



# daily news bulletin

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## MRS. MEIR SAYS ISRAELI FORCES HAVE CROSSED SUEZ CANAL AND FIGHTING ON WEST BANK

Thanks Nixon, American People And World Jewry For Its Help

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said today that Israeli forces have crossed the Suez Canal and are fighting on the west bank of the waterway. She made the dramatic disclosure in the course of a speech in the Knesset this morning shortly after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat threatened in Cairo to launch long range missiles against Israel unless the Israelis agree to a cease-fire calling for their withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Mrs. Meir did not indicate the size of the Israeli force nor how it crossed the Suez Canal. She said, however, that the operation was part of an overall strategic plan and that it was still in progress. She said the United States deserved the gratitude of the people of Israel for its aid, but added "We do not wish anybody to fight for us, even if we needed somebody to help."

The Premier assured America that its help to Israel would not prejudice its friendship and interests elsewhere in the world--including in the Arab world. "In the name of the Israeli people I thank President Nixon and people of the U.S. who are acting in the old American tradition of aiding a state under attack," she said. The quantity, variety and pace of American supplies are in step with the needs of the time, she added, and assured the world that Israel did not want or need anyone else to do the fighting for her. Mrs. Meir praised American Jews, saying the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds had taken upon themselves to cover Israel's social welfare, education and aliya and health expenses while the country's own resources were wholly to finance the war. The compulsory loan, the voluntary loan and the additional budget the Knesset was due to pass this evening were all for that purpose. Development would be cut back IL250,000 but world Jewry's help would ensure that Israel's peacetime needs would continue to receive resources and to flourish, she said.

The Premier also expressed appreciation of the attitude of Israel's Arab population, saying that numerous Arabs have offered to help the war effort with financial donations and in other ways. "This augurs well for the future," she stated. Premier Meir referred to Jordan's dispatch of troops and tanks to the Syrian front a "worrisome and dangerous step." She said Israel did not want to fight Jordan--and it was not in Jordan's interest to fight Israel. But she warned that if circumstances demanded that Israel strike at Jordanian tanks on the battlefield, they would do it. Mrs. Meir pledged to Israeli prisoners of war that there would be no cease-fire that did not provide for a POW exchange. She noted that there had been much talk of cease-fire--but Israel had received no suggestion from any political body--and so there was no need to discuss this. Syria and Egypt had apparently not yet been hit hard enough--since they did not want a cease-fire. A cease-fire would come only when Arab armies were on verge of collapse, then, she remarked bitterly, there would be plenty of "volunteers" at the UN and elsewhere who would try to bring about a cease-fire.

Referring to the British embargo, Mrs. Meir said that withholding equipment that Israel vitally needed to beat back attack was shameful. She called British and French embargo policies cynical and egotistical opportunism. Israel's aim, she said, was to carry the battle to the enemy and to "continue until we smash his might." She said that one did not need a rich imagination to understand what would have happened had the Egyptian-Syrian attacks come from the pre-1967 borders. As soon as Syrians took Golan Heights they would have begun shelling settlements as of old. "We must have no doubt we are fighting for our survival as a state and as a people.... The Arab leaders pretend their aim is to restore the pre-1967 lines, but in fact they intend the total crushing of Israel: It is our duty to convince peace-loving people the world over who tend to ignore this--that the Arab aim is to destroy Israel," she said.

Mrs. Meir said the 11 days of battle had seen Israel's forces fight bravely and in strength. "The soldiers had fought like lions and inflicted grievous blows on the enemy. But the war is not yet over and the battles rage daily with more dear sacrifices," she declared. Mrs. Meir said the Israeli army was the people's army in the deepest sense. Every household was intimately connected with the army through its dearest ones. Thus the whole country was united as one family. "I am not brave enough to attempt to comfort the hundreds of families who received the terrible message.... they are the sons of all of us.... the pain is all our pain," she said. Menachem Beigin, opposition leader, said after Mrs. Meir spoke that he was prepared for national unity and for its sake would shelve all the questions he had about the beginning of the war and what preceded it until victory was secure. But he assured the Knesset that he would have some basic questions to ask at that time.

