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8000 IN NEW YORK RALLY FOR ISRAELI POWs Scientists In Washington Appeal For Red Cross Help

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Despite cold weather, an estimated 8000 demonstrators massed for a rally today on behalf of Israeli prisoners of war captured by Egypt and Syria during the Yom Kippur War. The rally, under the auspices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was attended by demonstrators carrying American and Israeli flags and placards with slogans calling for the immediate release of the Israeli prisoners of war and condemning the "inhuman treatment" of the war prisoners by Egypt and Syria. Congressmen, New York mayoralty candidates and Christian religious leaders addressed the rally, held in Manhattan's garment district.

Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah disclosed at the rally that, in addition to an earlier report that Syrians had murdered Israeli prisoners, there was "information of another place where Israeli soldiers were shot after having been taken prisoner. In one case, an imprisoned and wounded Israeli officer, who had difficulty walking, was shot to death." Tekoah also said that Egypt and Syria displayed Israeli prisoners on television and those prisoners were "forced to be photographed in humiliating positions." He charged Egypt and Syria with flagrant violations of the Geneva Convention on treatment of war prisoners by refusing to transmit lists of prisoners they held.

The envoy also charged that Egypt and Syria were not concerned about the return of their prisoners held by Israel. He said, "it seems that humanitarian considerations play no role whatever in their thinking even in respect to their own men." He said Egypt wants to free the trapped Egyptian Third Army to continue "to kill," and he added that "savagery cannot be permitted to become a bargaining tool in international life." Tekoah also said that Israel would attain its goals of secure boundaries and declared that Jerusalem will "remain forever united, forever Israel's sacred capital."

Sen. Jacob Javits (R,N.Y.) told the rally that where the United Nations rushed to enforce a ceasefire, when the Arab armies were near collapse, it did not show concern over enforcement of the Geneva Convention. He stated that one major aspect of the Mideast situation involves Israel being re-supplied with arms. Another aspect, the oil pressures by the Arabs, requires a summit meeting of heads of European nations and the United States to resolve the oil pinch. Javits said that "we will never forget the heroic stand of the Dutch people" against the oil squeeze and urged that the U.S. must help Holland. He declared that the United States must not "sell out" Israel for any reason, and not permit the Arabs to trade defeat for victory. He said it was in the interest of the U.S. to support Israel, and that appeasement, as past history showed, leads to war and disaster.

Mrs. Sylvia Pollack, of New York, a mother of an American POW in Vietnam who was imprisoned for five years and eight months, called on the governments of Syria and Egypt to release the names of the Israeli POWs, to permit the Red Cross to visit and to start negotiations for POW exchanges. Other speakers making similar appeals included Dr. James H. Sheldon, chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Churches of New York. Messages of solidarity arrived from Sen. James Buckley (C,N.Y.) and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Mrs. Rose Matzkin, president of Hadassah and vice-chairman of the Presidents Conference, presided. Demonstrators carried placards stating: "American Food Against Arab Oil"; "Hasten Exchange of POWs"; "Assad and Sadat are War Criminals."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Two Nobel Prize winners and a dozen other American scientists at the National Institutes of Health went to the headquarters of the American Red Cross this afternoon to elicit its support for an exchange of prisoners of the Arab-Israeli war. In the group were Christian Anfinsen, who last year became a Nobel Laureate for his discovery of protein structures, Marshall Nirenberg, who was honored in 1968 for his genetic code findings, and DeWitt Stetten, director of the General Medical Sciences at NIH. Jack Cohen, a biophysicist who arranged the visit, said that its purpose was to ask the American Red Cross to exercise its influence through the International Red Cross and other appropriate agencies to persuade Egypt and Syria "to abide by the accepted norms of civilized conduct in warfare."

The Israelis, Dr. Cohen said, have acted according to the Geneva Convention but Egypt and Syria have not. According to the Oct. 22 cease-fire arrangement, he said, exchange of POWs would be an "indispensable condition" and that was presumably accepted by Egypt and Syria. "We now know too," he said of instances of mutilation of Israeli prisoners by Syrians. Israelis, he said, were killed with their hands tied and several of them were decapitated. "If Egypt and Syria fail to abide by the accepted norms of civilized conduct in war and the cease-fire breaks down," Dr. Cohen said, "the blame for suffering on both sides will rest squarely upon them." Yesterday the Red Cross headquarters was the focus for a rally sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation told his audience of about 500 that the POW issue was a top priority.

