



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI POWs A MAJOR CEASE-FIRE ISSUE

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA)--An army officer disclosed tonight that Israel has submitted the names of 450 of its soldiers presumed to be prisoners of war to the International Red Cross for transmission to Egypt and Syria but that neither country has acknowledged the list so far. The announcement by Gen. (Res.) Shmuel Eyal who deals with POW cases, was the first to mention a specific number of Israeli POWs. Eyal said that 350 of the men are presumed to be in Egyptian hands and 100 in Syria. In addition, Egypt holds ten Israeli POWs, mostly downed pilots, who were captured before the Aug. 1970 cease-fire, one of them in captivity since Dec. 1969.

The Israeli decision to permit the convoys for the Egyptian Third Army followed a "special and urgent appeal" from the U.S., the Cabinet announced yesterday. The Jerusalem Post reported today that the appeal from Washington was made Friday night. The paper said Israel had been willing to allow the Third Army to surrender and withdraw safely to the west bank of the canal but "President Nixon was extremely reluctant to have a confrontation with the Soviets on this issue and therefore urged Israel to accede to his request that the Third Army and (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat's prestige be preserved and it not be forced to surrender." The Knesset will meet in special session tomorrow to discuss the continued failure of Egypt and Syria to comply with the Geneva Convention concerning the exchange of prisoners of war. The session was called at the behest of the Likud opposition faction which has sharply criticized the government's agreement to allow food and drug convoys to reach the encircled Third Army before Egypt has responded to a POW exchange.

Eyal said that Israel now holds more than 7000 POWs, most of them Egyptians and that the names and ranks of nearly 4000 of them have already been provided to the Red Cross. He said Israel submits POW lists to the Red Cross twice daily and that it permitted Red Cross representatives to visit wounded POWs in Israeli hospitals on Oct. 11 and 13, and that on Oct. 19 the Red Cross was permitted to visit a POW camp and spent four hours talking to hundreds of prisoners. In contrast, neither Syria nor Egypt has permitted the Red Cross to visit Israeli POWs, not even the wounded. Syria has not submitted any POW lists and Egypt submitted only 48 names of which only 40 were identifiable.

Eyal said that Israel has fully observed the provisions of the Geneva Convention relating to POWs and is prepared for a total POW exchange or at least an exchange of wounded prisoners. The Geneva Convention requires combatants to announce the names of POWs, permit visits by Red Cross representatives and exchange wounded prisoners. In addition to the Egyptians, Israel holds 354 Syrian POWs, 17 Iraqis and five Moroccans. It was learned that the Egyptian prisoners include 350 officers, 30 of the rank of Lt. Col. and 10 full Colonels. It was also learned that some 40 Israeli POWs have been identified from tv films and photographs published in Arab and international newspapers and tv broadcasts.

## TEKOAH ACCUSES EGYPT, SYRIA OF INHUMAN CONDUCT TOWARD ISRAELI POWs

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah accused the Egyptian and Syrian governments today of "inhuman conduct" with regard to Israeli prisoners of war in their hands and asked Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to give his "urgent attention to the fact that the Egyptians and Syrians are persisting in their violations of the Geneva Convention." The seriousness of these violations and the guilt of the governments concerned "are aggravated by the continuation of these breaches," Tekoah said in a letter to the Secretary General. It was his second letter on the subject to Waldheim since Oct. 24. In today's letter Tekoah cited a communique released in Geneva last night by the International Committee of the Red Cross which confirmed that since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East Oct. 6 it has been "insistent in obtaining lists of POWs" and visits to them by IRC representatives.

