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UN CONVOY OF FOOD SUPPLY TO THIRD ARMY PASSES THROUGH ISRAELI LINES

Charge That Israel Was Pressured Into Permitting The Move

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent, and David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The first units of a United Nations food supply convoy for the encircled Egyptian Third Army passed through Israeli lines today after elements of the Third Army opened fire on the very route over which the supplies were to come. Lt. Gen. Haim Barlev warned Egyptian Gen. Bashir Sharif this afternoon that any further shooting by the Egyptians would prejudice the passage of supplies.

In other developments today, Egyptian forces at Ismailia fired SAM missiles at an Israeli plane flying over the Suez Canal. Two hundred Finnish soldiers, a unit of the United Nations Emergency Force, entered Suez town today after having been turned back twice by Israeli forces holding the approaches to the town. One Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded when their vehicle struck a mine on a road near the Lebanese border. Israel lodged complaints with the UN truce observers over the Egyptian shooting incidents today. But the food convoy, agreed to by Israeli Gen. Aharon Yariv at his post-midnight meeting with Egyptian officers, was allowed passage. Barlev, former Chief of Staff who is now on active military duty on the Egyptian front, was at the convoy's starting point in the Israel-held sector of the west bank of the canal today.

The supply vehicles, driven by UN personnel are inspected by Israeli soldiers before being allowed to proceed. Barlev has made it clear that no ambulances will be permitted. The evacuation of some 2000 wounded Egyptian soldiers of the Third Army has been held up until Egypt agrees to exchange wounded Israeli soldiers in its hands. The 100-vehicle UN convoy proved difficult to assemble, mainly because of the shortage of drivers. It was decided that the convoy would be split into units of 10 trucks each. Three Austrian officers, members of the UN Emergency Force, are in charge of the convoy. They conferred with Barlev today after which he authorized the convoy to begin. It was uncertain how the supply trucks would cross to the east bank of the Suez Canal where the Third Army is located. There are no bridges and apparently no rafts. Meanwhile another convoy of 12 trucks entered the city of Suez with medical supplies and blood plasma for the civilian population reported to number about 15,000.

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar charged tonight that the supply convoy of food and drugs to the encircled Egyptian Third Army was forced on Israel. Israel was forced to agree, but it will be a one-time operation, he told interviewers on a television program. Elazar said the meeting between Israeli and Egyptian officers was a good sign and they probably would continue because various aspects of the cease-fire remain to be resolved. It is premature to call these talks direct negotiations, Elazar said. Summing up the war, the Chief of Staff said Israel had "too short" notice of the Egyptian-Syrian attacks. He hinted that intelligence assessments were to blame. But, he added, Israel never pinned its defense strategy wholly on early warnings. He said that since 1970 it had developed a strategy whereby the regular army and air corps was always prepared to meet an attack "to avoid catastrophe" while the reserves were mobilized.

Elazar's obvious displeasure over the supply convoy to the Third Army was reflected in Israeli newspaper reports over the weekend that Cabinet ministers and high ranking military officers resented reported U.S. pressure on Israel to allow the resupply operation. The newspaper Haaretz said that Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Elazar were particularly angry. They maintained that while Israel should make every effort to respond in general to U.S. requests, it was intolerable that Washington should exert pressure on local tactical problems.

The Third Army, cut off by Israeli forces from all of its supply routes, was in a precarious position without food or water. While Israel at its own initiative supplied the Egyptians with blood plasma for their wounded last Thursday, the question of resupply had been an important card in Israel's hand with regard to solving such cease-fire problems as the POW exchange. Israeli ministers believe that the U.S. promised the USSR that the Third Army would be resupplied without first consulting Israel, Haaretz said.

Yediot Acharonot columnist Ben Porat claimed today that the Third Army had been on the verge of surrender until the U.S. decided to save it. "There is only one explanation for U.S. behavior with this pressure on Israel increasing daily in intensity. The Americans want to prove to Egypt that it is not Russia but the U.S. alone that is able to secure from Israel one concession after another," Porat wrote.

