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HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN MIDEAST: ISRAEL AND EGYPT SIGN 6-POINT AGREEMENT

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Israel and Egypt today signed a six-point armistice agreement initiated by U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. The signing took place at 4:05 p.m. local time in a large tent provided by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) at the 101 kilometer marker on the Suez-Cairo road. The document sets in motion negotiations between Israel and Egypt to resolve the problems arising from the Oct. 22 cease-fire and calls for an immediate prisoner of war exchange between the two countries. It was signed for Israel by Maj. Gen. Aharon Yariv, a close advisor of Premier Golda Meir, and for Egypt by Lt. Gen. Mouhammed Gemassi, Chief of Operations at Egyptian General Headquarters. The signing was witnessed by Maj. Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo of Finland, acting chief of UNEF and chief of the UN Truce Observation Organization (UNTSO).

The Israeli and Egyptian delegations faced each other across a table covered with a gray army blanket. The agreement was the first signed by Israel and Egypt in 24 years. The last time delegations of the two nations met face-to-face was at Rhodes in 1949 when they signed the armistice ending Israel's War for Independence. Each delegate signed three copies of today's agreement--in the English language--and each handed one copy over to the other. The third copy remained with Gen. Siilasvuo.

The six points to which they appended their signatures are: 1) Israel and Egypt agree to observe scrupulously the cease-fire called for by the UN Security Council; 2) Both sides agree that discussions between them will begin immediately to settle the question of the return to the Oct. 22 positions in the framework of agreement on the disengagement and separation of forces under the auspices of the UN; 3) The town of Suez will receive daily supplies of food, water and medicine. All wounded civilians in the town of Suez will be evacuated; 4) There shall be no impediment to the movement of non-military supplies to the east bank (of the Suez Canal where the Egyptian Third Army Corps is encircled); 5) The Israeli checkpoints on the Cairo-Suez road will be replaced by UN checkpoints. At the end of the road, Israeli officers can participate with the UN to supervise the non-military nature of the cargo at the bank of the canal; 6) As soon as the checkpoints are established on the Cairo-Suez road, there will be an exchange of all POWs, including the wounded.

There is no armistice or POW exchange agreement with Syria and several groups demonstrated outside the Government Information Office in Tel Aviv today protesting the signing of the agreement with Egypt before Israeli prisoners in Syrian hands are returned. Other demonstrators demanded the continued encirclement of the Egyptian Third Army as long as the Bab el Mandeb blockade is not lifted. In Haifa today, Mordechai Kashti, managing director of Zim, the national shipping line, said that 12 of the company's vessels are still bottled up at Eilat because of the blockade.

Contrary to unofficial reports that circulated here Friday, the agreement does not mention lifting the blockade of the straits of Bab el Mandeb by Egypt. This and other omissions and ambiguities were cause for serious second thoughts by Israel after it announced last Thursday that it accepted Kissinger's formula in principle. Discrepancies between Israel's and Egypt's interpretation of the six points were raised by Premier Meir at a meeting Friday morning with U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Keating, after which Mrs. Meir decided to postpone Israel's final approval until Kissinger could provide the desired clarifications. Specifically, Israel's interpretation of the agreement was that the POW exchange must be simultaneous with implementation of the cease-fire agreement and that the lifting of the Bab el Mandeb blockade was implicit in the agreement. Mrs. Meir stressed that Israel views the agreement to be valid, "on the sea, in the air and on land."

Israel also insisted that while UN checkpoints will be set up on the Cairo-Suez road, the section of the road in Israeli hands will continue to remain under full Israeli military control. The supply route to the Third Army and the town of Suez is not to be an opening for the establishment of an Egyptian corridor to the Third Army. Israel also demanded assurances of thorough and effective inspection of all supplies moving over the route to ascertain their non-military nature. Keating communicated Israel's points to Kissinger who was in Peking over the weekend. The Israeli Cabinet, which met in special session Friday, adjourned with the announcement that Israel's acceptance of the six points "in principle" stood "pending further clarification." The clarification arrived yesterday and after further consultation with his ministers, Premier Meir authorized Gen. Yariv to sign the agreement. She announced her decision yesterday at Lod Airport before taking off for London to attend a meeting of the Socialist International Executive.

