



daily news bulletin

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ISRAEL AGREES IN PRINCIPAL TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE CONFERENCE DUE DEC. 18 IN GENEVA

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA)—The Government announced officially today that Israel would agree in principle to participate in a Middle East peace conference proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, to open in Geneva Dec. 18. The Cabinet, at its regular weekly session, issued this statement and added the government would wait for an official invitation before giving its final consent to joining the talks. It was understood that the final decision to go to Geneva will depend on what form the peace talks would take and what nations would participate in them. Today's announcement was understood to be the first time the Dec. 18 date was mentioned as the opening date for a peace conference. But it was understood by the Cabinet that no substantive negotiations would take place before the elections. A Cabinet source said today that the proposed participants were Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria and the two sponsors, the U.S. and Soviet Union, with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim attending as an observer. That line-up, as envisioned by the U.S., was apparently conveyed to Foreign Minister Abba Eban at his meeting with Kissinger in Washington last week.

(In Algiers, where Arab leaders began arriving this weekend for a summit conference starting tomorrow, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi stated that Egypt will "of course attend the talks." He told newsmen that Egypt has "always said it is seeking a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis." There was no immediate indication as to the reactions by Jordan and Syria to Israel's announcement.)

Returning from the U.S. last Friday, Eban said the Nixon Administration and Kissinger were aware that Israel will hold its general elections Dec. 31. He said they were also aware that the present Israeli government cannot make any commitments before the elections. But the U.S. is of the opinion that opening peace negotiations in mid-Dec. had advantages that many influence the international atmosphere, Eban said. The Foreign Minister said Israel should not go to the peace table with undue haste but neither should it drag its feet. Too long a time should not elapse between the cease-fire and a peace conference, he said.

Eban indicated that Israel would not enter negotiations with Syria until the latter returns Israeli POWs. Deputy Premier Yigal Allon hinted recently that Israel would expect Russia to resume diplomatic relations with Israel before it could claim any role at the midstage peace talks. Other Israeli spokesmen have ruled out participation by Britain and France. Today's Cabinet meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and by Gen. Aharon Yariv, the chief Israeli negotiator in the cease-fire talks with Egypt. The Cabinet was briefed by Eban and by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who returned today from a Latin American visit.

TWO-HOUR ARTILLERY DUEL ERUPTS ON EGYPTIAN FRONT; EGYPTIAN TANKS HIT BY ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA)—A two-hour artillery duel erupted on the Egyptian front today. An Israeli military spokesman said it was started by the Egyptians who aimed automatic weapons and artillery fire at Israeli positions on the west bank of the Suez Canal. He said Israeli forces returned the fire and scored direct hits on a number of Egyptian tanks. The spokesman reported in addition, three other shooting incidents on the Egyptian front and one of the Syrian front today.

He said that Egyptian forces penetrated into Israel-held territory near the 133 kilometer marker on the Cairo-Suez road south of the Bitter Lakes at 6 a.m. local time but were repulsed by Israeli troops. About an hour later, Egyptian troops southwest of Ismailia opened fire on an Israeli patrol. The fire was returned. Shortly after noon, Egyptian forces opened fire again south of Ismailia. Israeli troops returned the fire. There were no Israeli casualties in any of the incidents, the spokesman said. He reported that several shells were fired at Israeli positions on the Syrian front in the Mizrat Bet Jan region of the Golan Heights.

CEASE-FIRE TALKS REMAIN DEADLOCKED; INCREASED ALERTS ON EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN FRONTS

Dayan Says Little Has Been Accomplished In The Cease-Fire Talks

Combined JTA Reports By Yitzhak Shargil (Tel. Aviv), David Landau (Jerusalem)

NOV. 25 (JTA)—The cease-fire talks today remained deadlocked on the issue of disengagement as Israeli forces maintained an increased alert on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts and the possibility grew that serious fighting would break out anew. Today's meeting at the 101 kilometer checkpoint between the Israeli chief negotiator Gen. Aharon Yariv and Egyptian Gen. Mohammed Gemaasi was postponed until tomorrow at Egypt's request. Yariv reported to the Cabinet today. The two officers met for 80 minutes yesterday, one of their shortest meetings. A UN spokesman said afterwards that "Both sides have shown a constructive approach and sincere attitude in trying to find common ground."

But Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, in two separate speeches over the week end, said that little or nothing has been accomplished in the cease-fire talks and warned that the failure to reach a compromise with Egypt augured ill for the general peace conference that appears to be shaping up in Geneva next month. The Geneva conference, if it takes place, will find the two sides locked in confrontation positions, he said. He warned that the resumption of fighting was by no means to be ruled out. The Arabs are "tough, stubborn and ambitious this time as never before. They feel strong militarily—with their replaced equipment—politically with their oil threats and cutbacks and their

achievements in winning world sympathy away from Israel," Dayan said in addresses to a Joint Israel Appeal mission from Britain yesterday and the Israel Bar Association in Tel Aviv Friday.

According to Dayan, Israel has made strenuous efforts to reach a compromise with Egypt but so far has failed to negotiate a breakthrough. Egypt apparently is demanding a major pullback of Israeli forces from the west and east banks of the Suez Canal to the Mitlah and Hiddi passes in mid-Sinai which would put the canal out of range of Israeli artillery. It was learned that the latest Israeli proposal is for Egypt to withdraw its heavy armament from the east bank of the canal, replacing it with a lightly armed policing force. Israel would agree to Egypt sending technicians and management personnel to the east bank for the purpose of clearing the Suez Canal and restoring it to operation. Israel for its part would withdraw from the west bank and allow lightly armed Egyptian policing forces into the area it now controls.

In his speeches over the weekend, Dayan took a very hard line on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, defended Premier Golda Meir as one of "the best leaders" Israel has and said he was not contemplating resignation. He also assailed what he called inexperienced and ill-informed media writers who drew unfavorable comparisons between the Israeli Army's achievements in the Yom Kippur War and what it accomplished in the Six-Day War of 1967. Dayan cautioned Israel against accepting something called peace which would in fact undermine Israel's security. He said he did not believe the Arabs have changed their aims or motivations in the short weeks since they launched their war and what they failed to achieve by military means they now seek to achieve through a peace conference.

"We have no control over the launching of war by the Arabs or their assassination of our prisoners, but it does depend on us whether the rush to Geneva will produce a conference of retreat or capitulation," Dayan said. The fate and future of the Jewish State hangs in the balance, he noted. "We must not agree to the shrunken and twisted pre-1967 lines if we do not want to see this country doomed," Dayan warned. He said Israel must decide now what it will not give up under any circumstances whether under pressure or in return for guarantees. "Why do the Americans talk of offering us guarantees?" Dayan asked. "Because they know as well as we do that the borders they contemplate will not be defensible," he said.

Dayan praised U.S. military aid which he said was plentiful and very much appreciated. But he expressed apprehension over the differences with Washington on political issues and urged Israel to stand firm for its basic interests. He said that in his personal view, Israel must under all circumstances retain the Golan Heights, military control of the Jordan River, Sharm el-Sheikh and the radar network on the Nablus (West Bank) hills. He said that Israel has the military strength to stand fast on its essential security requirements. "It is the spirit of the nation that will determine how we go to Geneva," he said.

He conceded that Israel could not ignore the Arab oil pressures and the consequent U.S. efforts to come to terms with the Arab world. "I hope the key to U.S. peace ideas is not to force Israeli withdrawals," he said. "Israel must not be the victim of Japan's or any other nation's need for oil. For Israel the question of withdrawal and boundaries is one of life or death," Dayan said.

