



# daily news bulletin

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## EVIDENCE OF SYRIAN BRUTALITY AGAINST ISRAELI POWS 68 FOUND WITH THROATS CUT; 12 FOUND MURDERED, BOUND HAND AND FOOT

PARIS, Nov. 4 (JTA)--The barbaric behavior of Syrian soldiers against Israeli soldiers was described here today by a Deputy who just returned from Israel. Pierre de Benouville, president of the "France-Israel Parliamentary Committee" and a member of the Parliamentary majority, told a press conference here that he saw 68 Israeli soldiers on the Golan Heights with "their throats cut like animals in a slaughter house." Describing what he termed the "barbaric" behavior of the Syrian soldiers, he stated that this was evidence that the "Syrian aggressors" intended "to exterminate Israel."

Both de Benouville, and Roger Chénaut, another Deputy who also just returned from Israel, asserted that the fourth Israeli-Arab war was a war of destruction against the Jewish State. During the press conference given by the "French Committee for Solidarity With Israel," the two Deputies said that the enormous military equipment employed by the Arabs indicated that they sought not only to recover the occupied territories but also the "extermination of the Israeli people." The two Deputies warned against the Soviet threat to Europe in the Middle East. They said that in supporting the Arab nations in the war, the Soviet Union sought to obtain a foothold in the Mideast from which it could dominate Europe strategically through its position in Europe's southern flank, and economically by controlling the flow of Arab oil to Europe.

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Evidence has been found that Syrians murdered Israeli prisoners of war they captured at the beginning of the Yom Kippur War. A crew of the Israeli Ordinance Corps, salvaging captured tanks near Khoushaniyeh, reported the discovery of the bodies of 12 Israeli soldiers buried beneath a pile of stones covered with branches and weeds. The bodies were tied hand and foot indicating that they were murdered after being taken prisoner. The bodies were discovered during the first week of the war after the Syrians were pushed across the cease-fire line. The story was released today for publication.

## DAYAN WARNS HOSTILITIES MAY RESUME ON EGYPTIAN FRONT

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned Israelis today not to be surprised if hostilities resume on the Egyptian front. The Egyptians are thoroughly uncomfortable with the presence of an Israeli force on the west bank of the Suez Canal and may initiate an offensive to dislodge it, Dayan said in reply to reporters who questioned him while he was visiting wounded soldiers at a Tel Aviv hospital.

Dayan accused the Egyptians and Syrians of using Israel's concern for the POWs as a means of pressure. Deals had been made with Egypt for the exchange of wounded POWs--there were some dozens of Israeli wounded and many many hundreds of Egyptians--but each time Egypt harked back to its demand for withdrawal to the Oct. 22 line and refused to go through with the deal, Dayan said. He had announced in the Knesset Tuesday that an exchange of wounded POWs with Egypt was under way.

Earlier today, Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayah announced that he had cabled all parliaments in the world protesting Egypt's and Syria's noncompliance with the Geneva Convention on POWs. He demanded that the parliaments persuade the Arabs to transmit lists of names, permit Red Cross visits, permit POWs to correspond with home, protect POWs from attacks or curiosity by the populace and free wounded POWs as required by the 1949 Geneva Convention.

## EBAN IN RUMANIA TO EXCHANGE IDEAS OF COMMON INTEREST TO BOTH NATIONS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban left for Bucharest tonight for a 3-4 day visit at the invitation of the Rumanian Foreign Minister Georgio Macovescu. An official communique issued here over the weekend said the two ministers would "exchange ideas on the

subjects of common interest to the two countries. Eban reportedly will also meet with Rumanian Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer. Macovescu is well-known to Israelis. He was here in 1968 and again in 1971, both times as Deputy Foreign Minister. Premier Golda Meir visited Rumania in May, 1972.

Political observers here agreed that the Rumanian invitation, delivered last Thursday by their Ambassador, Johan Covacz, is an attempt to exert that country's influence on both parties in the Middle East conflict. It is expected here that Arab diplomats will be invited to Bucharest after Eban's visit.