The communique said that its representations "have been without any results in Syria while in Egypt the 48 names furnished some ten days ago and a visit to a few of the wounded are only a first step which has not been followed by any other since." On the other hand, the Red Cross communique stated that "It has obtained satisfaction from the Israeli authorities...to this day," Tekoah noted in his letter. The Israeli envoy added that the "inhuman conduct of the Egyptian and Syrian governments on the question of POWs is a matter of utmost gravity requiring most urgent efforts to bring about Egypt's and Syria's compliance with their international obligations." Tekoah requested that his letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

## ISRAEL FOILS ATTEMPT BY 3RD ARMY TO BREAK OUT OF ENCIRCLEMENT

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Israel claimed today that it foiled an attempt by the Egyptian Third Army to break out of encirclement. An army spokesman said the Egyptians attempted to throw an infantry bridge across the Suez Canal but it was destroyed by Israeli artillery fire. According to Col. Nahman Karni, the bridge

was spotted at dawn about seven kilometers from the southern outlet of the canal. He said the Egyptians apparently intended to send a commando platoon across the canal from the east to the west bank. Israeli artillery scored direct hits and the bridge capsized, he said. It was learned, meanwhile, that senior Israeli and Egyptian officers may hold a second meeting tomorrow at the 101 kilometer marker on the Cairo-Suez road, the site

of their first meeting yesterday.

### Three Egyptian Helicopters Downed

Israeli forces, shot down three Egyptian helicopters that were flying in the direction of the encircled Egyptian Third Army in the southern section of the Suez Canal early today. Two of the copters were downed by Israel Air Force jets sent up to intercept them and fell into the Gulf of Suez. The third was hit by ground fire and crashed in an area held by Egyptian forces, a military spokesman said. The helicopters were believed to be trying to airlift supplies to the Third Army. The incidents occurred shortly after 1 a.m. local time.

(At the UN this morning Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah charged that the helicopter flights constituted a "flagrant violation" of the cease-fire agreement by Egypt. In a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Tekoah accused the Egyptians of additional cease-fire breaches yesterday. He alleged that Egyptian forces opened tank, artillery and small arms fire against Israeli forces in the southern sector of the canal and that they also fired ground-to-air missiles across the cease-fire lines.)

### Water Most Prized By Egyptians

The supply of food, water and medical supplies to the Third Army through Israeli lines continued this morning. The main problem was the ferrying of the truckloads of supplies across the canal to the beleaguered Egyptian forces on the east bank. There are no bridges or boats. For the time being, the ferrying is accomplished by Soviet-made Egyptian amphibious tanks. Egyptian supply trucks, driven by UN personnel, continued to move eastward toward the canal.

The white plastic water containers carried by the trucks seem to be most prized by the Egyptians. A young Egyptian officer who identified himself as a Lt. Col., though he wore no insignia of rank, told the Israeli officer accompanying one convoy to the canal banks that "We lack nothing, we have everything we need." The Israeli replied, "If this is so we can pull the convoy back." The Egyptian hesitated and asked if there was water in the convoy and in what quantities. Egyptian soldiers loaded the water containers on to an amphibious tank for the return trip across the 100-foot waterway.

### Israeli, Egyptian Doctors Work Together

Meanwhile, Egyptian and Israeli physicians worked side by side today treating wounded Egyptian POWs in Israeli hands. The movie house in a captured Egyptian army camp on the west side of the canal has been turned into a hospital. The Egyptian doctors themselves are POWs. One of them, Capt. Ahmed Makdi Smacka, 28, told newsmen that he received full cooperation and assistance from his Israeli colleagues. He said he was a graduate of the Alexandria Medical School and had been working in a field hospital unaware that Israeli forces had crossed the Suez Canal until he was taken prisoner. (By Yitzhak Shargil.)

### EFFORTS MADE TO BRING UNEF FORCES UP TO FULL STRENGTH

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is trying to bring the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East up to its full strength of 7000 men authorized by the Security Council's resolution last Thursday. But he has a long way to go, according to a progress report issued here this

morning.

So far contingents supplied by Austria, Finland and Sweden have arrived in Cairo and some of them have already been deployed in the cease-fire zones along the Suez Canal. But they are considerably below strength according to the progress report which was dated Oct. 28.

Waldheim has requested the three governments "to take urgent measures to bring their contingents up to the strength of an effective battalion," the report said. According to a UN spokesman, an effective battalion consists of 750-800 men. So far Austria has contributed 166, Finland 215 and Sweden 204 to UNEF.

The Secretary General, meanwhile, is in touch with the government of Ireland with a view to transferring the Irish contingent presently serving with the UN in Cyprus to the Middle East, the report disclosed. The Irish contingent reportedly numbers 144 men. Waldheim is also in touch with the Canadian government to contribute to UNEF but Egypt is reportedly opposed to the participation of a Canadian force.

