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THE REASONS FOR GOLDA MEIR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON

THE VIEW FROM ISRAEL

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

The suddenness with which Premier Golda Meir's visit to Washington was arranged and announced has led observers to wonder whether something untoward, some special crisis, had occurred in communications between Jerusalem and Washington. Officials here all firmly deny this. Apparently, the Premier is going to see President Nixon not because of any one incident --but rather because of the whole trend of the U.S.-Israel dialogue in recent days. Mrs. Meir hinted on her "Face The Nation" interview Sunday that she had some cause for concern about "things that have happened over the past few days."

The trend is of U.S. pressure on Israel and Israeli concessions. The pressure is not intense as yet, and the concessions are not vitally harmful to Israel's interests. But the Premier wants to see where this is leading to: on what issues Nixon would rather press Israel than confront the USSR; to what extent Israel can look to U.S. support in the hard political obstacle-course that lies ahead. If there is to be a head-on collision with Washington she wants to be appraised of it as early as possible, and to make an advance effort to head it off.

Departing for Washington from Lod Airport this morning, Mrs. Meir made only a short statement praising the U.S. for proving its friendship in hard times--as opposed to some others who were only fair-weather friends. But, she said, there would be problems and questions arising now which she wished to examine with the President in the friendliest and frankest possible way. She refused to answer questions saying she hoped to have more to say when she returned. At Lod to see her off were Cabinet ministers and the Chief Rabbis. Before leaving she spent 15 minutes in conversation with Foreign Minister Abba Eban and U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Keating.

Sources here are saying that Mrs. Meir wants to talk with Nixon about the various still unresolved problems of the cease-fire but not, at least at her initiative, problems of a longer-range settlement. Primary among the cease-fire issues is the prisoner of war question which seems to be moving slowly towards solution in Egypt--but not at all in Syria. Both Nixon and U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger undertook last week to press this issue with the USSR. There is reason to believe that what progress that has been made in Cairo was through Soviet pressure on its Egyptian client.

The Israeli Premier is also expected to seek reassurances that there was no "secret deal" made between Washington and Moscow regarding a long-term Mideast settlement. It is also believed she will want information about on-going Washington-Cairo contacts--including the long Kissinger-Fahmi conversations. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's statement in Cairo today that the U.S. position was "constructive" cannot have added to her peace of mind on that score. She is also interested in U.S. arms supplies to redress the power balance. The cost factor is important here and Israel will seek some sort

THE VIEW FROM THE UNITED STATES

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir visits President Nixon at about noon tomorrow at the White House in an atmosphere charged with tension abroad and at home for both. The mood for their fourth official meeting is unlikely to be equal to that remarkable cordiality of her state visit last March when the "unparalleled" good feeling from the Presidential election season continued to reign.

A charge has arisen in Israel against the Meir government over U.S. insistence on help for Egypt's trapped Third Army and without equivalent Egyptian concessions to Israel. In Washington, Nixon is beset by Watergate troubles that may well dictate to a great extent his course in foreign affairs of which he is so proud. The attitude of countless Americans bitterly opposed to the President seems typified by the comment on Mrs. Meir's visit, "If I were an Israeli I would be scared to death about that fellow. He needs a victory so badly he will sell Israel down the river to get it."

But there are countless others, more muted in their views, who believe that Nixon will not retreat from his policy of non-imposition by outside forces of a settlement on Israel and that he will maintain the power balance in the Middle East both to continue Israel's military security and reinforce American strategic interests.

Meanwhile, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt today threatened a new round of warfare while claiming that Egypt wanted peace, demanded an Israeli pull-back to the Oct. 22 positions when the first cease-fire went into effect as the first step toward peace, asserted there would be no move toward a POW exchange with Israel until this pull-back took place, and termed the present American stand "constructive."

Nevertheless there seems to be certainty even among friends of both the Meir and Nixon Administrations that while the President will not allow Israel to founder, even if that means the use of U.S. forces, he will insist that Israel, in return for U.S. aid, grant concessions to the Arabs that will enable him to bring them within his range of "good offices." The U.S., it is almost unanimously felt here, needs to preserve the American interest in the Arab oil lands and hopefully to use Arab friendship to offset Soviet penetration to the Persian Gulf, overrunning Iran and Saudi Arabia. In the process,

All this means delicate negotiations, presumably over a long period of time. But Nixon appears to be in a hurry. His rapid-fire talks within less than 48 hours with Egyptian Acting Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi today, his two-hour dinner meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin last night, and his upcoming session with Mrs. Meir signify the speed of the Nixon diplomatic course. The timing of these talks are tied to Kissinger's trip Nov. 6-11 to four Arab capitals and Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco's visit a few days later to two others; and his concluding stop in Israel.

The scheduling is of high significance. Kissinger, who will see Mrs. Meir at the Israeli Em-

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lend-lease arrangement, observers here anticipate.

Another important issue is the continued blockade of the Bab El Mandeb Straits. The complex problem of the encircled Egyptian Army--over which the great powers had their confrontation last week--is also unresolved and the subject of differing views in Jerusalem and Washington.