MRS. MEIR: DECISION TO AVOID PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION WAS CALCULATED RISK

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said today that her government's decision not to take pre-emptive action against Egypt and Syria before Oct. 6 and thereby absorbing the shock of their first attack was a calculated risk and that it remained to be seen if it was worthwhile. Speaking on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation," broadcast via satellite from Israel,

Mrs. Meir was asked if she would take the risk again. "If this is taken into consideration in all arrangements that have to be made, we will say, well, we paid for it," the Premier replied. "We suffered for it but in the end it balances well. But if we are treated as though we started the war and as though we are responsible, then I don't know what," she added.

Asked about arms supplies from the U.S. in the past and future, Mrs. Meir agreed that Israel was

becoming more self-sufficient but indicated that it had a long way to go and would still "ask our friends to sell us even more in the future." She preferred to speak of "friendship" rather than "dependence" on the U.S. "I would like to see it as a matter of friendship, and the understanding of the largest power in the world that a small nation, no matter how small, should not be at the mercy of anyone that wants to bully it. And I think it is as important for the U.S. as it is for Israel."

Later she added "It does not mean that we do not from time to time have differences of opinion sometimes rather painful ones, with the U.S.... The U.S. has its interests as we have ours. I think in most phases of interest, as far as peace is concerned and so on, we are at one." Mrs. Meir agreed that she would have preferred a cease-fire initiated directly by Egypt and Israel but said this had not seemed possible. Israel suggested the meeting between officers and was very happy it had taken place. She "couldn't say this leads directly to peace quickly but...it is a good start."

POW Issue Of Prime Concern

Premier Meir spoke sharply about Egypt's and Syria's failure to honor the Geneva Conventions about POWs and indicated she would not think of peace negotiations until this issue had been settled, although she refused to say specifically that this was a "condition" to such negotiations. The issue had been raised at the officers' meeting. "We cannot just give up our men to the mercy of (President Anwar) Sadat (of Egypt) and (President Hafez) Assad (of Syria)," she said. She said she thought the Soviets had undertaken to persuade Egypt more intently than Syria towards the peace table, agreeing that Syria had always taken a tougher stand. But now Syria too had accepted Resolution 242 and the concept of negotiations and she hoped "they will live up to it."

Denies 5000 Dead And Wounded

On the question of the Palestinians Mrs. Meir said their solution was to live in the state of Jordan which had always had a majority of former Palestinians. She repeated her old doctrine that there would only be two states between the sea and Iraq. She noted the "abnormal situation" that while Jordanian tanks were killing Israelis in Syria the Jordan River bridges had remained open. Israel had striven, she said, not to disrupt the bridges. There had been no contact with Jordan since the war, she said, implying that there had been before the war.

She denied the Institute for Strategic Studies estimate of 5000 Israeli dead and wounded but agreed "we suffered a lot." Asked if she was afraid that Sadat, having been defeated, would, by political arrangements, be handed a victory and become a hero, she said "I hope not, but a few things that have happened in the last few days make me worry." (By David Landau)

ISRAELIS, EGYPTIANS MEET FACE TO FACE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1956

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A meeting of historic significance for the Middle East took place shortly after midnight today in an improvised shed near the 101 kilometer marker on the Suez-Cairo road, an area held by Israeli forces on the west bank of the Suez Canal. For the first time since the Sinal war of 1956, senior Israeli and Egyptian officers met face to face to discuss a truce. They agreed to meet again but no time

was set.

The meeting between Israeli and Egyptian officers was the first outcome of the UN Security Council's decision to send a 7000-member international peace-keeping force to the Middle East under its auspices. The UN authorized \$30 million for the force for the first six months. The implications of this first formal contact in 17 years were submerged in the laconic phrases of the official communique. It said that representatives of the Israeli and Egyptian armies met at 1:30 a.m. under the auspices of the United Nations observers and two subjects were discussed: questions of the cease-fire lines and questions of transfer of supplies to the encircled Egyptian Third Army on the east bank of the canal.

Salutes, Hand Shakes And Talks Start

There was more to it, of course. It was learned that an Israeli unit, acting on orders, prepared the shed, arranged illumination, placed a table and benches and laid out some light refreshments. A small convoy approached the shed from the Egyptian side. The vehicles brought a number of senior Egyptian officers, headed by a Maj. Gen. Then the Israeli cars arrived. The Israeli officers were headed by Maj. Gen. Aharon Yariv, former intelligence chief who is acting assistant to the Chief of Staff. He was accompanied by four other officers serving as his aides.