There was speculation here as to the specific purpose of the Rumanian initiative and whether Bucharest acted independently or with the knowledge and approval of Moscow. Some analysts here maintained that Rumania would not dare to intervene without Moscow's consent but most sources discount the possibility that the invitation to Eban was set up by the Russians. They noted that if the Russians want to talk to Israel they do not have to go through Rumania.

Bucharest is believed to be interested in playing a role of mediator in the Middle East conflict and Israel is expected to give serious consideration to any serious mediation offers, but only as an early step aimed toward getting the parties into face-to-face negotiations.

One informed source said today that the Rumanian invitation was a Communist attempt to show that communications between Russia and Israel do not necessarily go via Washington. While U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is trying to evolve current political activity around the U.S. capital, Moscow is opening new channels, the source said. The source could not say whether there was a specific message awaiting Eban in Bucharest or whether the invitation was merely demonstrative.

**JEWISH GROUPS TO LAUNCH PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF U.S., ISRAEL MIDEAST POLICIES**

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA)--American Jewish organizations will undertake immediately a nationwide three-point program in support of policies regarding the Middle East set forth by the United States and Israeli governments. The program was announced by Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, at a news conference Friday within an hour after Israeli Premier Golda Meir had addressed approximately 400 leaders of the 31 groups affiliated with the Presidents Conference.

The meeting, speedily arranged after announcements in Jerusalem and Washington that she was to meet with President Nixon, was held behind closed doors. Both the leadership session and the news conference were at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Elements of the program, Stein said, are "a heartfelt priority to do everything we can to expedite the full exchange of prisoners" between Israel and "her Arab attackers," support for the Nixon Administration's request to Congress for an appropriation of \$2.2 billion in emergency funds to help meet Israel's financial drain to obtain weapons as a result of "Soviet machinations, pure and simple," and to urge the Nixon Administration "to stand up to Russian threats and pressures," presumably a reference to the Soviet threat at intervention in the Middle East war that brought a precautionary U.S. military alert and Soviet actions in the United Nations.

Stein cautioned the newsmen that we are in a fluid situation and events may change that program. Solidly supporting Mrs. Meir's statements in her news conference here Thursday and apparently at the organizational meeting again Friday, that Israel is not under Nixon Administration pressure on phases of the war situation, Stein said, "I take her word for it." Pressed further by newsmen who suggested that other Israelis, including Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, had spoken of U.S. pressures with regard to the trapped Egyptian Third Army, Stein said that he himself had talked with State Department officials over the past three or four weeks, the last time within the last two days, and that "there is no pressure on Israel." He also said that "no nation has arrived at plans which would cause it to put pressure on any side."

Noting that he was not "privy" to all the information, Stein added that elements exist in the cease-fire arrangements beyond individual Israel, Soviet or American interests and observed: "Israel has one friend--that is the United States--and she has had to take that into account." Asked why Mrs. Meir came to Washington if there were no pressures on Israel, Stein replied that "she came to find out from her good friend (President Nixon)" answers to questions that have arisen and to obtain reassurances for Israel. "Her trip here was worthwhile to learn that there was no pressure on Israel," Stein said, although Israel and the U.S. "don't agree on everything."

**RALLIES TO SUPPORT ISRAELI POWs**

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA)--In the wake of reports of executions of Israeli war prisoners by Arabs, scores of rabbis held an emergency demonstration and prayer service near the Syrian UN Mission on Friday. The rabbis, many in prayer shawls, were joined by Christian clerics in denouncing "inhuman" acts committed by Arab forces, and their "callous disregard" of the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

The event was coordinated by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations which also announced plans for a mass rally tomorrow in the city's garment district to "save the Israeli POWs in Syria and Egypt." The participants in Friday's rally said the past record of POW treatment by Egypt and Syria can only raise fears about the fate of the hundreds of captured Israeli prisoners.

Rabbi Israel Miller, vice-chairman of the Presidents Conference and president of the American Zionist Federation, told the demonstration that the refusal of Egypt and Syria to exchange POWs with Israel "or even to answer the fear-ridden question of next of kin by turning over to the International Red Cross the names of those held captive is a base and depraved act." Demanding that the Arabs abide by international agreements Rabbi Miller declared: "We call upon the United Nations to give priority attention to this breach of the Geneva Convention and require its implementation. Let the Arabs start on the road to peace by acting like human beings."