Mrs. Meir expressed satisfaction that the agreement would be made "directly with one of our Arab neighbors" and added, "It should not take very many days before the prisoners of war in Egypt and Israel are exchanged and I am sure the joy there will be as great as the joy in Israel." She added, "As far as Israel is concerned, the greatest thing that we hope for and wish for is that there should be no shooting. The only other thing I want is peace." She expressed hope "that the implementation of this agreement will pave the way for the next big step--real and serious negotiations between us and our neighbors." (In New Orleans, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that the agreement presents a "fair prospect" that negotiations may begin before the end of the year. See separate story P. 3.)

The designation of Gen. Yariv to sign the armistice document for Israel, placed the 53-year-old former army intelligence chief at the focus of attention and was a clear indication that his star is

rising. He has been one of Mrs. Meir's closest advisors this past year; he accompanied her on her recent visit to Washington and participated in her talks with President Nixon and Kissinger.

POW Issue Still Top Priority

Today's armistice agreement was signed on the 55th anniversary, to the day, of the armistice agreement of 1918 that ended World War I--the war to end all wars. But the scene could not have been in sharper contrast. Instead of the forest at Compiègne where a Wagon-Lits car on a railroad siding served the delegates, the Israelis and Egyptians met under a blazing desert sun inside a huge American Indian-style tent located midway--and about 50 yards--from Israeli and Egyptian headquarters tents. Israeli and Egyptian MPs in parade dress faced each other across the demarcation lines while blue-helmeted UN troops stood guard outside the meeting tent.

The Israelis were the first to come, driving up to the Israeli tent in a jeep. Gen. Yariv, in uniform with his insignia of rank and decorations was the first to alight, followed by six aides, among them Gen. (Res.) Shmuel Eyal who was in charge of POW problems during the war. His presence in the Israeli delegation made it clear that Israel intended to give the POW issue first priority in the talks with the Egyptians.

The Egyptian delegation arrived in a small convoy consisting of two Russian-made jeeps and a staff car. Two men in military uniform, one of them Gen. Gamassi, were accompanied by two in civilian dress, each carrying an attache case.

Both delegations entered their respective HQ tents. At 3 p.m. they emerged and entered the larger meeting tent over which the UN flag flew. The Israelis were seated on the left side of the table, the Egyptians on the right. Gen. Siilasvuo, an advisor and a Red Cross representative occupied the center of the table. There were pitchers of Israeli orange juice and the UN general helped himself to a glass. The talks lasted about 45 minutes and the agreement was signed at 4:05 p.m.

Gen. Yariv made a brief statement after the signing: "If there are any doubts, if there is in our hearts some anxiety as to the first step we have made today in signing the accord, let us say it clearly that the Israeli Defense Forces stand fast and will remain so to defend our cause on this front and on all other fronts. The Israeli army is the guarantee that we shall be able to go safely forward on the difficult road ahead of us." He expressed hope that the Egyptians will fulfill the terms of the agreement just as Israel has pledged to observe them.

'THE WAR OF THE JEWS'

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

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Separate investigations of the Yom Kippur War by the government and the army appeared imminent today. Acting Premier Yigal Allon announced this afternoon following a Cabinet meeting that Premier Golda Meir intends to raise the question of an investigation at Cabinet level at an early date. She is expected to do so within a few days of her return from London where she is presently attending a meeting of the Socialist International Executive.

It was announced at the same time that the army is embarking on an "inquiry" of its own under the authority vested in the Chief of Staff. Gen. David Elazar, the Chief of Staff, told the

Cabinet ministers that such an inquiry was accepted practice after a war. He said it would cover war preparations, the preparedness of the army, the battles and the strategies employed. Attorney General Meir Shamgar has ruled that an army inquiry was legal within Israel's law and that it would not prejudice any inquiry which the government may decide to initiate.

The inquiries, it is hoped here, will cool off the increasingly bitter public debate over who was to blame for Israel being caught by surprise when Egypt and Syria attacked on Yom Kippur (Oct. 6) and why the Israeli armed forces, sustaining their heaviest losses in men and equipment, were unable to achieve a decisive victory over the enemy. The quarrel has already been dubbed "the war of the Jews" and there is a growing feeling here that the inquiries must be held without delay and completed, if possible, before the Dec. 31 national elections if the divisive debate is to be muted.