The Security Council resolution establishing UNEF stipulated that it could be composed of the forces of all UN member states except the five permanent members of the Security Council. But a UN spokesman said today that there were three additional criteria that have to be met by contributing states. He said these were equitable geographic distribution; acceptance by the parties involved; and the capability of the contingents.

### USSR To Contribute To UNEF

While some sources at the UN predicted that the world body would be hard pressed financially to maintain UNEF after the Security Council authorized \$30 million for the force for the first six months, the Soviet Union indicated today that it would contribute toward financing UNEF. A spokesman for the Soviet Mission said in reply to questions at a press conference this afternoon that his country would support a UN peace-keeping force if it operated in a "lawful and legitimate" way in keeping with the UN Charter.

Asked if the USSR regarded UNEF as lawful and legitimate, the spokesman said it did and, in reply to a follow-up question said Russia would contribute toward its financing. Observers here said this is the first time the USSR has agreed to participate in financing a UN peace-keeping force anywhere in the world. (By Yitzhak Rabi.)

### U.S. SAYS NO TO BIG POWERS IN MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reiterated today U.S. opposition to Big Power involvement in the Middle East conflict. He said that such involvement--by the U.S. and the USSR--would only turn the Mideast into an arena of conflict between them. He added, however, that "outside countries have learned that they have an obligation to remove the dangers that the Middle East represents and the United States is prepared to bring about a major effort toward a just and durable peace."

Kissinger, speaking to newsmen after he emerged from a closed door briefing he gave to members of the House Armed Services Committee, and as Egypt's Acting Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi arrived here to meet tomorrow with President Nixon and the Secretary of State, stated that he regarded the meeting last night between senior Israeli and Egyptian officers--the first since 1956--as an encouraging step forward in attempts to work out a Middle East peace settlement. Kissinger affirmed that the chances of peace were better than they have been during the past 20 years.

## FIREBOMBING OF SYNAGOGUE SEEN AS PLOT TO DRIVE JEWS OUT OF EAST SIDE Mayor Orders Additional Security In Areas

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Police are continuing their search for the person or persons responsible for firebombing a synagogue on the Lower East Side early Friday morning. Mayor John V. Lindsay directed Police Commissioner Donald Cawley "to make every effort to apprehend those who committed this sickening act and to provide additional security in the area."

Rabbi Nison Alpert, spiritual leader of the 75-year-old Chevra Bachurim B'nei Ahavas Achim synagogue, reported that the sanctuary had been totally destroyed and that damage to the edifice is estimated at more than \$100,000. According to the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty and the United Jewish Council of the East Side this was the 16th incident of arson or major vandalism involving a Jewish house of worship on the Lower East Side during the last two years.

Lindsay condemned "this atrocious act" and urged any New Yorker having information as to the identity of those who committed this act to call the local police department's Ninth Precinct. He pledged that "we will not rest until" the fire-bombers have been apprehended. "Rabbi Alpert and the congregants of his synagogue have long resided in this area which is rich with Jewish tradition and culture," Lindsay stated. "Their right and the right of every New Yorker to attend prayer services with ease and security must be upheld."

### Deliberate And Premeditated

Rabbi Alpert, who is also the president of the Jewish Community Council of the Lower East Side, said that the synagogue's total destruction "leaves us nowhere to go, nowhere." Rabbi Joseph Langer, executive director of the United Jewish Council, stated that the firebombing was "deliberate and premeditated." Asked if he could attribute a motive for the act, Rabbi Langer told the JTA: "I would say that this is part of a systematic plot to chase Jews out of the neighborhood, to frighten them into leaving."

Rabbi Alpert expressed a similar view, adding, "We were the last synagogue in this area to hold daily services. Now there are none." He noted that worshippers on their way to and from services had been subjected to taunts and rock-throwing from young people on the street.

### May Be Related To Fuentes Issue

Meanwhile, Jerome M. Becker, president of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, said his staff launched a private investigation of the incident and also affirmed that the Council's preliminary findings "would seem to point in the direction of a systematic plot to obliterate the last vestiges of (Jewish) communal life from the Lower East Side." He further stated, "We must utilize every agency of our city to make certain that the surviving remnants of our elderly Jews are permitted to live out their lives in dignity, safety and security."