After the demonstration Rabbi Miller and Sister Rose Thering of Seton Hall University entered the Syrian Mission and offered themselves as hostages in exchange for Israeli POWs held in Syria. A rally was held today in Washington in front of the Red Cross building.

**BARLEV CALLS FOR PROBE TO DETERMINE WHY ISRAEL WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Lt. Gen. Haim Barlev, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, believes that an investigation must be conducted, "as painful as it may be" into why Israel was caught by surprise when Egypt and Syria attacked on Oct. 6. In an interview published in Maariv, the Labor Party Cabinet Minister and former Chief of Staff who was recalled to active duty and served on the southern front in the Yom Kippur War, implied strongly that the nation's civilian leadership was at fault for misreading intelligence data.

"One fact should not be mistaken," Barlev said. "The Israeli intelligence was in possession of all necessary reports concerning the war preparations of both Syria and Egypt. But the evaluation of these reports missed. The evaluation was wrong." He added: "We all had indications of the preparations for war yet the probabilities were against war. This evaluation changed on Saturday morning (Yom Kippur) when the reports and the evaluation were juxtaposed. But that left little time for Israeli preparations."

Barlev said that there were no new weapons used by Egypt or Syria that Israel did not know of. Even the anti-tanks missiles and rockets. "Not here lay the mistakes... These are serious words, I know. But we should not escape from truth," he said. He added that "our mistakes were in the first 48 hours of the war. After that everything went well... When the Israeli army stood on its own feet the developments were as we anticipated and even planned." Barlev said he was convinced that the Israeli army "will not be caught again off balance or be surprised as it was this time." He added that "The enemies have no chance of winning a renewed war. But one should not exclude such a possibility."

**EGYPTIANS IN MANEUVER TO BREAK ENCIRCLEMENT OF THIRD ARMY**

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Egyptian armored forces held in reserve to protect Cairo are now deployed facing the Israeli forces on the west bank of the Suez Canal in an apparent maneuver to break the encirclement of the Egyptian Third Army Corps on the east bank of the canal. This development became known today amid reports of increased activity by the Third Army and the Egyptian Second Army to the north which could lead to a renewal of fighting along the Suez Canal.

Three exchanges of fire initiated by the Egyptians were reported tonight. Two incidents occurred in the northern sector of the Israeli salient on the west bank of the canal. Small arms fire was involved in both cases. The third incident occurred at the southernmost point of the Third Army's positions east of the canal. Again small arms fire was used. One Egyptian soldier was killed and another wounded, an Israeli spokesman said. Israel has lodged a complaint with the UN truce observers corps. About 75 Egyptian soldiers surrendered during the day to Israeli forces on the west bank of the canal. Over 100 truckloads of supplies have been transferred meanwhile to the Third Army.

Yesterday, elements of the Third Army attempted to move eastwards to the Jiddi Pass and westward to construct an infantry bridge across the Suez Canal. They were repulsed by Israeli artillery fire. But sources indicated that part of the Egyptian plan is to lure Israel into opening fire so that the entire front could erupt at once. Egypt's military moves are also believed to be intended to prompt political efforts primarily by the U.S. to force Israel to accept Egyptian terms coordinated with Moscow. The Egyptians are persistent in their efforts to drag the Russians into greater involvement in this war. They are convinced that Moscow would not permit Israeli forces to approach Cairo and thus feel free to commit the Cairo garrison to the Suez front, sources said.

There were signs, meanwhile, that the Third Army lacks neither food nor water although it is being supplied with both by agreement of the Israeli Army. The Third Army, as if to support the Egyptian claim that it is still a fighting force, attempted yesterday to throw an infantry bridge across the canal at kilometer 155, only five kilometers from the southern outlet of the waterway. Israel warned the Egyptians, through the UN observers, but the Egyptians continued construction work. Israelis opened fire and the exchange lasted several hours at the end of which the bridge was destroyed. Artillery, mortar and small arms fire were used. In the morning the Egyptians attempted to advance their infantry eastwards to improve their positions. Fire was opened and the attempt was discontinued. Egyptian soldiers also fired from the east side of the canal at Israelis on the west bank of the canal. Fire was returned and the shooting subsided after some time.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel is urgently appealing to synagogues in the U.S. and Canada for Sefer Torahs and sets of tefillin, mainly for army use. Rabbi Eliahu Marcus of the Ministry for Religious Affairs, leaves for New York tomorrow to start a four-week tour of major American communities for this purpose on behalf of his ministry and army chaplaincy. Rabbi Marcus hopes to collect 1000 scrolls and 5000 sets of tefillin. As he receives them, he will dispatch them by El Al to Israel.