Suggestions have been made that the government initiate a judicial inquiry with a judge as chairman. Others have proposed a public inquiry by a panel consisting of leading non-partisan public figures. These and other proposals are expected to be discussed by the Cabinet as soon as Mrs. Meir returns.

Controversy Over Private Interviews

Meanwhile, a new angry controversy has arisen over private interviews given by Israeli generals in recent days to local and foreign news media. Shamgar is investigating an interview with Gen. Ariel (Arik) Sharon, published Friday in the NY Times under a Rome dateline, in which Sharon charged that his superior officers had failed to exploit in time his thrust across the Suez Canal at the end of the first week of the Yom Kippur War.

Gen. Sharon, who is the founder and a leader of the Likud opposition, charged bluntly that his superiors hesitated to re-enforce his salient on the west bank of the Suez Canal until it was too late to achieve a decisive route of the Egyptian army. Complaints over the Sharon interview were raised in the Cabinet today by Health Minister Victor Shemtov and Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that Elazar had raised the matter with him as soon as the interview appeared and that he had instructed Elazar to refer it to the Attorney General. Shamgar, who was present at the Cabinet meeting, said he would issue requisite guidelines but did not say when.

During the Cabinet discussion the fact that other senior reserve officers have given interviews and written articles since their release from active duty was also raised. Among them was Lt. Gen. Haim Barlev, former Chief of Staff and presently Minister of Commerce and Industry, who wrote an article vindicating his defense strategy which appeared in the newspaper Maariv four days after he was demobilized.

Demands For A Purge Increase

There have been rumblings and recriminations over the Oct. 6 surprise attack since the cease-fire ended major fighting. Demands for a "purge" of those allegedly responsible for Israeli mistakes were heard in some quarters. But as long as the cease-fire was shaky and a renewal of war appeared likely, criticism of the government and army was restrained. With the signing of today's six-point armistice agreement with Egypt, those restraints are expected to be abandoned.

Elections are only a month-and-a-half away and partisan emotions are heating up. One target is Dayan himself, the charismatic hero of the 1967 Six-Day War. Even within the Labor Party, Dayan's prestige has declined since the war. During the first

week of the war he offered his resignation to Premier Meir but she refused to accept it. The Labor Party elections committee, which met Friday in Tel Aviv with Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, called for a thorough investigation of the war on both military and political levels. Although Dayan's name was not mentioned, some Labor circles reported that the demand for an investigation before the elections stemmed from a belief that Dayan can no longer contribute to the Party's strength and should resign before the balloting.

Dayan himself is said to favor an inquiry by a judicial committee, the findings of which, if accepted, could not be appealed. Addressing a meeting of local Labor Party branches yesterday, Dayan in effect blamed the Soviet threat of intervention for Israel's failure to win a decisive victory. In addition, he said, the war was the most difficult in Israel's history because of the sophisticated equipment in the enemy's hands. "Whoever thinks that our planes were downed because of mistakes by General Headquarters and not by missiles is utterly mistaken," he said. Dayan also hinted that he would be prepared to resign. "The problem is not the change of players. But if they are to be changed, I am also to be replaced," he said.

EBAN ASSESSES CHANCES FOR TALKS, ISRAEL'S UNPREPAREDNESS ON OCT. 6

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 11 (JTA)--The signing of the six-point agreement signifies the beginning of a dialogue between Israel and the Arab states and presents a "fair prospect" that negotiations may begin before the end of the year. This assessment was offered here last night by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban in his address before 3000 Jewish communal leaders from the United States and Canada attending the 42nd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. The envoy extolled the American government for its military, economic and diplomatic aid and support to Israel during the war and for its "courage and steadfast action by withstanding a dark, authentic threat by the Soviet Union." Eban underscored this last point by stating that the Soviet threat to Israel "was genuine." The friendship between the U.S. and Israel withstood the highest test, he observed. "Nobody outside the Jewish people has ever provided such a profusion of welfare." But, Eban stated, Israel "promises no docility in that relationship" and friendship does not mean that "there cannot be disagreement."

