



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036  
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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Monday, November 19, 1973

No. 220

## **CABINET APPROVES 5-MEMBER JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE YOM KIPPUR WAR**

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided today to appoint a five-member judicial committee to investigate the Yom Kippur War. The announcement of that decision immediately provoked a new storm of controversy because a judicial inquiry by its nature must be carried out in secrecy according to law. The panel, to be headed by a justice of the Supreme Court or a district judge, will operate under the laws of sub judice, meaning that the public debate surrounding the war issues will have to be severely curtailed during the Knesset election campaign. Haim Landau, of the opposition Likud, has already announced in a radio interview that his party would demand public freedom of speech on the central issue which he said was the government's failure to mobilize the reserves in time when it was apparent that the enemy was about to attack. Uri Avneri of the opposition Meri faction seconded Landau.

Attorney General Meir Shamgar admitted to newsmen that the problem of sub judice would be extremely delicate. He said he would try to be lenient and would act against newspapers or other media only if committee members actually complained that published material was influencing their investigation, which would be in violation of the law. Shamgar said that Knesset members, who enjoy immunity would not be subject to prosecution if they violated the laws of sub judice in their campaign speeches. But press reports of their speeches would be subject to prosecution, he said. The government said it would raise the blanket of secrecy only as regards the actual appointments to the committee and that it would retain the option whether or not to publish the panel's final report.

The secrecy aspects must be approved by the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee which meets tomorrow. Since the government coalition commands a majority on the committee, its approval is considered certain. Officials here stressed that the investigating panel would not delve into the actual conduct of the war beyond the "containment" stage following the initial attack. They noted that the army itself was conducting a far-reaching inquiry into the tactics and strategy employed. The judicial committee will investigate pre-war preparedness of the army, intelligence assessments of the enemy's intentions and the army's performance in the first days of the war. The committee's mandate will also cover the decisions by political and military authorities in the crucial days before Oct. 6 when the war broke out, the Cabinet's announcement said.

According to the commission of inquiries law of 1968, the judicial panel will be appointed directly by Chief Justice Shimon Agranat of the Supreme Court. It was considered likely that Justice Agranat would assume the chairmanship although he may appoint another Supreme Court justice or a district judge. It was learned that the proposal for a judicial inquiry was presented to the Cabinet by Premier Golda Meir who said she was determined to have a completely impartial body not prone to outside influence and therefore had rejected other options such as a Knesset committee or a public panel of non-judicial character. Informed sources said the Premier had originally favored a public body but was persuaded by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan to agree to a judicial committee. The panel will be the fourth to be convened in Israel since the 1968 law. The others were set up to investigate the 1968 El Aksa mosque fire, the 1971 football scandal and the 1972 Netivei Neft oil company scandal. In those cases the committees' reports were published.

## **ARAB TERRORISTS THREATEN AUSTRIA**

VIENNA, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Arab terrorists threatened to blow up oil refineries, oil tanks and gas stations in Austria, police sources said today. "We were informed by international oil firms," a police spokesman said. "They passed on their information to the Ministry of Interior." Remembering the recent experience of the Vienna Airport hostage terror, police headquarters in all provincial capitals were alerted by the ministry and security measures were increased.

Asked by JTA whether the threat is serious, the spokesman said: "You can never be sure with these things. Yet this time we do not want to take any risks." It was not disclosed whether the terrorists' threat could be connected with the government's policy on Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel. Only last week Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky announced that the special transit camp for Soviet Jews at Schoenau Castle will be closed down but an aid station will be set up at Woellersdorf in lower Austria, 40 kilometers south of Vienna.

By closing down Schoenau, Kreisky fulfilled his promise to two Arab terrorists who in ex-

change freed four hostages, including three Soviet Jews, seized Sept. 28 by the two Arabs. Police sources did not rule out the possibility that an Arab terrorist organization will call for the complete suspension of Soviet Jewish transit through Austria.