Many of the scrolls will be used for front line synagogues at new positions and to replace damaged or captured army scrolls. Some of them will be placed in civilian synagogues in memory of individual soldiers or groups of soldiers who died in the war.

Rabbi Marcus told the JTA of the first request from a bereaved parent. This morning Mrs. Mazal Amar of Herzliya called at his office to ask for a Sefer Torah at her local synagogue in the name of her dead son. Rabbi Marcus had to tell her his stock was depleted and he was going to America to get more. The tefillin will all go to combat troops. The army chaplains report that many soldiers who previously did not use tefillin are now requesting them. Rabbi Marcus will visit Miami, Washington, Baltimore, Chicago and Montreal.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--It was just before ceasefire when a tank platoon commander, whose unit was engaged in a battle, received a radio message from HQ asking him: "Are you the one that was scheduled to wed on Thursday?" The reply was in the affirmative. "Do you still want to marry your fiancée?" came the next question. Between one salvo and another he replied again in the affirmative. On Friday the wedding was held on the east bank of the Suez Canal, opposite Ismailia. Families of the bride and groom

were brought to the place while the Army Chief Chaplain, Gen. Mordechai Firon, officiated. The wedding cake was in the shape of a tank.

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LONDON (JTA)--Ethiopia will suffer severely from the loss of Israeli technical and military advisors since it broke diplomatic relations with Israel last month and the Ethiopian government is well aware of this, a senior Israeli advisor who was expelled from Addis Ababa told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. He said there were 90 Israeli families in Ethiopia, some 500 persons, a relatively small number. But Israeli technicians and advisors held key positions in the army, the police, agriculture, health services and in the ports.

An Israeli colonel was in a staff position with the Ethiopian army, and another Israeli was in charge of geological surveys for Emperor Haile Selassie's government, the advisor stated. He said the Ethiopians were very sorry to see the Israelis leave and did not try to conceal the fact that their country would suffer. The Emperor himself knew quite well what he was losing and that the Israelis may not want to return even after a Middle East settlement. But apparently he had no choice and broke with Israel under severe pressure from the Arabs. The pressure included a threat to cut off oil and to fan insurrection in Somaliland and Eritrea.

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WASHINGTON (JTA)--Rep. Edward I. Koch (D,NY) said Saturday that he has written to President Nixon commending him for his "strong and immediate actions you have taken to support Israel" but said he was "distressed over the pressure that our nation is placing on Israel with respect to its encirclement" of the Egyptian 3rd Army. He urged Nixon "not to exact conditions of Israel that will jeopardize her national security or diminish the gains" she achieved in a battle that was forced upon her.

**INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES ON MIDEAST CONTINUE**

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA)--A week of intense diplomatic discussions here by the United States with Israel, Egypt and Syria recessed early today with another round set to begin tomorrow in the Middle East itself. No official statements of tangible progress toward an understanding, let alone a settlement, came from any quarter but there were signs that all four nations were deeply involved in discussions that took on a tinge of optimism. After the second late night session between Israeli Premier Golda Meir and U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at Blair House that broke up at 1:20 this morning, the Israeli Embassy press officer, Gad Ranon, in a rare direct quotation, declared that the discussions were "friendly and constructive."