MRS. MEIR SAYS CERTAIN QUESTIONS REMAINED UNANSWERED DURING TALKS IN U.S.

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir indicated on her return from Washington today that certain questions remained unanswered on both sides during her three days of talks with President Nixon, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other U.S. officials. She said she could not answer reporters' substantive questions before reporting to the Cabinet. Mrs. Meir, who landed at Lod Airport at noon, nevertheless made a statement to newsmen. She said that she and her aides held long and intensive talks in Washington to clarify on what subjects the U.S. and Israel take a com-

mon approach and on which their approaches differ. "I must say that we were given full possibility, during long hours, to discuss all we had to discuss," she said. The Premier added that the replies she got and the questions that were asked--"some without reply on our part and some without reply on the Americans' part"--will be brought to the Cabinet for discussion and decision. She will address a special session of the Knesset Wednesday.

The 75-year-old Premier, wearing a blue suit and looking surprisingly fit after her almost continuous round of meetings in the U.S. and the long flight home, was greeted at the airport by Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Keating and members of her family. Airport workers and spectators applauded as she descended from an El Al jet and walked on a red carpet to the airport terminal.

Mrs. Meir had very warm words for American Jews. "While in Washington, hundreds of Jews, community leaders, came over and I told them that while during difficult days and nights I could hold myself together when seeing that electric spark that passed through me from these Jews to Israel," she said. "Such love, devotion, identity, all that we wanted and hoped for to prevail between the Jewish people and Israel came true. And with such an Israeli Army and such an 'army' of the Jewish people, we shall somehow overcome if times will be difficult."

No Doubt About U.S. Friendship

(Before her departure from Washington late yesterday, Mrs. Meir said: "I left the White House with the conviction that the friendship between the United States and Israel remained as it was and we have no doubt about that." Kissinger, she also said, "spent hours in trying to find on what points we agreed and on what points we--I hope temporarily--disagreed. These talks were held in a spirit of great friendship. More time and more patience I don't think anyone can expect from any government." The Israeli leader indicated that the exchange of prisoners had top priority in her talks with the President and Kissinger, saying she raised the issue with them "in every single conversation.")

U.S. IS PRIME SOURCE OF GRAIN, FARM PRODUCTS IN THE MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (JTA)--While the Arab states continue to use oil production cutbacks as a political weapon against the United States, the U.S. has emerged as the prime source of grain and other farm products for the Middle East, according to a report today in the Agriculture Department's publication, Foreign Agriculture.

The report said that in the July-Sept. 1973 period, American wheat shipments to the Arab countries totalled 145,000 metric tons, 5 1/2 times more than in the same period last year. Egypt bought \$83 million of U.S. farm commodities during the fiscal year that ended last June 30, almost double the previous year's purchases. Egypt bought 292,000 tons of wheat flour.

In recent months, Syria purchased 50,000 tons of U.S. durum wheat and Iraq about 100,000 tons this year. The publication said that floods in Pakistan were responsible for the Arab countries turning to the U.S. as a major source of rice pending deliveries from Thailand. U.S. rice exports to the Arab countries are expected to be double the 90,000 tons delivered in 1972.

The sale of U.S. grain and other farm products to the Middle East are expected to reach a record \$600 million in fiscal 1973-74, a 50 per-

cent jump over the previous year. The Middle East, according to Foreign Agriculture, is as big a market for American farm products as China or India. The U.S. is the chief supplier of soybeans to Israel. It buys tobacco from Lebanon and Syria, dates from Iraq, wine from Algeria and Israel and long staple cotton from Egypt and Sudan.

ISRAELIS, EGYPTIANS EXCHANGE FIRE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Israeli and Egyptian forces exchanged fire for several hours on the east bank of the Suez Canal today and Israeli fire halted an Egyptian attempt to plant mines this evening, a military spokesman reported. Today's incidents involved the Egyptian Second Army which occupies the east bank of the canal from a point south of Ismailia in the Bitter Lakes region to the mouth of the canal on the Mediterranean.