Rabbi Langer and several other residents in the neighborhood reported that prior to the firebombing there was an attempt to crash a car into the building. While no one would say so officially there appeared to be some feeling in the Jewish community that this incident may be related to the current struggle over the issue of Luis Fuentes, the school superintendent who was recently ousted despite protests by the Puerto Rican

community. Fuentes had been accused by a number of Jewish organizations of having uttered anti-Semitic remarks.

### 40 U.S. JEWISH LEADERS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA)--A group of 40 prominent Jewish leaders from 25 major cities across the U.S. arrived yesterday in Israel to attend an emergency conference on the country's urgent economic needs at the invitation of Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir. The group, headed by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, will also meet with Prime Minister Golda Meir. It is the first national group of Jewish leaders to arrive in Israel since the cessation of hostilities in the Middle East. The delegation was accompanied by Zeev Sher, Israel's Economic Minister to North America.

The American Jewish leaders will confer with Sapir and other Israel government officials on the implementation of a worldwide emergency program for Israel Bonds to offset the economic dislocation caused by the recent war and to maintain Israel's economic development program to create jobs for new immigrants. In the first two weeks of the recent war, more than \$175 million in Israel Bonds were sold with \$110 million of it in cash. In a brief statement prior to his departure from New York, Rothberg said: "Israel's latest ordeal of fire has placed upon the free world, and particularly the Jewish community, the responsibility of providing greatly increased material support to preserve her freedom and to strengthen her economy."

In another development, Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, cabled Tourism Minister Moshe Kol assuring him that "we are rushing more tourists to Israel who identify and support your struggle." Stein was responding to Kol's appeal for an increased flow of American Jewish tourists after the cease-fire.

### JEWISH LEADERS FOCUS ON POW ISSUE

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Jewish leaders today urged President Nixon, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to demand that Egypt and Syria admit Red Cross observers into their prisoner of war camps and publish a list of Israeli POWs they are holding. In telegrams to the White House and State Department the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations stated:

"Refusal by Egypt and Syria to fulfill their obligations under the Geneva Convention is an ominous portent of their attitude towards negotiations with Israel on reaching a peaceful settlement. Remembering the concern of the American people for our own POWs we are certain you will have the support of every American in insisting that there can be no movement toward a just and durable peace in the Middle East until there is a full and complete exchange of war prisoners taken during the Yom Kippur War." The telegrams, signed by Jacob Stein, Conference chairman, added that the fate of the prisoners is "an urgent political as well as humanitarian issue."

In a telegram to Waldheim, Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman, World Zionist Organization-American Section, stated that it is incredible that Syria and Egypt refuse to cooperate with the Red Cross while Israel is aiding the Egyptian Third Army and living up to the Geneva Convention. Information on Israeli POWs "should be a major priority" of the UN cease-fire overseers. She urged immediate steps be taken to facilitate POW exchange.

## RESPONSES TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

From International And National JTA News Dispatches

TEL AVIV--"We were promised: First of all the return of our prisoners of war, not the supply of the Third Army," said a poster held by relatives of the Israeli POWs who demonstrated near the Sokolow House, the center of mass media activities. Another poster said: "Our prisoners--against water to the Third Army." Still another placard said: "Humanitarian - yes, but on a two-way basis. Let our prisoners be returned." The families of the POWs cabled Premier Golda Meir today asking that all contact with the Egyptians, the Red Cross and the United Nations Emergency Force be suspended pending the receipt from Egypt and Syria the lists of the POWs in their hands.

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JERUSALEM--One thousand young volunteers from overseas arrived in Israel during the war and are all working on kibbutzim in place of mobilized members. One thousand more are expected to arrive shortly, Mordechai Bar-On, head of the World Zionist Organization youth and halutz department told a Zionist Executive meeting here yesterday. Half the volunteers came from the U.S., the rest mainly from Britain and Europe. All paid their own fares, and all undertook to remain for six months. Bar-On said there had been a wave of some 50,000 volunteers at the start of the war, and his department's offices around the world carefully sorted them out choosing only the most serious and suitable.