The Israeli diplomat excoriated the European countries who capitulated to the Arab oil threat and reserved his greatest scorn and derision for these countries. "The question for Europe is whether, having surrendered their colonization of the oil sheikdoms, are now willing to become colonized by them? The real question these nations should be asking is not what Israel's independence means to them, but what their own independence means." But Eban was also unsparing in his appraisal of why Israel was caught by surprise on Oct. 6. He declared bluntly that Israel's top leadership "cannot renounce scrutiny of what was clearly a deficiency in our defense system. With the end of the war there must be a quiet, profound and human inquiry by an independent committee as to what went wrong on the opening day of the war."

Focusing on this issue Eban listed several factors responsible for the lack of Israel's preparation on Oct. 6. The assumption by Israel that the Arab realized that another war would bring the Israeli armed forces closer to Cairo and Damascus was based on a calculation that the Arabs were rational enough to understand this. "But we underestimated the irrational element in human history," he observed. In addition, the decisive and lightning victory of Israel in 1967 lulled the nation into a false sense of security as it did the rest of the world that Israel was invulnerable and unbeatable even when the greatest odds confronted it. Israel, he noted, "lived for six years in an unreal world." The 1967 victory had been so unique "that it should not have been taken as a framework of reference." Before leaving Lod Airport yesterday on his way here Eban, in an interview with Haaretz, observed that Israel's concept of security and defense was shattered by the war. He said that the Suez Canal did not turn out to be the secure barrier to attack that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had claimed it to be. He also stated that the idea that the 1967 security borders would give Israel sufficient time to deploy its forces in case of war, that a new war would be a short one and that the superpowers would not be drawn in, all proved to be misconceptions.

Nevertheless, he told the audience here, Israel's military victory "in technical military terms" was the nation's "most decisive victory since it was snatched from an overwhelming force. Every advantage was theirs (the Arabs), every disadvantage ours. But it was a technical victory without celebration, a triumph along with bereavement, deliverance along with grief. The deeper memory is not how it ended but how it began. This is what is going on in Israel right now." The signing of the treaty, he noted, does not mean that "our ordeals are over. It only means that they will unfold in a different context. The need to make the transition from hostility to dialogue, from war to peace has been the vision of Israel since its founding." Why, he asked, "has nothing except empirical experience of war brought us as close as we have come to peace?" Part of the reason, Eban noted, was that international guarantees mattered little in terms of assuring Israel's sovereignty unless there was also a determination for defense.

In the final analysis, Eban said, the price Israel has had to pay--1854 dead, IL 22 billion for the cost of the war and the decline of the tourist trade during these past few weeks--cannot be borne by Israel alone. "It is too heavy for us to carry alone," he declared. "We need a vast and triumphant assertion of Jewish solidarity. We want to know if you are with us, and if so we shall stand steadfast, confident and serene until the obstacles are surmounted and the task is done." He was greeted by a prolonged, thunderous and standing ovation by the delegates who filled the main ballroom of the Marriott Hotel and two other rooms set aside for the overflow crowd who were watching Eban on closed circuit television. Prior to Eban's address the meeting heard greetings from Mrs. Nicole Goldman of Paris, member of the executive committee of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié of France, and Clarence de Wolfe, vice-chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board of London; Morton L. Mandel of Cleveland, vice-president of the CJF, chaired the meeting.

RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, UAHC PRESIDENT, DIES AT 71**LEADER OF REFORM JUDAISM WAS TO HAVE PRESENTED SPEECH SHARPLY CRITICAL OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION, U.S. JEWS WHO GAVE UNCRITICAL SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT**

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Only a few hours before he was scheduled to address the centennial-biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, who led the organization of Reform Judaism in the United States for 30 years, died Friday of a heart attack in his hotel room. Rabbi Eisendrath, who was executive director of UAHC from 1943-50 and president since then, was 71 years old. More than 2500 mourners attended the funeral service today in Central Synagogue. Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of Temple Israel, Boston, a close friend of Rabbi Eisendrath and former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, delivered the eulogy. The service was conducted by Rabbi B. T. Rubinstein of Westport, Conn. Burial will be tomorrow in the Holy Blossom Temple cemetery in Toronto. Rabbi Eisendrath served as the temple's spiritual leader from 1929-43.