## **BEN GURION RUSHED TO HOSPITAL AFTER STROKE LEAVES HIM PARTIALLY PARALYZED**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA)--David Ben Gurion was hospitalized today at Tel Hashomer Hospital after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage which left him partially paralyzed. Hospital officials described the 87-year-old former Prime Minister's condition as "fairly serious." He is receiving special care from Dr. Bolislaw Goldman, the hospital's deputy director, and from a team of specialists. Late tonight, doctors reported that Ben Gurion retained consciousness. Labor Party leaders and his relatives were informed of the situation. Ben Gurion has been in hospitals several times this year for checkups.

## **MRS. MEIR: ICE BROKEN FOR DIRECT TALKS**

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said that while the "ice has been broken" for direct talks between Israelis and Egyptians she was

opposed to entering into broader peace talks with Egypt before the Knesset elections Dec. 31. She said she was greatly encouraged by the outcome of last week's talks between senior Israeli and Egyptian officers which settled outstanding cease-fire issues and resulted in the prisoner of war exchange now in progress. "Israelis have met with Egyptians and they have settled and solved problems which had at one time seemed insoluble," she said on a television interview Friday night. But she observed that it would not make much sense if Israel went to a peace conference with Egypt in early or mid-Dec. "Just to say-shalom." The Premier's remarks indicated that she agreed with opposition Likud leaders that a new mandate from the voters was required before the government could enter into serious peace talks with the Arabs.

Mrs. Meir also appeared to be extending an olive branch to Likud when she credited its founder, Gen. Ariel (Arik) Sharon with a role in bringing about the POW agreement with Egypt. She mentioned Sharon, along with Gen. Aharon Yariv and Egyptian Gen. Mohammed Gemassi as deserving credit for the accord. Yariv and Gemassi did the bargaining. Gen. Sharon did not participate in the face-to-face meetings but Mrs. Meir may have been referring to the fact that it was his task force that crossed the Suez Canal and established an Israeli salient on the west bank creating a situation that made Egypt amenable to the cease-fire talks.

The Premier disclosed, however, that Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal for a mutual pull-back of forces. She said Israel would withdraw its men from the west bank if Egypt evacuated its salient on the east bank. She suggested that Israel would be willing to have the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) occupy a strip on both sides of the canal. "At such a distance it is easy to violate the cease-fire. But if everyone wants to preserve it, then it is made easier," she said. Mrs. Meir added that despite the initial negative response by Egypt to the proposal "we must not give up hope. They will continue with the negotiations." The Premier conceded that no progress has been made with Syria toward a POW exchange although "not a day or an hour has passed in which Israel did not seek some way to influence them to agree, the minimum they are obliged to do according to international law."

She said that 10 days ago the Syrians made a proposal "of some kind" which Israel immediately accepted only to have the Syrians suddenly demand more. "We are not quite sure what exactly they are demanding," she said. Mrs. Meir said that all aspects of the Yom Kippur War and the events preceding it would be delved into by the government's inquiry to get under way soon. She said one of the issues would be whether the General Staff had recommended a pre-emptive strike by Israel when it became apparent that Egypt and Syria planned to attack. But, Mrs. Meir added, "If the situation had not been clear beyond a shadow of a doubt as to who started hostilities, I doubt whether the vital equipment we received in the course of time would have flowed in as it did and continues to do."

#### DINITZ: BI-LATERAL TREATIES NO SUBSTITUTE FOR DIRECTLY NEGOTIATED BORDERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Any bi-lateral or multi-national guarantee of Israel's borders can only come after Israel has achieved secure and defensible borders through negotiations with the Arab states and cannot be a substitute for secure borders. This was stressed by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz today at a luncheon session of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League's 60th annual meeting at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and earlier at the 40th anniversary convention of the Jewish Labor Committee at the Hotel Roosevelt. Dinitz told the ADL audience that Israel wants to be strong enough to defend itself, to deter any attack and to ensure that if any attack does come it will be repulsed quickly.