## HEAVY FIGHTING ON BOTH FRONTS

By Itzhak Shargl, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

Oct. 16 (JTA)--Heavy fighting was reported on both the Syrian and Egyptian fronts today. A military spokesman confirmed Premier Golda Meir's announcement to the Knesset this afternoon that an Israeli task force had crossed the Suez Canal and was in action on the west bank behind Egyptian

lines. The spokesman gave no additional information except that the Israeli forces have hit artillery and anti-aircraft missile sites in an operation that has been underway for 24 hours. There was no indication tonight whether the task force had withdrawn or remained on the west bank. Heavy battles involving tanks and artillery were reported today on the canal's east bank.

Israel claimed today to have repulsed counter

attacks by Syrian and Iraqi troops on the northern front with heavy losses to the enemy. The communique claimed that Israeli armored units, operating under close air force support, have so far destroyed about 50 percent of the combined Syrian-Iraqi armored forces, an estimated 750-800 tanks. Israel claimed that its fighters downed 22 enemy planes today, 10 over the Syrian front and 12 in the Egyptian sector.

Israel said that a naval force successfully attacked military installations on the Egyptian coast east and west of Alexandria. Direct hits were reported on radar stations and other military targets and all Israeli naval craft returned safely to their bases. According to an Israeli communique Egyptian naval craft fired missiles at Sharm el-Sheikh this morning but scored no hits and were driven off. Terrorists continued to operate from southern Lebanon last night. Three were killed in a skirmish near Manera and fire was exchanged with terrorists at several other points along the border. A resident of Zarit village was injured by a bazooka shell fired from Lebanon.

#### SERIOUS TALKS WITH RUSSIANS CONTINUE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA)--Robert J. McCloskey, State Department spokesman, said today that "serious discussions" are still going on with the Russians concerning the Middle East war. At the same time other officials said that there is no end to hostilities in sight and that so far no turning point has been achieved by either side. McCloskey refused to comment on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's threat made earlier today that Egypt would launch its long-range Zafer missiles against the heart of Israel.

McCloskey also refused to comment on Premier Golda Meir's announcement that Israeli forces had crossed the Suez Canal and were battling on its west bank. For the second successive day he evaded answering directly when asked if the U.S. has given up trying to achieve a cease-fire that would return both sides to the pre-Yom Kippur lines. He said he would not attempt to answer questions that would "inflamm" or "complicate" the negotiating process.

White House spokesman Gerald Warren announced, meanwhile, that President Nixon will meet with four Arab foreign ministers at their request to discuss the Middle East war. The four are Abdelaziz Bouteflika, of Algeria; Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, of Kuwait; Ahmed Benhima, of Morocco; and Omar Sakhaf, of Saudi Arabia. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is expected to be present tomorrow.

McCloskey described the Soviet airlift to Egypt and Syria as still "massive" and said the delivery of war materiel to those countries was continuing at the same pace as described yesterday when he said that roughly 4000 tons of materiel had been delivered on approximately 280 flights. (Other US officials estimated today that the Russians so far have flown about 5000 tons of supplies to the Arabs in 300 flights). Asked if it was fair to say that Soviet actions have been "disruptive" of the Middle East situation, McCloskey replied, "No, I would not make that assertion."

He said that in official channels no threats have been received from oil producing Arab countries to cut off oil to the U.S. because it is resupplying Israel with military equipment. Asked if Jordan, which has sent troops against Israel on the Syrian front, is using American

equipment, McCloskey said the U.S. regretted that Jordan or any country would enter the conflict in a way that could enlarge the war. He said he was not sure there was legal recourse to prevent Jordan from using U.S. equipment. Asked if the U.S. was sending technicians to Israel, McCloskey said he didn't know. He said the U.S. has not introduced any personnel into the fighting. Official sources said the fighting was still fluid on the Syrian front and that there was heavier combat on the Egyptian front. They said "No one can say to you today when the end will come or how the end will be achieved."

#### NIXON, KISSINGER COMMENDED FOR DECISION TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA)--A telegram signed by Jewish leaders was sent yesterday to President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger stating: "The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, representing the American Jewish community, supports the position of our government in implementing the established policy of maintaining the balance of arms in the Middle East and in supplying Israel with materiel required to repel Arab aggression and to meet the challenge of the continuing massive Soviet resupply airlift."