The two groups saluted each other, shook hands and sat down. A UN observer attended the meeting but did not serve as chairman. The main subject of the two-hour talks was the ways and means of providing non-military supplies to the encircled Egyptian Third Army. The Third Army has a large number of wounded, about 2000 men, who need hospital treatment, and the question of food and water for the Third Army was so urgent that Israel agreed that a 100-truck convoy should pass through the Israeli lines. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

ALLON: ISRAEL, EGYPT PULL-BACK TO OCT. 6 POSITIONS FIRST STEP TO PEACE TALKS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon proposed last night that both Israel and Egypt pull back to the positions they held on the Suez Canal before war broke out Oct. 6 as a first step to peace talks. He also expressed the opinion that the chances for a permanent peace settlement were better now than at any time since 1948. (President Nixon offered the same assessment at his press conference Friday night.)

He conceded that the cease-fire had robbed Israel of a more decisive victory over Egypt but defended it, saying that had the cease-fire "really endangered Israel's position, the U.S. would never have asked us to accept it." On the whole, he said Israel had improved its positions and was better placed strategically on both fronts than before the war.

Allon said that the direct meeting between Israeli and Egyptian officers might just mark the beginning of more comprehensive direct negotiations. "I believe negotiations have a dynamic of their own and these may lead to others," he said. He gave no indication of any American pressure behind them. He said both Israel and the Arab states had vital lessons to learn from the war.

On the Israeli side, Allon said, it was necessary to discard certain unfounded assumptions such as scorn for the Arab soldier and the inflated gap between Israeli and Arab fighting qualities. The Arabs should have learned that they cannot achieve their ends by military means and might now be ready to try diplomatic measures, he said, adding, the balance of strength between the two armies remains what it was before the war.

WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS -- From Combined Jewish Telegraphic Agency Dispatches

The war in the Middle East came to an end and diplomacy moved to the forefront during the weekend. President Nixon in a press conference Friday night said the United States and the Soviet Union had come close to a confrontation in the Middle East but now chances for peace in the area were the best in 20 years. He criticized America's North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies for not supporting the U.S. position in the Middle East.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Premier Golda Meir told her Labor Alignment colleagues that Israel was under a heavy threat from the Soviet Union but was saved by the steadfastness of the U.S. She said that the Russian threat against Israel was even greater than that following the Sinai War of 1956 but this time Israel had the U.S. on its side. Mrs. Meir said she had no words to praise the U.S. help for Israel during the war. "There is one God and one friend," she stated. The Premier vigorously defended Israel's acceptance of the cease-fire: "With what would we have defended ourselves had we not accepted it," an obvious inference to U.S. arms supplies.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Kenneth Keating, in an interview on Israeli radio said the U.S. will not impose any solution on the Mideast countries and will not allow anyone else to impose a solution. He said the U.S. attitude is that future borders should be fixed through negotiations by the parties concerned in accordance with Resolution 242. Keating said there is an understanding between the U.S. and Israel on many issues although there are always some disagreements too.

West Germany told the United States to stop supplying arms to Israel from U.S. bases here. Air and sea shipments had been going on last week. The West German government told U.S. Ambassador Martin Hillenbrand and Charge d'Affaires Frank Cash that "weapons deliveries using West German territory or installations from U.S. depots in West Germany to one of the warring parties cannot be permitted." State Secretary Paul Frank emphasized that the West German government did not want to be dragged into the Middle East conflict, and would stick to its policy of neutrality. This was the best way to help find a lasting and just peace, he said.

After a lull of almost three weeks, foreign airlines are resuming their scheduled flights to and from Israel. Lufthansa landed her first plane in Lod yesterday. Although only 20 passengers arrived and a similar number left, Lufthansa decided to maintain all her daily flights. Austrian Airways resumed regular service today and Sabena will resume flights tomorrow. Meanwhile El Al has decided to launch a large-scale campaign to encourage tourism to Israel. El Al offices already reported that many more tourists are coming to Israel, now that the Yom Kippur War has ended.