He warned that if the United States or any other country were to give a guarantee it would be their responsibility to enforce it if it broke down. He said Americans rightly do not want another Vietnam where they will have to send American soldiers to defend another country. Dinitz stressed he was not referring to the suggestion made by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Peking, since the Israeli Ambassador contended that Kissinger did not say Israel should substitute secure borders for a guarantee. Dinitz said the challenge ahead for Israel will be tougher than any previous challenge on the political and diplomatic front.

Addressing the Jewish Labor Committee he called on the American Jewish community and the Jewish labor movement today to unite "into one cohesive bond in order to help Israel win a political battle in the Middle East." Dinitz lashed out at the Soviet Union and said that it was "responsible for the bloodshed, trouble, aggression and widows and orphans in the Middle East." He called it "cynicism of the first order" that Russia "wants to sit at the peace table." He said that Russia had removed its civilian personnel from Syria and Egypt two days before the Yom Kippur War and did not notify anyone, "not even the United States, from whom she wanted favored nation treatment, that an attack on Israel was imminent."

Dinitz revealed that in recent negotiations with Egyptians regarding POW exchanges, an Egyptian officer said, "We were told that we are over-populated anyway. You have 8000 of us and we have 300 of your people. The 8000 are unimportant to us." He also revealed that the Syrians who have refused to discuss POW releases, "also refused to consider Israel's offer to permit 14,000 villagers from Syria to return to their homes." Judge Jacob T. Zukerman of the New York City Family Court was re-elected president of the Jewish Labor Committee today.

#### KISSINGER REPORTED FAVORING STEP-BY-STEP TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL, ARABS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, back from a 12-day trip of intensive diplomacy in the Middle and Far East, has scratched two items from his calendar for the time being and added a new one in his quest for an Arab-Israeli settlement. His latest idea is reported to be a step-by-step negotiating process between the Middle East combatants, that will be culminated with a Soviet-American guarantee. Kissinger and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin discussed the U.S. initiative for an hour hesterday at the White House. The Soviet government, it was said, is not opposed to the initiative which is understood to be based on Security Council Resolution

242 with some nuances to sweeten it for Israel. The timing of the process is also understood to be a major factor, with Kissinger anxious for swift movements by Israelis and Arabs, especially Israelis, so that the world energy crisis may be ameliorated quickly by a resumption of oil flow from the Middle East.

One of the items put aside temporarily is the mid-December Arab-Israel conference slated for Geneva under UN auspices. American sources have pointed out that the Israeli Knesset elections on Dec. 31 will prevent Premier Golda Meir's government from making what is now being described here as "the tough, painful, negotiating decisions" ahead of it in the second stage of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The second item set aside is Kissinger's pledge of a month ago to reveal the contents of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev's message to President Nixon when the Egyptians and Syrian forces were being routed. That message caused Nixon to alert American military forces around the globe when it seemed Soviet forces would move against Israel, to save the Egyptian Third Army from annihilation. The fact that Israel stopped short of a complete military victory along the Suez because of U.S. persuasion is an election factor. American sources now say it would not be useful to reveal the Brezhnev message, described as "brutal and threatening" by some, because that would only exacerbate Soviet-American relations when the superpowers appear to be working together toward a Middle East settlement.

Meanwhile, Brezhnev and Yugoslav President Tito in a communique have called for the "national rights" of the Palestinian Arabs to be incorporated into the settlement process. Previously these pro-Arab nations spoke of the Palestinian "legitimate rights." Their new phrase indicates possibilities of a crystallization of ideas for some kind of territorial state for the Palestinians and a role for them in the Israel-Arab conference as a national entity. This idea is considered here as a possible element in the Kissinger negotiating process. At a news conference expected Tuesday or Wednesday, Kissinger doubtlessly will be asked about all these attitudes and his attitude to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which is being driven by French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert to take a stand against what he called superpower domination in the Arab-Israeli dispute. (J. Polakoff)

#### ADL LEADER CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF ARAB NATIONS WHILE OIL EMBARGO CONTINUES

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--An American Jewish leader tonight called for withholding U.S. exports to Arab countries "for as long as the Arabs withhold their oil supplies to this nation." Arnold Forster, associate director and general counsel of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, told a news conference that "the United States has been using a carrot while forgetting that it also has a stick...we do have a protective weapon against Arab oil blackmail--our exports of food, automobiles, airplanes, fuel products, tourist trade." Forster, a panelist on the forum dealing with the energy crisis, part of the League's 60th anniversary meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, said it would be "a tragic error" if the great powers ignore the "absolute validity" of Israel's need for secure borders and try to impose against its will a political settlement that would leave Israel vulnerable to the kind of attack it suffered on Oct. 6.