The shooting started when tank supported infantry units of the Second Army attempted to occupy new positions near El Bahig, south of Kantara early this morning. Israeli forces opened fire and the exchange lasted until noon when the Egyptians retreated. The mining attempt was carried out in a stretch of no-man's land separating Israeli positions from those of the Egyptians. The encircled Third Army was relatively quiet today. It directed some fire at Israeli planes flying over the area but scored no hits. Seventeen soldiers of the Third Army surrendered today to Israel.

PRICES INCREASE, BELTS TIGHTEN

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Israelis woke up this morning to be told they will pay higher prices for many products. The Ministerial Economic Committee decided last night to increase taxes on a long list of products and to cut down subsidies for others as an additional source of income to cover war expenses. The government's move will cause an average price increase of three percent. The government will gain IL 1 billion out of the new price regulations.

Altogether the government will have absorbed IL 4 billion for the next year; one billion will be absorbed by the compulsory loan at the rate of 7 percent of the income; another billion from the voluntary loan which now includes almost every large organization; IL 750 million will be gained from a gasoline price increase which reached about 40 percent; and another IL 160 million from hiking electricity rates about 30 percent.

The Israeli housewife will soon feel the additional pinch in her budget. "But, as one economic analyst wrote today, 'Israel has sacrificed many people and resources in this war. It's about time she sacrificed the high standard of living.' The new regulations went into effect at midnight. On most of the imported goods one will have to pay an additional 5 percent above the 20 percent of the import levy.

The sales tax on consumer goods went up 5-6 percent. The tax was also increased on cement, furniture, shoes, cigarettes, and glassware. Subsidies for rice and frozen meat were cancelled. The new regulations will ease the pressure on the country's budget and serve as a tool in the fight against inflation that Israel was waging long before the war broke out.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush told a Senate appropriations subcommittee today that approval of a Nixon Administration proposal to provide Israel with \$2.2 billion in military equipment would improve prospects for a Mideast peace agreement.

FIRM OF SWIG, WEILER, ARNOW TO AID VANDALIZED EAST SIDE SYNAGOGUES

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA)--The real estate firm of Benjamin Swig of San Francisco, Jack D. Weiler and Robert H. Arnow of New York will direct a campaign to provide a place of worship and learning for Jews whose synagogues have been targets of major vandalism on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Jerome H. Becker, president of the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, said here yesterday.

He spoke at a memorial service for the Torah Scrolls in a firebombing last month which wrecked Congregation Chevra Bachurim. Becker charged that the bombing, the 16th such incident against a synagogue on the Lower East Side in the last two years, was "a systematic plot to frighten aged, elderly and infirm Jews into leaving the neighborhood."

A Council spokesman said that Congregation Chevra Bachurim had a daily worship service attended by 40 to 50 elderly Jews and that it had been damaged beyond-use. He said it was the last synagogue in the area providing such worship facilities.

He explained that a building was being sought in the area, one hopefully in a safer place, to be renovated for use as a synagogue. He added that the plans of the campaign called for finding and renovating the building and opening it as a synagogue before the end of this month. He said it was expected that Rabbi Nison Alpert, spiritual leader of the firebombed synagogue, would serve as rabbi of the renovated facility.

Becker reported that the Council was "engaged in a major coordinated effort with all arms of the City Administration to stabilize the neighborhood and to insure that our brethren will live out their golden years in safety, security and dignity." He praised the firm of Swig, Weiler and Arnow for a "magnanimous, humanitarian gesture" to enable elderly Jews of the area to "speedily resume" their daily worship. Rabbi Alpert also praised the action of the real estate firm.

BEN AHARON URGES ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED STATE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Yitzhak Ben Aharon, secretary general of Histadrut, called for the establishment of a "United States of the Middle East" in which Israel would play a "leading moral role." The leader of Israel's powerful trade union movement told the 1500 delegates attending the golden jubilee convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel this weekend that the Jewish State is "fighting in order to have men and women who can live a creative, dignified life, and we fight for the right of the Jewish people to ingather in their homeland and live as an independent nation."

Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, chairman of the Labor Zionist Alliance, was elected president of the NCLI at the conclusion of the organization's three-day convention yesterday. The convention adopted a goal of \$6 million for the Israel Histadrut Foundation and a \$5 million goal for the Israel Histadrut Campaign.