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Zacharia Ismail, following his meeting with Kissinger Friday evening, returned to Damascus yesterday after inviting Kissinger to visit the Syrian capital to continue discussions. But in view of the Secretary's set travel plans timetable, the State Department indicated that Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco would visit Damascus. Premier Meir, who has been here since Wednesday night, was to have returned to Israel last night but postponed her departure for a full day and is due to leave for Tel Aviv this evening. She delayed her departure reportedly at Kissinger's request which probably originated with President Nixon who is at Key Biscayne, Florida. Kissinger has been in regular telephone contact with the President.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi, who arrived here last Monday, remained in Washington three days longer than he had planned. He departed for Cairo today to confer with President Anwar Sadat about this weekend's talks and to prepare for Kissinger's arrival in the Egyptian capital Tuesday. Kissinger himself and his top Middle East aides leave tomorrow for Rabat, Morocco, the first stop on his visit to four Arab countries. He will be in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia before going to Iran, Pakistan and China. Sisco will accompany Kissinger on his Middle East trip but will leave him in Pakistan to visit Kuwait, Jordan and Israel in that order. It was indicated here today that he will probably stop in Damascus before going to Jerusalem, the first high level U.S. official to visit the Syrian capital since the 1967 Six-Day War.

The State Department itself steadfastly refused to characterize Kissinger's weekend discussions in terms of substance. The Department said there was a "cross-current" of discussions, adding that they were "not quite in the proximity style" that had been broached to the parties by the U.S. on various occasions, starting two years ago. State Department officials pointed out that their idea of proximity talks would have been "more structured" and that on this occasion, Kissinger was engaged in a "solo performance" in seeking to obtain the views of all parties during the concurrent visits to Washington of officials of Israel, Egypt and Syria.

Premier Meir spent the last hours of her stay here at meetings at the Israeli Embassy with Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and Embassy officials and the advisors who accompanied her from Israel. A report in a Beirut newspaper today to the effect that a plan under discussion in Washington over the weekend called for an Israeli withdrawal from all of Sinai and part of the Golan Heights in return for Egyptian and Syrian recognition of Israel elicited no indications of credibility in diplomatic circles here.

Mrs. Meir breakfasted at Blair House Friday with 14 Senators to whom she indicated serious concern with the feelings of Israeli troops over the supplying of Egypt's encircled Third Army and the failure of Egypt to agree to a prisoner of war exchange. Sen. Charles Percy (R.Ill.) told reporters after the meeting that Mrs. Meir had spoken at length about the Third Army in the cease-fire context. She pointed out, he said, that in her own talks with Israeli troops on the west bank of the Suez Canal the soldiers expressed resentment at the humanitarian treatment under UN auspices, with Israeli agreement, of the surrounded Egyptian forces, especially the officers corps and the intransigence of the Egyptians and Syrians on the relief of Israeli POWs.

Mrs. Meir said she was informed that the first shipments of supplies to the Egyptians included candies and cigarettes for the officers instead of water and medicine to meet the needs of Egyptian soldiers. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.Mass.) said that Mrs. Meir emphasized Israel's willingness to negotiate. Sen. Stuart Symington (D. Mo.) told newsmen that he felt it is up to the U.S. and the Soviet Union to help solve the Mideast issues.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah charged Sunday in a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that "this morning at 07:55 local time Egyptian forces opened fire in the Ismailia area. This attack constitutes another flagrant breach by Egypt of the cease-fire." Tekoah requested that this letter be circulated as an official document in the General Assembly and the Security Council. On Thursday, Tekoah wrote to Waldheim that "an infantry force of the Egyptian Third Army, supported by a number of tanks, tried under the cover of artillery fire to advance beyond its position on the east bank of the Suez Canal. The Israeli forces fired back and the Egyptian troops returned to their positions."

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israeli writers--authors and poets--are bitterly disappointed over the

lack of response by any internationally known writers or poets to express support of Israel. A few days after the war began the Israeli Writers Association sent letters to hundreds of writers, poets and associations of writers throughout the world asking that they support Israel in her difficult days. "I'll now not a single word has been heard, not a single reply given, not a single letter received."

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--An Israeli army spokesman denounced as an utter lie an Egyptian spokesman's allegation that Egypt was returning wounded Israeli POWs but that Israel has not responded in kind. The spokesman said that Israel was ready for the return of the wounded any moment and was ready at any given hour to carry out a full exchange of POWs. He stressed Israel's anxiety over the fate of the POWs.