The result, he declared, would be to recreate all the circumstances that produced four Mideast wars in 25 years and could produce a fifth "as quickly as the USSR can re-prepare the Arabs for it." Forster warned that the Arabs will use "every anti-Jewish propaganda tactic, political pressure and economic muscle" to cause "disruption and divisiveness in American society in order to tilt U.S. foreign policy against Israel." At an earlier session, Seymour Graubard, ADL national chairman, said that the current Arab-Israel war "is not simply a conflict between Arabs and Jews but a battle over who will control the world." Noting that the Soviet Union had "orchestrated" the war "as part of a persistent aggressive strategy for taking over the Middle East and using oil to achieve an energy stranglehold," he cautioned against the possibility of a USSR-U.S. detente that would be nothing more than "another tactic in the USSR's zig-zag climb to world communism."

#### MORE ISRAELI POWs ARRIVE FROM CAIRO; EXCHANGE RATIO FAVORS EGYPT

LOD AIRPORT, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Another group of Israeli prisoners of war arrived here from Cairo at noon today and were taken to an army camp where they were issued fresh clothing before returning to their homes. So far 74 Israeli POWs have been returned in exchange for 3044 Egyptian POWs including the wounded on both sides. The exchange ratio is running at 35-1 in favor of Egypt. Cairo acknowledged holding only 238 Israeli POWs while Israel captured over 8000 Egyptians. Israel sent home 1676 Egyptians yesterday and 1500 more are scheduled to emplane for Cairo today. Generally, Israel is satisfied with the treatment its POWs received at Egyptian hands. The wounded were visited at Tel Hashomer Hospital by Premier Golda Meir Friday and by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday. Dayan said that while the Egyptians behaved correctly toward the captured Israelis in most cases, there were some reports of callous treatment by soldiers on the battlefield and by prison wardens. He said he learned that one POW was beaten in prison.

It was learned, meanwhile, that Israeli POWs were held in solitary confinement and the wounded in isolation wards. They were given no news. One returnee said Egyptian doctors boasted to him that the Egyptian army was advancing into the heart of Israel. Wounded POWs had no complaint about the medical treatment they received. Physicians at Tel Hashomer-Sheba Hospital confirmed that the treatment was good but said the Egyptian doctors neglected physiotherapy which often hastens recovery.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN: Histadrut General Secretary Yitzhak Ben Aharon officially announced tonight his resignation from that post claiming that this step was the result of a campaign against him.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan denied Sunday foreign reports that Israel was seeking to block the Suez Canal. He told the Cabinet that Israel "maintained bridges" across the canal to link its forces, but that reports saying it was seeking to block the canal had no basis in reality.

**CATHOLIC BISHOPS OFFER SIX-POINT PROGRAM ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION**

Calls For Access To Jerusalem Through A Form Of International Guarantee

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The Catholic Bishops of the United States, implying permanent Israeli political and administrative control of Jerusalem in a Middle East settlement have offered a six-point "comprehensive-political solution" in "a plea to the parties concerned." Jerusalem's future was presented as the sixth point in a resolution that was "passed by a voice vote with no dissent heard" by the approximately 250 bishops attending their annual conference at the Statler Hilton Hotel here, the conference secretariat reported.

The point regarding Jerusalem said: "Given recognition of the unique status of the City of Jerusalem and its religious significance which transcends the interests of any one tradition, we believe it necessary to insure access to the city through a form of international guarantee. Moreover, the character of the city as a religiously pluralist community, with equal protection of the religious and civil rights of all citizens must be guaranteed in the name of justice."