The telegram, sent after State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey announced in Washington that the U.S. has begun "some resupply" of war materiel to Israel, was signed by Jacob Stein, Chairman of the Conference, and the 31 presidents of the Conference of Presidents' constituent organizations. Telegrams supporting the decision to resupply Israel were also sent today to Nixon and Dr. Kissinger by the leaders of the major national rabbinic and synagogal organizations of the three branches of American Judaism and the American Jewish Congress.

#### KISSINGER, LE DUC THO NAMED NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS

OSLO, Oct. 16 (JTA)-- U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was named recipient today of the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize. He shares the award with Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese Politburo member with whom Dr. Kissinger negotiated the Vietnam cease-fire. The announcement of the award was made by the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian parliament. The prize money which this year amounts to 510,000 Swedish kroner, about \$120,000, will be awarded on Dec. 10. Dr. Kissinger is the second Jew to win the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1968, Rene Cassin, of France, head of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, won the coveted prize.

Dr. Kissinger received the news about the award while he was at the White House talking to officials about the Middle East war. During a press briefing later at the State Department the Secretary of State responded to the peace prize announcement by stating: "Nothing could give me more impetus than to end the war in the Middle East and move from there to a decent and lasting peace in the Middle East." Dr. Kissinger is the first Secretary of State to receive the peace prize while in office. The others to receive the prize after leaving the office were Elihu Root (1912), Frank B. Kellogg (1929), Cordell Hull (1945), and Gen. George C. Marshall (1953).

According to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry the famed ballet dancer Valeri Panov was beaten up by the KGB in Leningrad yesterday. He was picked up by the KGB and detained for alleged "trafficking in foreign currency." He was released last night.

## RESPONSES TO ISRAEL AT WAR

From National And International JTA Dispatches

Among the many contributions received today at the headquarters of the New York United Jewish Appeal was a check for \$5,000. What was unique about the contribution was that it was presented in sign language. The presentation was made on behalf of the Hebrew Association of the Deaf by Herman Streicher and Sam Becker, president and secretary, respectively, of the organization.

The message that the members of the association "were very happy to make this contribution and more is forthcoming from the members" was interpreted for the bystanders by Dr. Emil M. Zabell, executive director of the New York Society for the Deaf with which the Association is affiliated.

The Social Democratic government in Hesse, West Germany, has donated DM 500,000 to the Israeli Red Cross. The donation was made on the initiative of SPD Premier Albert Osswald and received full Cabinet approval. Osswald said in a telegram to Israel's Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Horin that the money was to be used to help "all people in distress, regardless of race and religion."

The Berbers, a North African ethnic group, came out yesterday in favor of Israel. A representative of the Berber Academy of Paris, Ould Slimane, told the JTA: "Egypt cares next to nothing about the Palestinians. The only thing that matters to it is its own territorial expansion." Slimane added: "We Berbers can only be on the side of Israel and the Kurds."

A Belgian "Committee of Solidarity with Israel" has been set up in Brussels under the presidency of former Premier Gaston Eyskens. Several former ministers are among the many political figures who have joined the group. In another show of solidarity with Israel, post cards carrying the slogans "Israel, I Love You", are being sold by the Jewish Community Center of Brussels to collect funds for Israel. Thousands of these cards have already been sent and are addressed to "the people of Israel, the Knesset, and Jerusalem".

Seventy prominent Argentines, including writers, artists, academicians and political figures have expressed support for Israel in advertisements published in leading Buenos Aires newspapers. Under the headline, "Solidarity with Israel," the signatories stated: "In view of the attack against Israel by the armies of Egypt and Syria, perpetrated on the most holy day of the Jewish people, we express our energetic condemnation of this action and wish, together with all people of good will, that the nations of the Middle East, free of external pressures, may reach peace together."