In Bonn, opposition leader Karl Carstens of the Christian Democratic Union said the Mideast war had not been started by Israel and he accused the Soviet Union, not only of supplying weapons to the Arabs, but of encouraging one Arab state, which had stood apart, to join in the conflict. He said all this had happened during a period of detente, a detente, he declared, which had not worked in the Middle East. He praised the U.S. for its precise and carefully stepped up

actions, which, however, had not been implemented before Israel had stretched itself to the limits of its own defense.

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns said in Brussels over the weekend that the European allies were right to remain silent on the Middle East crisis. In a statement to the NATO Council, the Secretary General said if NATO had not maintained silence on the Mideast conflict, "it would have appeared to be intervening directly in that part of the world." This was apparently in response to criticisms by President Nixon and the State Department that America's NATO allies had gone to some lengths to separate their Mideast policy from the U.S.

Observers in Brussels attributed NATO's silence to an effort to avoid being accused of overstepping its rightful spheres of influence which are limited to the frontiers of its member countries; to a fear of Arab economic reprisals such as oil boycotts if they intervened even indirectly in the conflict; and to failure by the U.S. to officially inform NATO of its decision to mount a world-wide alert.

According to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reaching London 25 Riga Jews protested to Tass against biased reporting of the war news. They pointed out that they did not approve of the anti-Israel policy of the Soviet government either, but they expected at least factual and unbiased reporting from the fronts by the Soviet media.

Also reported was that as soon as the Israelis crossed the Suez Canal and established a base on Egyptian soil, five Jews in Tibilisi--the Goldstein brothers, Elizabeta Bykova, Yevsey Gelman and Eva Kipnis--cabled Israeli army Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, stating: "Congratulations. We are extremely proud of our soldiers. Best wishes. We consider ourselves Israeli prisoners of war in the Soviet Union."

Eight former leaders of the Danish World War II underground left Copenhagen tonight for Israel as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the saving of Danish Jews from Nazi-occupied Denmark. The group was headed by Jens Lillelund, a well-known friend of Israel's. The trip was to have taken place earlier this month but was put off because of the war.

Former Soviet master spy chief Leopold Trepper, whom Polish authorities recently granted permission to leave Poland, told the JTA in Copenhagen he would be leaving for London Nov. 3 or 4 for a leg operation. He said his doctors found him "too ill" to stop over in Copenhagen to see one of his sons. The family reunion will, therefore, take place in London. Trepper's wife, Luba, who is still in the U.S., is due to visit her youngest son in Canada before joining her husband.

Bertram H. Gold, American Jewish Committee executive vice-president, told the agency's National Executive Council meeting in St. Louis that "the Yom Kippur War may well have brought about new perceptions on both sides which could provide the basis for a new understanding between Arabs and Israelis." He also told the 500 leaders that American Jews were on the threshold of a new era marked by dangers and opportunities. He cautioned that the current situation may be one "ripe for scapegoating" and urged a campaign against "the new anti-Semitism that is emerging."

MILLS-VANIK MEASURES FACE KNIFE

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the Democratic Party's leadership in the House of Representatives have again delayed final consideration of the Mills-Vanik legislation regarding Soviet emigration policy.

House Speaker Carl Albert (D.Okla.) and Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill (D. Mass.) received the requests Thursday, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed, during the meeting on the Middle East crisis in the White House of the President, top Administration officials and the leaders of the two major parties of the House and Senate.

The House Rules Committee on Oct. 8--two days after Egypt and Syria attacked Israel--postponed final scheduling of a debate in the House on the Trade Reform Act of 1973 which included a modified form of the Mills-Vanik proposal. On Oct. 24, the Committee decided to schedule a seven-hour debate on the Act for Oct. 30. But the possibility of a Soviet-American confrontation over the Middle East persuaded the Democratic leaders to avoid further breakdown at this point of Soviet-American relations although they are determined to press the Mills-Vanik measure to ultimate passage.

Delaying Action Sought

While the delay in the House vote is occasioned by the crisis between the superpowers over the Arab-Israeli war, the Administration continues to be strongly opposed to the legislation banning MFN and credits to which it is committed under an agreement with the USSR signed last Oct. Even in warning the Soviet government Thursday about possible confrontation, Kissinger seemed to go out of his way to note that the U.S. opposes interfering in Soviet domestic policy, a clear reference to the Jackson/Mills-Vanik legislation.