To persuade Nixon of the justice of Israel's cause she will argue: there must be no prize for Arab aggression; the world is testing the efficacy and trustworthiness of U.S. commitments to small nations through its behavior to Israel; she is facing elections and intolerable U.S. pressure could lead to her losing to a more intransigent party; and Israel at U.S. behest withdrew from Sinai in 1957 without concrete guarantees of her security--and the upshot was the Six-Day War.

To date, there are no indications of Washington itself adopting a position on the vexed border question. The line there still is that this is an issue for the parties to thrash out--and Israel is hoping that line will be maintained. Mrs. Meir is accompanied to the U.S. by Gen. Aharon Yariv, the former head of military intelligence, who has been negotiating on cease-fire issues with the Egyptian military.

CONSULTATIONS ON UNEF

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent.

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 31 (JTA)--Intense informal consultations regarding the composition of the United Nations Emergency Force took place today among members of the Security Council. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's main difficulty in composing the force is that the United States is opposed to participation of Warsaw Pact countries and the Soviet Union is against troops coming from North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations.

Israel is said to oppose troops from countries which are hostile to her or do not have diplomatic relations with her. This would rule out most African countries who have recently broken diplomatic relations with Israel.

A UN spokesman revealed today that there have been offers from some Warsaw Pact countries to participate in UNEF. But he declined to say whether the offers were accepted or rejected, commenting "they are still pending." He said consultations are still going on in regard to U.S. and Soviet observers. Meanwhile, UNEF has as of today 2315 of the 7000 troops approved by the Security Council for the emergency force. They come from Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Waldheim reported today that the three countries "responded affirmatively" to his request to bring up their contingents to the strength of an effective working battalion, about 800 men. Finland will send an additional 640 men by Nov. 6 to join the 215 Finnish troops already there. Sweden will add 350 to its 120 troops by Nov. 4. Austria will add 319 to the 181 it has in the Mideast.

Ireland will send 250 men in addition to the 140 previously promised from Cyprus, Waldheim reported. The Irish contingent is already starting to move from Cyprus. A Canadian logistic team will also shortly be leaving for the area, according to the Secretary General. Waldheim also reported that the Finnish troops are firmly established in Suez City and vicinity and the Swedish troops are in the Ismailia area. The Austrian contingent, based in Cairo, is being

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bassy tomorrow morning before she goes to the White House, will be in Rabat, Morocco Nov. 5 and goes to Cairo the next day. Afterwards he will visit Amman, Jordan, Riad, Saudi Arabia and Teheran, Iran. He will leave Teheran Nov. 9 for Peking. But Sisco and two other top U.S. Middle East experts--Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Leroy Atherton, and Howard Saunders, a Mideast authority with the National Security Council--will travel back to Kuwait, Beirut, Lebanon and finally to Tel Aviv.

The announced U.S. purpose of the visits is to discuss with leaders of the Middle East nations ways for a "just and lasting peace." It must be noted--the major oil producers are on the itinerary.

The principal purpose of Mrs. Meir's visit is not on specifics of such issues as the POWs or the blockade, important as they are, but on a Presidential pledge that on every matter Israel will be consulted by the United States and that Washington obtains Israeli consent before the President takes actions that affect Israel's fate in his formula for peace in the Middle East and for obtaining oil for America, Europe and Japan while blocking the USSR from the Indian Ocean.

On Friday Mrs. Meir will meet in Washington with some 250 Jewish leaders representing the 31 constituent groups of the Conference of Presidents of Major-American Jewish Organizations.

used for special tasks including patrols southwest of Suez.

The initial activities have involved supervision of the cease-fire, in cooperation with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization observers. So far, the report said, relatively few incidents have been observed and these have been of minor importance. The emergency force is continuing to bring supplies through Israel-held territory to the encircled Egyptian Third Army. As of yesterday 40 UN trucks have brought food and medicine to the Egyptians.

Response To JTA Article:

JNF DETROIT WOMEN TO REPLANT FOREST

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA)--In response to a news item appearing in Tuesday's JTA Bulletin, describing an 80,000-tree forest near Kiryat Shemona that had been set afire by terrorist rockets fired from Lebanon, it was announced today by Abram Salomon, executive vice-president of the Jewish National Fund of America, that the forest, which had been planted by the JNF 10 years ago, will be replaced by a new forest of 100,000 trees between Misgav Am and Kiryat Shemona above where the trees were destroyed.

In a telephone call today to Salomon, the JNF Women of Detroit, an organization which celebrates this year 50 years of its existence, and which is currently headed by Mrs. Shirley Kraft, president, and Mrs. Belle Levin, its fund-raising chairman, pledged to undertake a new \$250,000 project to cover the cost of planting the 100,000 trees. An intensified campaign to restore the ravaged area will commence after Jan. 1.

Justice Minister Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro handed in his resignation to Premier Golda Meir last night. By law it takes effect 48 hours after it is received. The top candidate to succeed Shapiro is the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Haim Zadok, who is one of the country's leading lawyers. Zadok served as Commerce Minister in a previous government.