A teach-in on the Middle East war is being organized at American universities with the aim of reaching at least 25,000 students on more than 100 campuses, the North American Jewish Students' Network announced today in New York. The date set for the teach-in is Oct. 22. According to a spokesman for the group, the response so far has been "fantastic." The teach-in is sponsored by the Network in cooperation with the American Zionist Youth Foundation "in an effort to systematically expand the level of student consciousness about what is at stake in the Middle East, in both the short and long run," the announcement said.

More than 1000 volunteers from all parts of Canada were processed during the weekend in preparation for their departure for Israel to work on kibbutzim. The first group of 200 volunteers are scheduled to leave today and the other 800 as soon as place is available for them on flights going to Israel. Among the volunteers is Jack Lassale, a French-Canadian who spent three years in a kibbutz and is presently an associate editor of the magazine *Sur Israel*.

Defending the U.S. resupply of war materiel to Israel to offset its losses in the Middle East war Rep. Louis R. Frey (R. Fla.) said in Washington "if Israel does not get planes and this attrition continues there will be no Israel." Frey, who returned to Washington after eight days in Israel in which he visited the fighting zones in the Golan Heights area, said he was to see President Nixon at the White House today or tomorrow and that "I am going to relay the facts as I saw them."

He pointed out that "Israel did not start the war." Challenged by a reporter who suggested that U.S. deliveries of war materiel to Israel would be putting "fuel on the fire" Frey replied with some heat: "When you think of resupply it's not pouring fuel on a fire but giving people a right to survive... these people have a right to try to survive."

Several hundred members of the small Jewish community of Lima, Peru crowded the large meeting room of the Peruvian chapter of B'nai B'rith here to express their solidarity with Israel. The message was conveyed by the president of the Association of Jewish Organizations, Lutz Berger and Eric Toff, president of the Zionist Federation. Israel's Ambassador in Peru, Moshe Avidan, attended the meeting and gave a detailed description of the Middle East situation.

About 200 Jewish university students held a public demonstration of solidarity with Israel Friday, carrying placards in front of the Israeli Embassy in Lima. The demonstration was covered by the press and TV media. The Israeli Ambassador appeared in the evening on a half hour TV program to answer questions from the public immediately after appearance of the Egyptian Ambassador in the same program.

The "solidarity of the American Jewish community in behalf of Israel" was conveyed to Premier Golda Meir by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, declaring that it even "exceeds the sentiment engendered at the time of the Six Day War." Mrs. Jacobson cabled the Premier that "all elements of the American Zionist movement have rallied together, and we have been joined by practically every other segment of American Jewry."

She predicted that the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds will "raise unprecedented sums in immediate cash as well as pledges, and we are making our every resource available for this great need." Mrs. Jacobson told Mrs. Meir that American Jewry is thankful to President Nixon for having taken "first steps to insure Israel of its full defense needs" and pledged the continuance of maintenance of contacts with the President and "working on all aspects of public opinion."

A Gallup poll survey on the attitude of Americans toward the Middle East war showed that 44 percent supported Israel, six percent supported the Arabs, 22 percent backed neither side and 25 percent expressed no opinion.

## THE HUMAN SCENE ON ISRAEL'S WAR AND HOME FRONT'S

From Combined JTA Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Dispatches

By Yitzhak Shargil and David Landau

The story of how a Phantom pilot downed a Kelt ground-to-ground missile that threatened to hit Tel Aviv at the start of the war was told today in the Air Force magazine. The pilot concerned related how he and one other pilot were scrambled on Yom Kippur at 2 P.M. when an unidentified object was spotted on radar making for Tel Aviv. They saw it high above them, trailing fire, and thought it was a MIG on reconnaissance.

Climbing to come closer the Israeli pilot saw it had no pilot and at once realized the nature of the object. Getting behind it he let go with his weapons and hit it the first time. Bits began flying off the Kelt but--fortunately for the pilot--it did not explode in the air but spun down into the sea where it exploded with enormous force creating a massive wave. The Kelt warhead is estimated at three-quarters of a ton. The pilot said he was in process of adding a new floor to his house and didn't want the Kelt to mess that up. Since then the pilot has also dispatched two MIGs--along with their pilots.

The Israeli position on top of Mt. Hermon, described as one of Israel's fortified positions on the Golan Heights, was overrun by Syrian commandos on the first day of war and was captured. This was revealed today after efforts to investigate the fate of the missing Israeli soldiers from that position failed. Israeli authorities have asked the Red Cross to investigate the matter but Syria has made no reply. The soldiers were officially declared missing.