Besides this reference to Jerusalem, the other five points in the bishops' resolution came in this order: "Recognition of the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state with secure boundaries"; "recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs, especially the refugees" with their inclusion as "partners in any negotiations"; acceptance of their right to a state and compensation for past losses to be paid not only by Israel but also by other members of the international community responsible for the 1948 partition plan; acceptance as the basis for negotiations by all parties to the conflict of the stipulations in UN Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967; continued restraint and responsible diplomatic involvement by the Soviet Union and the United States "mutually coordinated with UN activities in the region"; and continued reliance on the UN diplomatically and through its peace-keeping machinery.

The absence in the resolution or in the discussion released by the secretariat of any mention of political control of the Holy City by any international body or nation and the fact that Israel is in fact administering the municipality appeared to observers that it is the bishops' intention to favor Israel's continuance of political administration. The Rev. J. Bryan Hehir of Boston, director of the division of justice and peace of the conference, made the presentation on the Middle East. It was accepted with applause and only a few questions and little change in the resolution's substance occurred.

In discussing Jerusalem, Father Hehir said: "For three of the major religious communities of the world the question of Jerusalem holds a special significance. The Vatican itself has been constantly concerned about specific issues relating to Jerusalem. These issues include international protection for the holy places, the future of Arab Christians in Jerusalem (and elsewhere in the area), and the special status which the City of Jerusalem itself has for our faith." He made no mention of internationalization of the city as a whole.

In discussing the Palestinians, Father Hehir told the bishops that the Palestinians have "special relevance" to the principle that "any settlement which leaves one party with the view that its claims have been totally denied makes that party ipso facto a revisionist element" and "its future goal is to overthrow the settlement." He said "it could be argued that no other party to the conflict has suffered more over the past 25 years" than the Palestinians. "It is both politically sound and morally necessary for the Palestinians to be accepted as an independent participant in any negotiations on the Middle East problem." He urged that "the church should stand for this form of independent presence for the Palestinians because there, as in other areas of international life, the weakest party becomes the forgotten party."

**CHILEAN JEWS HONOR ISRAELI DEAD**

SANTIAGO, Nov. 18 (JTA)--More than 1000 persons attended a memorial service for the 1854 Israeli soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur War. The service at the Circulo Israelita Temple here was conducted by Rabbi Angel Kreiman assisted by Mauricio Pitchon, spiritual leader of the Sephardic community.

Moshe Tov, Israeli Ambassador to Chile, expressed the hope that the blood of the soldiers and the tears of their mothers were not shed in vain and a real and lasting peace will be achieved. The Chilean Jewish community has sent a telegram signed by the presidents of all Jewish organizations here to Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, expressing their unconditional support of Israel during the current crisis.

Tov, meanwhile, also gave a luncheon at his home for Chilean journalists and intellectuals at which he praised the Chilean people for their democratic aims of freedom and progress. He stressed that Israel's only wish is to have a permanent and lasting peace in the Middle East.

**EEC NATIONS REWARDED FOR STAND**

VIENNA, Nov. 18 (JTA)--European Common

Market countries were rewarded today by Arab countries for their pro-Arab stance in the Middle East crisis. After a four-hour meeting of Arab oil ministers here they announced that the Common Market countries will be exempted from the Arab oil producers' monthly five percent supply cutback in Dec. But the statement of the Organization of Arab Oil Producing Countries (OAPEC) issued here today also said that the oil embargo to The Netherlands and the United States would continue. The foreign ministers of Common Market countries recently called for a complete withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories.

Charles S. Zimmerman, a former vice-president of the ILGWU, revealed in New York that the USSR was sending Aaron Vergelis, editor of "Soviet Homeland," to the U.S. "In an attempt to placate the American Jewish community with regard to Soviet policies against Jews," Zimmerman told a Jewish Labor Committee 40th anniversary luncheon audience that "our information is that the Soviets believe that by sending him they will be able to explain away Soviet repression of Jews and Soviet incursions into the Middle East. They are wasting their time and money." He added, "no responsible Jewish leader or organization in this country will find credibility in anything he has to say."