INGREDIENTS IN ISRAEL'S FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS: TRAUMAS AND TREMORS

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA)--How will the extreme trauma of the war affect Israel politically? The election date has now been finally set for Dec. 31 and the war in retrospect will obviously be the main issue before the voter. At present most pundits are convinced that the Likud will make substantial gains at the expense of the ruling Labor Alignment. There are even serious analysts who are thinking in terms of an actual change in government--which would be the first ever for Israel.

The pundits hedge their prognoses with the condition that Likud must play its cards right, must not bail Labor out by its own petty and shortsighted squabbles. Thus Likud would have to hammer away tirelessly at the intelligence mis-assessment which no less an authority than U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has confirmed occurred in Israel before the war. Opposition leader Menachem Beigin has already said in the Knesset that it is the politicians and not just the army who must bear responsibility for mis-assessments. The rules of democratic government seem to support him in this--the Cabinet in a democracy is responsible for the administration as a whole, including the armed forces. But often, after a failure or an incomplete success, the political leadership will quite naturally try to shift the blame wholly onto the generals. Likud--if it is to make maximum inroads into Labor's electoral strength--would have to be on its guard against this happening here.

Another important--perhaps even trump--card which Likud will have to play wisely will be Arik Sharon, the dashing general whose popularity will soar even higher as a result of this war. It was he who, scarcely out of uniform this summer, molded the Likud out of three feuding factions--in the face of reluctance and even some hostility on the part of those parties' leaders. Will Likud leaders--and especially Beigin--be prepared to cash in on Arik's popularity, even at the expense of their own images? Will they assign to him the central role in Likud which he must have if the party is to attract more voters of his own sabra mold? Beigin has not been generous in the past to those threatening his own pre-eminence in the party. He has a grossly inflated view of his own popularity and simply does not understand that his appeal to the younger Israeli who never went through World War II or the fight with the British is strictly limited. The third condition of Likud's success is not in Beigin's hands; it is the extent to which the Labor Party itself will tear itself apart in post-war recriminations and fault-finding.

If last week's attack by Justice Minister Yaakov Shimshon Shapiro against Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is anything to judge by, "the wars of the Jews" within the Labor Party are going to be bitter and virulent indeed--and the profit will be purely Likud's. Beigin can be relied upon to keep the pot boiling with constant references to what went wrong during the "ten days of penitence." Eventually, as JTA reported last week from Labor sources, it is not inconceivable that Dayan himself will be forced to assume the blame and resign, perhaps taking some generals with him. Dayan has many, many enemies within Labor who would not hesitate to drive him out. Whether he goes or not will depend on how far Premier Golda Meir and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir will go to protect and defend him. Until now they seem solid enough. But fast changing events on the home and overseas fronts could change their attitudes.

If Dayan goes, Chaim Barlev (and not Yitzhak Rabin) will be put up by Labor as future Defense Minister. He is a respected man--but has nothing of the charisma of Dayan--or of Sharon. But the prediction that the war and its aftermath will inevitably lead to a lurch to the right is not universal shared, and certainly not (yet) proven. Despite the many pundits who are advancing this prognosis, experienced analysts within Labor itself are not at all certain that the nation will become more "hawkish" as a result of the war. The reaction could be precisely the opposite, they say (and fervently hope).

What does the man who was at the front think?--That is the vital question and to date there have been no opinion polls that attempt to answer it. Yet the front-line soldiers' opinion is going to be all important. Because the populace in the rear, especially but not exclusively his own family, will look to him and to his experiences for guidance in their choice of government. Does he feel more hawkish than ever? Or is he heartily sickened by wars which seem to have no end and get bloodier each time? And is he, therefore, prepared to make far-reaching concessions to the Arabs to avert further wars and bloodshed?

There is another possible scenario against which we can anticipate the elections: that the present government will have had to make crucial political decisions before the polls. At the pace of Kissinger-prodded diplomacy this is by no means beyond the realm of possibility. In that case the country will be judging not only the government's military responsibility and actions before and during the war, but also its performance at the negotiating table. Whatever the eventual backdrop, the elections in December are sure to be the most dramatic, and perhaps the most bitterly fought, in Israel's short history.

NEW YORK (JTA)--"All United Jewish Appeal programs which are not directly and immediately involved in meeting our historic 1974 goal of \$750 million," stated Paul Zuckerman, UJA general chairman, "have been postponed or cancelled. Our leaders and the leaders of Federations and Welfare Funds have given up their businesses and their daily activities to devote themselves full-time to meet the crisis." Included in the postponed or cancelled activities are national meetings and scheduled missions to Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A large number of Soviet-made "Sagger" anti-tank missiles were captured by Israeli forces during the war with Egypt and Syria and have been incorporated into Israel's tank corps, it was disclosed here today. The weapon, which confronted Israeli armored forces in the initial days of the war, comes in two forms, both electronically guided. They are carried on special amphibious vehicles in batteries of six with eight in reserve. They also come in the portable "suitcase" package which can be operated by infantrymen.