Israel's President Ephraim Katzir, in a message to the convention, praised the 50 years of "aid to Israel's labor movement and institutions," and stated that "never in that half century of struggle and recurrent crisis has there been a more far-reaching challenge to Israel's very life, necessitating even more than before the strengthening of our social fabric and pro-

ductive capacity ... as we strive for a peaceful settlement to guarantee Israel's future and bring at last a new, forward-looking spirit to the Middle East."

Not A Single Case Of Sabotage

Ben Aharon, noting the series of diplomatic breaks between African countries and Israel, told of the action of many graduates of Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute in Tel Aviv. "These graduates do not share the views of their governments vis-a-vis Israel. We have received letters of support from many of them, smuggled out of their countries to us."

As to the Arabs inside Israel, and those in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and on the Golan Heights, "there has not been a single case of sabotage," he stated. Israel's labor movement will not "surrender our social ideals" because that would constitute surrender to the Arab countries around us, it would be the greatest Arab victory." In the view of Ben Aharon, Israel faces a three-fold enemy: Soviet imperialism, Arab oil and "the cowardice of other countries who follow narrow nationalist interests, as in the days of Munich."

Dr. Shapiro told the delegates that "ultimate peace is not yet in sight. It will be a long time before a durable peace can be forged. The first prerequisite is a basic change in the Arab mentality that will enable them to accept the reality of Israel as a good neighbor in the region, whose existence is legitimate and whose security is inviolate." On the American scene, Dr. Shapiro, editor of the Labor Zionist monthly, "Jewish Frontier," stated, "The time has come for us to give top priority and attention to Jewish youth, which has had so much surface satisfaction and material conveniences."

PRO-ARAB BIAS IN NEWS MEDIA

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Coverage of the Middle East war was heavily biased in favor of the Arabs during the first days of the conflict, Dr. Nehemia Resnizky, secretary of the DAIA, reported at a special session last week of the Argentine Jewish representative body called to assess the situation in the wake of the war. Dr. Resnizky said that measures to counter the distorted presentation of the news were undertaken by the DAIA, the Buenos Aires Kehilla and the Argentine Zionist Federation.

He said Arab influence in the press was particularly strong in the provinces but less so in the capital. Arab infiltration into Peronist circles would be comical if the circumstances were not so tragic, he said. Dr. Resnizky referred to an article in the weekly "Prima Plana" which alleged that Jewish physicians in many hospitals were requesting un-needed blood samples from their patients and clandestinely sending the blood to Israel.

Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the Latin American Jewish Congress, who returned here last week after spending five months in Israel, warned that the number one enemy of the Jewish State is not the Arabs but the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet-Arab objective is to isolate Israel diplomatically. They have succeeded to an alarming extent in Africa and are trying to do the same in Latin America, he warned.

Eliezer Doron, Israel's Ambassador to Argentina, read a special message from Premier Golda Meir at a Solidarity With Israel special meeting convened by the Latin American WJC which was attended by representatives of Jewish communities from 10 Latin American countries.

Jewish Defense League members forced their way into the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to demand U.S. action for the return of Israeli POWs.

EYE WITNESS REPORT: WITH ISRAELI FORCES IN OCCUPIED EGYPT

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

While Premier Golda Meir and her American hosts debated the plight of the Third Army this week, the same debate went on in hundreds of Israeli army positions along the west bank of the Suez Canal. Doubtlessly it goes on too among the Third Army soldiers. Israeli soldiers are thoroughly aware of the political factors which are turning their military victory into a draw. They know, from the radio and newspapers, the reasons that prompted Israel to agree to the provision of food and water supplies to the beleaguered Egyptian force. They expect there will be more Israeli concessions on this issue. They understand it all--but they do not agree with it.

Perhaps it is natural. I spoke to young soldiers who fought to secure the Israeli penetration into Egypt, and were now standing guard over the makeshift jetty where Egyptian motor rafts and amphibious troop-carriers were loading the life-saving supplies to sustain the army they thought they had beaten. They told me their general had visited earlier in the day--and had assured them that he, too, was opposed to feeding the Egyptians. But it was a political decision. The supply transfer proceeds at a snail's pace. By Thursday night, some 60 trucks in all had been unloaded into the rafts--in a period of four days. I saw long queues of trucks, both at the water's edge waiting to be unloaded, and at kilometer 101 on the Cairo-Suez road, which is the checkpoint through which the trucks, under UN aegis, cross from Egyptian to Israeli lines.