The announcement of his death was read to the shocked delegates by Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler who was scheduled to become UAHC president next year. Some 3500 persons had gathered in the Hilton Hotel for a joint worship service with the UAHC and its women's affiliate, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. The address, which was to have been Rabbi Eisendrath's valedictory remarks, was sharply critical of the Nixon Administration and those Jews in America who, he charged, condoned the crimes of Watergate because of Administration support of Israel.

According to a press release sent earlier to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rabbi Eisendrath scored what he called "our ever-scapegoating president...so indifferent at all the obscene dishonesty and pervasive corruption that have so blackened the White House, so obsessed with 'national security' as to rationalize the most unforgivable concealment and the most blatant fabrication that have brought us within an inch of a dictatorial police state." In the face of betrayal, Rabbi Eisendrath asked, "Are we still prepared to assert that religion has nothing to do with politics? Unless we Jews, conversant with the moral commands of our faith, resume our responsibilities, we will have forfeited for all time our usefulness and our reason for surviving as a people."

The address, in the form of a sermon, also covered a wide range of topics. Rabbi Eisendrath emphasized the growing strength of the synagogue and noted it dramatizes the effectiveness of religious Judaism in rallying Jews, and the existing centrality of the synagogue in American Jewish life. He stated that rabbis were able to muster instant congregational response for Israel because synagogues were filled with Yom Kippur worshippers when news of the Arab invasion broke. Mobilization for aid, therefore, was spurred by the power of religious and moral impetus.

In this context, Rabbi Eisendrath strongly reaffirmed the solidarity of Reform Jews with Israel, but warned that the 11-million-member Reform Jewish movement would fight for full religious rights in Israel. He called for a constitutional insertion in the UAHC's by-laws making the religious movement's commitment to Israel part of the group's platform, "to strengthen the solidarity of the Jewish people in all lands, to foster the development of Liberal Judaism throughout the world under the auspices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and to enrich and sustain the State of Israel as a vibrant exemplar of eternal Jewish values."

Rabbi Eisendrath was born in Chicago and attended schools in Cincinnati. He received a B.A. degree in 1925 from the University of Cincinnati, where he majored in philosophy. After studies at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati he was ordained in 1926. Rabbi Eisendrath was always involved with UAHC. When he became executive director in 1943, the organization had a few hundred Reform congregations. Today there are more than 700 congregations in the U.S. and Canada in UAHC. Rabbi Eisendrath was involved in many religious and secular controversies during his long career. He was active in the civil rights movement working with the late Dr. Martin Luther King and in the anti-war movement.

His address was to have included a plea for amnesty for those who refused to serve in the army during the Vietnam War. His address was also to have contained a strong defense of Judaism. "The world needs Judaism," he said, "its compassion instead of the machismo of today's violence, its optimism in the face of despair, its compassion in the face of human callousness, its reverence for the life of the mind in defiance of emotionalism run riot, its love of learning and passion for justice, its hunger for peace as the apex of God's kingdom and its partnership with God in setting the world aright."

FALIK LERNER, CHIEF EDITOR OF DI PRESSE, DEAD AT 70

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Falik Lerner, chief editor of the Yiddish daily, "Di Presse," died Thursday at the age of 70. Born in Bessarabia, Lerner came to Argentina in 1927 settling in the city of Rosario where he started writing for Di Presse. In 1943 Lerner went to Chile where he edited for three years "Das Yiddische Wort." In 1946 he returned to Argentina and became a staff member of Di Presse and began writing a weekly column. He became editor-in-chief of the newspaper, now Argentina's only Yiddish paper, in 1972.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The last two memorial services for those who fell in the Yom Kippur

War were held Sunday at the Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz for 146 fighters, and at Beersheba where 206 soldiers were buried. Senior officers and army chaplains eulogized the dead.

LONDON (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir arrived here Saturday night for a meeting of the Socialist International Executive devoted to the Middle East. The meeting was convened at the request of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt. There will be no resolutions but a summation of views is expected to be issued when the gathering ends. Sunday afternoon some 30,000 people gathered at Hyde Park Corner to express solidarity with Israel and to hear a message from Mrs. Meir. After arriving here the Premier met briefly with Labor Party leader Harold Wilson, other Socialist leaders and with a delegation of Anglo-Jewish leaders.