Thus, JTA was informed; the Administration is delaying a House vote because of the strong feelings among Congressmen against the Soviet Union for its encouragement of Arab attacks on Israel. The Administration strategy, using the current crisis as a delaying tactic, is for a vote, when the Middle East situation cools, to kill the entire section in the trade bill dealing with MFN treatment and vote down the Mills-Vanik motion, too.

This would put the trade bill into a possible compromise with the Senate version which is expected to carry the full Jackson Amendment. In the Senate-House conference to iron out differences between the two versions, the Administration hopes to kill the Jackson Amendment as well.

Actually, killing the Jackson and Mills-Vanik sections will not give the USSR MFN since the present legislation, in effect, forbids it to the Soviet Union. New legislation is required to grant such tariff concessions. No such bills are at present in sight. The Administration, however, could continue to grant credits to the Soviet government through the U.S. Export-Import Bank, which it has already done. The Administration's purpose, according to knowledgeable sources, is to prove to the USSR in a continuous effort at détente that it is doing its best to avert Congressional legislative expression against Soviet repression of its citizens.

18 MOSCOW JEWS ARRESTED

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Eighteen Moscow

Jews were arrested Thursday while attempting to deliver a petition on behalf of Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov on her 29th birthday to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry has learned. Among those arrested were the well-known activists Vladimir Slepak, Victor Polsky, Pavel Abramovich and Mikhail Agursky. After the arrest of the 18, another 23 Jews sent a telegram of protest to the Supreme Soviet.

Meanwhile 100 Moscow Jews have approached the Soviet Red Cross to donate blood for the Israeli army. When they were told the USSR was not sending blood to any of the combatants, the Jews pointed out that there were signs at Moscow University asking for blood for the Arab cause.

The SSSJ has also learned that the case of the Tiblisi activist brothers, Isai and Grigory Goldstein, both physicists, may be reopened by Soviet authorities. Their scheduled trial for "anti-Soviet slander"--protesting the use by Arab terrorists of Soviet weapons during the Munich massacre--was suspended earlier this year after large-scale Western protests.

Meanwhile, Kiev authorities have renewed their procedure of dividing Jewish families applying for exit visas, the SSSJ also reported. Activist Yuri Soroko was given a visa, but not his wife. The wife of activist Igor Goldfarb was given a visa but his permission to leave was withdrawn after he read a prayer at Babi Yar in memory of the victims of the Nazi slaughter.

U.S. URGED TO HELP ARRANGE FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI POWs

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller sent telegrams today to President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger urging them to help, through the United Nations, to arrange for the release of Israeli prisoners of war, especially the wounded, held by Egypt and Syria. Rabbi Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, referred in his telegrams to the statement of Ambassador John Scali, the U.S. UN representative in the Security Council that such POW exchange would be sought by both the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The telegram said: "It is inconceivable to us that Israel should be asked to take the unprecedented action of providing its enemy with provisions while that enemy continues to fire upon Israeli soldiers and has no intention of surrendering its arms. That enemy continues to flout the Geneva Convention by refusing to give the International Red Cross the names of captured Israeli soldiers while Israel has not only submitted the names of its captured Arab prisoners but is even at this moment offering to return the seriously wounded."

The telegram continued: "We ask that the humanitarian issue of prisoner exchange be taken up concurrently with discussions on the conditions of the cease-fire so that thousands of families, both Arabs and Jews, will not suffer the agonies of uncertainty of the status of their loved ones." Rabbi Miller had previously sent commendatory messages to Nixon and Kissinger for their "forthright action in facing up to the Soviet challenge to send troops to the Middle East." Meanwhile, Mrs. Henry N. Rapoport, president of the Womens League for Conservative Judaism, has also appealed to President Nixon to intervene on the POW issue.

Residents of Borman Hall and Prentis Manor of the Jewish Home for the Aged in Detroit contributed \$1315 for the Israel Emergency Fund. One 93-year-old woman at Prentis Manor gave \$500--the total she had saved to cover her funeral expenses.