The checkpoint provides an interesting example of continuous direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Once or twice a day a top general comes down from each side (yesterday's Israeli general was Yisrael Tal, the Deputy Chief of Staff) to discuss the cease-fire. But all day long the Israeli and Egyptian majors and captains at the checkpoint are in contact. I saw an Egyptian major, immaculate and ramrod straight, stride through the Israeli lines, talking as he went with the Israeli major. The latter was also well turned out, but ate an apple as he spoke. The trucks stretch back in a long line towards the Egyptian lines. They contain plastic cans of water, crates of pitta bread, and boxes of tubes, phials and bottles of medicine. Neither the Israelis nor the UN troops who look on as all this slowly happens, seem in any great hurry. And the Egyptians seem to accept the slow pace of things resignedly.

At the disembarkation point the trucks back up two at a time for several hundred unarmed Egyptian soldiers to manually unload them into the motor rafts as armed Israeli soldiers look on. Instead of forming a "chain" which would be the most efficient and speedy method, the Egyptian soldiers each take a load on their shoulders and walk the whole wobbly way to the rafts. Their officers give orders, but do no manual work themselves. The soldiers are patently tired out even before they begin work at midday--and after some hours they are sweating freely. An Israeli soldier told me that a UN man suggested to the officers that they replace the tired men with others. But the officers assured him that Egyptian soldiers are strong and capable. Some hundred yards from the transport point I saw an Egyptian officer lying dead on the sand. Apart from him, I saw no bodies on the canal's west bank--the Israeli army had removed them all. The ravages of war, however, are apparent everywhere with burned-out tanks and vehicles dotting the landscape--just like Sinai itself.

The town of Suez seems to have suffered badly--though a lot of the visible damage is still from the 1968 artillery barrages. Some modern blocks of flats are badly scarred from tank fire--the remnants of Egyptian infantry having taken up positions in and around them. The oil refineries, in Israeli hands, seem untouched by the war. Since 1968 they had been operating at less than half their full capacity. Now they are completely silent. The cease-fire lines run through the heart of the town. An imposing white mosque with colorful domed ceiling is an Israeli forward position. Its fine exterior has been heavily pockmarked. Neither in the town of Suez nor in the village of Fayid to the north near the Israeli bridges did I see any Egyptian civilians. If there were any they seem to have left. But apparently there were not many even before the war. Most of the area is a succession of military camps, installations and an airfield (at Fayid) and there are few signs of normal civilian life.

The UN troops, blonde Scandinavians, are friendly and a happy bunch. They share rations with the Israeli soldiers and chat about wives and children in Tel Aviv or in Cyprus. They carry Carl-Gustav submachine guns, which the Israeli soldiers assure them is far inferior to their own Uzis or Belgian FN rifles. They drive around in British army jeeps hastily stuck in Cyprus with Swedish or Finnish insignia. In this roundabout way, the British have managed at last to get into the peace-keeping act. The UN will be receiving heavier vehicles mounting two heavy machine guns, the UN soldiers told me. Their orders: to shoot only in self-defense. They seemed powerless Thursday morning when Israeli and Egyptian guns opened up briefly near the canal bridges. The Israeli spokesman explained that the Egyptians sought to improve their positions and the Israelis succeeded--by some tank shots--in preventing this. I saw smoke clouds as shells fell and heard the booms in the distance. But by 9 a.m. it was all over, and life under the cease-fire had resumed its normal flow.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--A special Latin American Assembly in Solidarity with Israel ended here Thursday with an appeal to all governments and peoples in Latin America as well as elsewhere "to act positively" in order to obtain peace and justice for all peoples in the Middle East. The assembly, called by the Latin American Jewish Congress, expressed its identification with "heroic Israel" to which it feels united as part of the same people in Israel's fight for a just peace, within secure and recognized borders. The assembly strongly condemned the Arab attack on Israel on Judaism's holiest day and at-

tacked the Soviet Union for arming and training the attackers and inciting other Arab countries to join in the fight.

LONDON (JTA)--Employees of the Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company have been told to contribute a month's wages to the "Arab war effort." This has caused deep embarrassment to many of the employees who are afraid to refuse for obvious reasons but don't feel like contributing a month's salary to a cause which is not theirs. British employees of various Arab companies all over the world have also been forced to surrender a month's salary.