According to Dayan, Israel's military victories in the Yom Kippur War were on a much larger scale than in the Six-Day War. He said that in 1967, Egypt lost 750 of 1000 tanks and 180 out of 750 planes. In the Yom Kippur War it lost 1000 of 2850 tanks and 240 out of 680 planes. Syria's losses in 1967 were 100 out of 450 tanks and 45 out of 95 planes. This time, the Syrians lost 1100 of 2700 tanks and 200 of 410 planes, Dayan said. But he warned that both Egypt and Syria were returning to full strength thanks to the resupply by the Soviet Union and "other" nations which he did not name. Nevertheless, he said, the Israeli forces were strong enough to maintain their present positions and defeat all of the Arab states combined if another war broke out.

JEWISH LEADERS MEET WITH JAPANESE ENVOY TO PROTEST AGAINST POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--A delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met for a half-hour Friday with Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Yasuyukawa to strongly protest the Japanese government's announcement that it would "reconsider" its policy toward Israel unless Israel withdrew from all territories occupied in the 1967 war. Jacob Stein, Conference chairman who headed the delegation, told the Ambassador that "surrender to Arab blackmail would gravely injure not only Israel but the United States." He reminded Yasuyukawa that Japan's economic growth and development during the post-war period was due in large measure to the friendship of the American government and its action in strengthening the Japanese economy.

"Today the U.S. and Japan are friendly trading partners," Stein said. "However, by bowing to Arab pressure Japan encourages further Arab oil blackmail against the United States and undercuts the position of Secretary of State (Henry A.) Kissinger, who made it clear that our country would not be bludgeoned into changing its foreign policies by an Arab oil cutoff." Stein said that "rather than threaten to break relations with Israel, Japan should join the U.S. and countries of Western Europe in formulating a program of strenuous counter-measures to the Arab oil boycott." Any political capitulation "is likely to have little if any effect on insuring the continuing availability of petroleum for Japan," he declared. "It would, however, seriously disturb the friendly economic and political relations between the U.S. and Japan and cause many Americans to adopt a new attitude toward the purchase of Japanese goods."

Stein stressed that "surrender by Japan would be a demonstration of weakness and a precedent which would inevitably invite further and more damaging demands. The oil-producing states have been quick to alter their policies once they met determined and resolute opposition. The time for expressing that concerted opposition is now."

The Japanese Ambassador replied that his country did not want to antagonize the American people or the Jewish community. He said he realized "how much your people have contributed to U.S.-Japanese trade." He stated that the purpose of the statement by the Japanese Cabinet was "to make our position clear. We have no intention of surrender. Our purpose was to reiterate our support for UN Resolution 242." The envoy conceded that Japan was under "all possible pressure" to impose economic sanctions of break diplomatic relations with Israel. "We hope both sides will make much progress toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," he said, adding, "We have not changed our basic position and we hope it will not be necessary."

QADDAFI: HALT EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM EUROPE TO ISRAEL, RETURN JEWS TO ORIGINS

PARIS, Nov. 25 (JTA)--President Muammar Qaddafi of Libya called today on all European states to halt the emigration of Jews from their territory to Israel "as their contribution to Middle East peace," demanded the replacement of Israel by a "Jewish-Arab state and the return of foreign Jews to their countries of origin," and warned that the Middle East war would break out anew unless Israel withdraws from all occupied territories. Qaddafi spoke at a press conference this morning prior to leaving France for Malta and Tripoli. The Libyan leader arrived here Friday and conferred yesterday for two hours with President Georges Pompidou at the Elysee Palace. His visit to Paris was marked by widespread Jewish protest demonstrations. Nearly 1000 demonstrators marched through the center of Paris last night protesting French arms sales to Libya.