Druze villagers living on the slopes of Mt. Hermon said that several Syrian helicopters appeared "from nowhere" at 2 P.M. on Oct. 6 (Yom Kippur) and assaulted the position. One of the helicopters was set afire by the Israeli defenders. However, the Syrian commandos succeeded in overpowering the position. It is now surrounded by Israelis who are shelling the area where Syrian forces are still deployed.

The West Bank remains quiet but tense. The cease-fire line is reported quiet with little traffic. Israeli settlements are on alert but work in fields goes on. Very few West Bank workers cross the Green Line to work in Israel, and some building firms are unable to function. In Gaza, after early uncertainty, work in the port continues as normal and large cement consignments are being unloaded for Israel.

The government announced that in view of numerous applications by Israeli Arabs (who are exempt from army service) for volunteering work, seven offices will be opened around the country for registering volunteers and for contributions to the war loan by Israeli Arabs. At its own initiative the municipality of Nazareth has set up a war loan committee to raise contributions. Similarly the chairman of the Saknin local council reported to police that his whole village was mobilized and ready to work wherever called. Um el-Fahm village cabled the President and Premier that "we are prepared for any sacrifice we shall be asked to make."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that the Red Cross had not yet received lists of Israeli prisoners from Syria or Egypt. "We have repeatedly demanded this--but thus far without

any response from the Egyptian and Syrian side," the spokesman said; Israel for its part "has made available and continues to present to the Red Cross lists of Egyptian and Syrian prisoners of war captured by our forces," he added.

Israel has also given lists of Israeli military personnel missing and presumed prisoners of war. The Red Cross has been requested to ascertain whether they are in fact prisoners of war in Egypt and Syria. The spokesman also noted that on Sunday a Red Cross representative visited wounded war prisoners in Israeli hospital.

Free midday concerts with world-famous virtuosi appearing seem to be becoming part of Israel's wartime scenery. Sunday Isaac Stern and Pinhas Zuckerman enthralled a Jerusalem audience--which paid IL 16,000 to the soldiers' welfare fund. Last Friday, when pianist Daniel Barenboim appeared, over IL20,000 was raised. The virtuosi plan to continue the concerts both in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Also on the subject of music, Israel Radio after a week of war has got itself organized--with one channel broadcasting classical music interspersed with hourly newscasts and the other broadcasting light music interspersed with the same. The first channel also broadcasts news and newsreels in English, French, Russian and a gamut of immigrant languages ranging from Moghrabi to Georgian.

A Givatayim caravan (trailer dealer, Yisrael Humash, drove a string of well-equipped trailers to an air force base and offered them for pilots to rest up in between sorties. Each trailer is replete with comforts including air conditioning. Humash is an injured 1948 war veteran. Four men from Herzliya loaded their cars last Saturday with goodies--sweets, cigarettes, cakes, fruit, etc.--and simply drove towards the Suez Canal until they were stopped near the front. There, under shelling, they unloaded, and waited around to see the gifts were properly distributed to the fighters.

Raff Augner, a 26 year-old reporter for the Israel Radio, was killed at the Sinai front where he was assigned as a military correspondent. He was killed by the same bomb that killed Gen. Avraham Mendlor. Mendlor and Augner were so far the only casualties to be identified by name.

More than 18,000 people had donated blood by yesterday, the Magen David Adom announced. Donors included Arabs and Druze--including residents of the administered areas--as well as tourists. The MDA said both Jewish and Arab prisoners in jail gave blood too, "including men whose names are associated with some of the most widely reported crimes of recent years, some of them serving life sentences." From abroad have come: 3000 donations from England, and 2000 from the U.S. plus plastic blood containers from France and offers of help from Belgium, Italy, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

The Jerusalem Municipality announced Sturday it had set up a psychological aid service and gave phone numbers where worried or disturbed people could call for help 24 hours a day. Social workers on the staff of the National Insurance Institute suggested to the Defense Ministry that they set up teams of workers to help soldiers or soldiers' families.