voted instead for Arab proposals to study the question.

Thousands Of Soviet Jews Seek Emigration

The spokesman said that referring to emigration from the Soviet Union, Mrs. Meir expressed satisfaction that new immigrants continue to come, although not in the desired amount. She said there were many problems in absorbing the new immigrants, but that many immigrants are helping with the absorption of the newer ones. The main problems, she said, are the adjustment of newcomers to a new society and the shortage of housing.

Criticizing the Soviet education tax, Mrs. Meir said that on the one hand Soviet authorities allow Jews to leave, while on the other hand they wage a ransom policy. She talked about the scores of "Zion prisoners" in Siberia and the tens of thousands who are waiting to emigrate while living in unbearable conditions.

Mrs. Meir was also reported to have said her visit with Pope Paul VI in the Vatican in February did not solve all the problems between Israel and the Vatican, but that it was an important step. She said the Pope made no mention of the internationalization of Jerusalem. She said she hoped the dialogue with the Vatican would continue.

In other matters, Mrs. Meir said the present world energy crisis posed a severe problem and that oil states such as Libya and Saudi Arabia were accumulating money which could help them control the economies of other countries. She came out strongly against intermarriage outside of Israel. Referring to the Langer case, she said the rabbi should always have a heart when dealing with these kind of problems.

Appearing earlier on CBS-TV "Face The Nation," the Israeli Premier said she saw no progress by any of the Arab countries moving toward some kind of peace talks with Israel. She termed the downing of the Libyan airliner a terrible tragedy, condemned the executions of the two American and one Belgian diplomat, and urged the world community to take steps to rout terrorist activities.

Jewish Problems Become World Problems

At a private reception last night in the home of Ambassador and Mrs. Yosef Teikoah, the Israeli Premier, speaking in Hebrew, told the guests that of all the Arab terrorists who have perpetrated atrocities in the West only one is in prison, in England. "All the others are free," Mrs. Meir remarked and noted that the terrorists who committed crimes in Munich, Italy and Bangkok are back in Arab countries, in Syria and Libya, where they have received warm welcomes. She noted that terrorism, which began as a problem for Jews, has now become a world problem. "Hitler, too, was at the beginning only a problem for Jews," Mrs. Meir said. "In fact, many problems that are now world problems began first as Jewish problems."

Referring to the harsh struggle King Hussein has waged against terrorists in Jordan, she said, smiling, "Kol hakavod (all the honor) to Hussein." Continuing, she said: "We are all told that we have to 'save' the King, and that he could do nothing against the terrorists. But when they were close to the palace, he fought them. Now we

are told not to act against (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat, because he can't act against the terrorists and that we have to 'save' him...."

Pausing for a moment, Mrs. Meir added, to the laughter of the guests "...but no one talks about 'saving' the Prime Minister of Israel." Asked by one of the guests to comment on Hussein's health (who Mrs. Meir was rumored to have met last week in Washington), the Premier said, jokingly, "If I told you that I'd be admitting that I met him, and that I won't do."

ADIV REGRETS JOINING SPY RING

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--One of the key Jewish defendants in the spy trial told the court today that he had regrets about joining the ring and wanted to dissociate himself from it. Ehud Adiv, the Kibbutz-born paratroop veteran, said he became disenchanted with the spy ring after his second visit to Athens and Damascus where he admittedly was in contact with enemy agents.

Adiv said he was convinced that "their way of thinking and action" was not his way and that he had tried to find ways to leave the ring after his return to Israel. He admitted, however, that he underwent training in the use of firearms and explosives while in Syria but said he did so only as a courtesy to his Syrian hosts. He said that as a combat veteran of the Six-Day War, such training was meaningless for him.

Adiv, 26, was allegedly the No. 2 man in the Haifa-based spy ring and headed its "Jewish section." His statement in court today was his first public expression of regret since he and five other members of the ring went on trial in a Haifa district court Feb. 25.

Daoud Osman Turki, a Haifa book merchant who headed the Syrian-directed Arab-Jewish spy ring, admitted at the trial yesterday that he was active in organizing a Marxist underground with the express purpose of overthrowing the existing Israeli regime. He also admitted that he visited Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, Syria and Lebanon to contact enemy agents. It was Turki who recruited the two principal Jewish members of the spy ring, Dan Vered and Adiv.

PLANE SURVIVORS' CONDITIONS IMPROVING

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--A Swiss physician delegated by the International Red Cross visited the Libyan airliner survivors at Beersheba Hospital today and expressed appreciation to the hospital staff for the medical treatment provided them. Dr. J. Campanella confirmed hospital reports that the conditions of the Egyptian and Libyan patients were improving and that they may be able to leave the hospital shortly.

The Red Cross is presently discussing with the Egyptian and Libyan governments the means of transferring their nationals from Israel. Meanwhile, Jean Pierre Bourdet, a French steward from the downed Libyan airliner, was flown to France today for further medical treatment at the request of his family.

Bourdet's condition had improved sufficiently for him to make the flight, according to Israeli and French physicians. He was transferred by helicopter from Beersheba Hospital to Lod Airport and put aboard an Air France jet on which eight seats were made available for his stretcher and plasma equipment.