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PARIS--Diplomatic sources here told the JTA that no news has been received in recent weeks from Jews in Damascus and that all Jewish men living in the town of Aleppo have been imprisoned and their wives and children put under house arrest. There are at present 3500 Jews in Syria--1000 in Aleppo, 2000 in Damascus and several hundred in Kamishli. In 1946, the Syrian Jewish population totaled 30,000. During the past few years, Palestinian refugees have moved into the Jewish neighborhoods, which, sources said, has made the Jewish community's existence "very precarious."

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AMSTERDAM--Members of the Dutch Trade Union Federation published an open letter in which they dissociated themselves from a message of sympathy sent by Federation officials to Israel's Histadrut 10 days ago. The dissenters said that officials "do not speak for all members" and they criticized the sympathy message for being "one-sided." For them, the "underlying cause" of the Middle East conflict remains Israel's "continued occupation of Arab territories and its denial of the rights of the Palestinians."

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NEW YORK--The secret note sent last week by Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev to President Nixon threatened the "destruction of the state of Israel" by Soviet forces if Israel did not stop violating the ceasefire, according to this week's issue of Time magazine. Time also writes that the note did not begin with the usual diplomatic salutation "Dear Mr. Nixon" but started out with a harsher "Mr. Nixon." Sen. Henry Jackson described the note last Thursday--its contents have not been revealed by the White House--as "brutal," and Pres. Nixon said during his Friday night press conference the message "left very little to the imagination as to what he intended." But Time notes that one member of the Johnson Administration recalls that the Russians made similar-

ly harsh threats toward the end of the 1967 war and that Johnson correctly decided that they never intended to act and ignored them.

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JERUSALEM--Nina Katzir, the wife of President Ephraim Katzir, has sent a gift of field medical supplies to the army's Druze units. The units are deployed along the Lebanese border fighting nightly terrorist incursions and some of them are also fighting with Zahal in the south.

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LOS ANGELES--Nearly 80 temples and synagogues throughout Southern California will observe a spiritual day of communal introspection called "Yom Kippur Shenit" (a second Yom Kippur), Nov. 4, to mourn those who have fallen in the latest Middle East war and to reaffirm the profound bonds of solidarity which exist between the local community and Israel. Proposed as an extraordinary response of the human spirit to the bloodshed and devastation of the Yom Kippur War, the special memorial will be a day of fasting and prayer beginning at dawn and continuing until dusk. Prayers will be recited to the sounding of the shofar in every participating temple and synagogue between 10 a.m. and noon.

Every worshipper is being asked to bring an offering of money equal to or greater than the cost of the meals that he or she would have eaten. Those funds will be designated for such emergency purposes within Israel as each congregation shall determine. Children in congregations will participate in the worship service and then write letters in Hebrew to wounded Israeli soldiers during class which they will bring to the altar for mailing. All congregations are being called upon to cancel or rearrange previously planned communal functions in keeping with the spirit of the day. This monumental action was proposed by Rabbi Jacob Pressman at a specially convened plenary session of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California held several days ago and accepted unanimously by the more than 160 rabbis affiliated with the Board.

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JERUSALEM--Terrorist rockets fired from Lebanon last night set fire to over 80,000 trees planted by the Jewish National Fund 10 years ago near Kiryat Shemona. The JNF estimates the damage at IL 1 million. Isolation lanes between the groves proved their worth, according to JNF, and saved many more trees from destruction. The JNF plans to plant 100,000 trees between Misgav Am and Kiryat Shemona above where the trees were destroyed. The planting will be done with the help of volunteers from abroad. Soldiers in the Golan took time off from the war to water JNF sapling groves near Kuneitra, reported Tuvia Ashbel who heads afforestation in the region. Ashbel said that when he returned to the nursery he found a letter from the soldiers saying they had done the best they could and hoping the trees would survive unscathed.

## GOLD ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN BULLETIN

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Herbert Gold, the internationally famed Jewish author just returned from a 10-day stay in Israel where he was an eyewitness to many of the events that transpired on the home front during the Yom Kippur War. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin is temporarily suspending its policy of carrying only its own correspondents' dispatches to provide its readers with an exclusive three-part series by Gold beginning in Wednesday's issue.