Two Israeli soldiers were injured by a hand grenade thrown at a patrol in the Shatti refugee camp in Gaza last night. An Israeli patrol scared off terrorists who were about to plant a mine on a Gaza Strip road this morning. The mine was dismantled and the area was searched.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**FRENCH ELECTIONS AND ISRAEL**

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

PARIS, March 5 (JTA)--The first round in the French legislative elections, which took place here yesterday, seems to indicate that France's policy in the Middle East will drastically change with the formation of the new government. The results of the first round seem to indicate that the Gaullist majority will form the next government but will heavily depend on the support and backing of the center Reform Party led by Rouen Mayor Jean Lecanuet and Jehn-Jacques Servan-Schreiber. The Reform Party has made it crystal-clear in pre-election declarations that an improvement in Franco-Israeli relations is a basic issue of its program.

Lecanuet and Servan-Schreiber told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency a few days before the election that they will demand a switch in France's Middle East policy, a halt to the arms embargo, and a rapprochement with Israel. Last night, the two Reform Party leaders stressed that they will support the Gaullists and help them form a new government "only on condition that the Reform Party program is adopted."

During yesterday's vote for the election of the 490-member National Assembly, the left-wing Socialist-Communist coalition came to within four points of winning an absolute majority of the popular vote. The latest figures as revealed here today by the Interior Ministry, with some 80 percent of the vote counted, give the Left 46.3 percent of the vote and the Gaullists only 38.1 percent.

Due to the complexities of the French electoral system, which provides for an election in two rounds, all candidates who have won at least 10 percent of the vote in the first round can run again. This system, which enables candidates to withdraw in each other's favor, could give final victory to the Gaullists if they obtain the support of the small, 12.4 percent, but now all important Reform Party. The second round will take place March 11.

Even if the Gaullists win, the new Gaullist government will have to put up with a far larger and more dynamic opposition. The entry of the Reform Party into the new government, which most observers here take for granted, would probably involve the appointment of Lecanuet as French Foreign Minister. The current Minister, Maurice Schumann, seems in any case barred from a Cabinet post in the next government as he made a very poor showing yesterday and seems practically certain not to be re-elected to the House. According to French tradition, ministers are invariably appointed from within the lower House.

Jewish Candidates in The Election

The following results are available from yesterday's elections:

Dantel Mayer, a former Jewish minister and president of the League for Human Rights, who ran on the Socialist ticket in northern Paris, will have to run again for the second round. His chances of being elected are given as "moderate." Jean-Pierre Bloch, the son of former Justice Minister Pierre Bloch, and president of LICA (the International League Against Anti-Semitism), who ran on the Socialist ticket in another northern Paris district, will also have to run again. His chances are also given as "moderate."

Former Jewish Information Minister Leo

Hamon, who ran on the Gaullist ticket in the Essone district near Paris, is given a very good chance of being re-elected next Sunday. Former Gaullist minister and one of Israel's staunchest friends, Jacques Soustelle, who is trying to make a political comeback in the city of Lyons, did not win an absolute majority in the first round, but is practically certain of victory next week.

The re-elections of former Socialist Premier Guy Mollet in Arras, and General Paul Stehlin, a Reform candidate in Paris, also seem certain. Both are staunch friends of Israel. Pro-Israeli Jewish deputy Claude Gerard Marcus also seems certain of re-election. Marcus ran in Paris on the Gaullist list. Another pro-Israeli figure, former Premier Maurice Bourges-Maunoury, was practically eliminated from the contest at yesterday's first round. Also in poor positions were such prominent Gaullist leaders as former Premier and Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville and anti-Israeli spokesman Habib Deloncle.

No exact figures are available but most observers, basing themselves on the returns from heavily Jewish populated districts, believe that many of France's Jews voted for either the Reform or the Socialist Party. Jewish organizations here did not officially take a stand in the election, saying that every French Jew would have to vote according to the dictates of his conscience and his personal political inclinations.

NRP TO GRAPPLE WITH CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT CONVENTION

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA)--The National Religious Party's newly elected central committee has been delegated the powers of a national convention in order to take further action on two controversial resolutions adopted at the closing session of the NRP convention here last week. The 500-member body is scheduled to meet March 26.

It is already under severe pressure to rescind a resolution adopted by a substantial majority of the NRP delegates advocating compulsory military service for hitherto exempt yeshiva students. Despite a surprising 298-170 vote in favor of the measure, it was swiftly denounced by Israel's two Chief Rabbis. Sources close to the NRP believe the central committee will withdraw the resolution or alter it drastically.

The NRP central committee will also have to deal with another controversial resolution left unsettled by the convention. This one, adopted 278-168, would prohibit the NRP from joining any coalition government that did not amend the Law of Return by stipulating that conversions to Judaism must be in accordance with halacha. The convention decided to let the central committee uphold or discard the measure.

The Cambodian government has asked the Israeli water planning company Tahal to extend its contract for another year on an irrigation project in the Cambodian capital of Phnompenh. The contract expires in April. Israeli experts have been working in Cambodia for the past two years. They were the only foreign experts who continued to work outside the capital during the fighting with Communist guerrillas and thereby earned the respect and appreciation of Cambodian authorities.

The American Medical Association, holding a conference in Tel Aviv, was urged to do its utmost to influence Soviet authorities to allow Russian Jews to emigrate unhindered. The appeal was made by Prof. Yuval Neeman, president of Tel Aviv University, who heads the Israeli Academic Council for Jewish Scientists in the Soviet Union.