Qaddafi's remarks about fellow-Arab leaders were almost as bitter as his denunciations of Israel. He reiterated that he would not attend the Arab summit meeting which opens tomorrow in Algiers. "I know this sort of meeting for having attended them before," he said. "They are not marked by either honesty or seriousness. I am determined not to attend this one." He singled out Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as one of "these people who do not accept the truth" and hinted that it was time Egypt had a new leader to replace the late Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Qaddafi claimed that "the only just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis is the creation of a Jewish-Arab state and the return of foreign Jews to their countries of origin." He said Libya "is prepared to accept the return of its Jews and even a number of European ones as its contribution to peace." He suggested the creation of a Paris-Belgrade-Tripoli axis to safeguard Mediterranean peace and stability. Qaddafi met with President Tito of Yugoslavia before coming to Paris. According to official French sources, Qaddafi did most of the talking at his meeting with Pompidou but did not raise the issue of additional French arms sales to Libya which had been believed to be one of the main purposes of his visit. French sources, however, expect that Libya will bring up the matter through diplomatic channels or that members of Qaddafi's party who will remain here will raise the subject with French officials after he leaves.

French police took unprecedented security measures to protect the Libyan leader. Sources said they were tougher than when Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev visited Paris. But police did not prevent Jewish and other demonstrators from marching through the city carrying placards reading "Qaddafi is a Killer" and "Freedom, not Oil."

Hundreds of uniformed and plain-clothes policemen lined the route over which Qaddafi's motorcade passed from the airport Friday. When the Libyan President's car drove into the courtyard of the Elysee Palace yesterday, a group of youths unfurled a large Israeli flag and shouted hostile slogans. Qaddafi told the press, "What took place in the street upon my arrival is not symbolic of the real France. French reality is in here," he said, pointing toward the Elysee Palace. Ten persons were detained by police last night when small groups of Jewish youths attempted to infiltrate the police cordon surrounding Qaddafi's hotel.

FELDMAN SENTENCED TO 3-1/2 YEARS; RELATIVES NOT ALLOWED AT TRIAL

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Aleksandr Feldman was sentenced Friday to 3-1/2 years on a charge of "malicious hooliganism," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported. The SSSJ said the trial was held in a factory in Kiev in an apparent attempt to keep its whereabouts a secret. Feldman, a 26-year-old engineer, was originally scheduled to go on trial Nov. 19 but when protest demonstrators appeared they were told it had been postponed. Feldman, who had applied for a visa to emigrate to Israel several months ago, was arrested Oct. 18 as he was leaving Simchat Torah services at a synagogue.

The charge of "malicious hooliganism" carries a sentence of 1-5 years. The SSSJ asserted that the severity of Feldman's sentence is an obvious attempt to frighten Jews in Kiev from applying for emigration visas. The SSSJ reported that the judge in Feldman's trial was surnamed Yamakova, and the prosecutor was surnamed Kolushny. The Soviet Jewry group also reported that no friends, relatives or defense witnesses were permitted to attend the trial but that a "special public," that is, persons carefully selected by the authorities, was permitted to attend the trial.

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TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA)--The condition of former Premier David Ben Gurion took a serious turn for the worse Friday and no substantial change was reported in the latest medical bulletin issued last night. Ben Gurion, 87, was hospitalized a week ago after suffering a stroke. Friday's medical bulletin said his blood pressure fell, that he was running high temperature and occasionally lapsed into unconsciousness. His physicians described his condition as "serious." Ben Gurion's son and two daughters spent Friday and Saturday at his bedside. Premier Golda Meir visited him for a second time. The latest news of his condition caused grave concern in Israel.

ISRAEL CHARGES SYRIA WITH COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF ISRAELI POWs

Tekoah Submits Report Of Atrocities To Waldheim, International Red Cross

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Israel has officially charged Syria with the "crimes of murder and mutilation committed on the persons of Israeli prisoners of war, officers and men of the Israel Defense Force who were taken prisoner by the Syrians in the region of the Golan Heights." The complaint was submitted by Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. Tekoah, in his covering letter to Waldheim, stated that the photographs sent to the Red Cross illustrating Israel's charges were not sent to the UN chief executive because of their "abhorrent nature." According to the Israeli envoy, "After the Syrian forces that had penetrated the region of the Golan Heights had been driven back, Israel Defense Forces discovered proof that 28 Israeli soldiers, who had been taken prisoner by the Syrians, had been murdered in cold blood after their capture by the soldiers of the Syrian Army."

The Israeli diplomat provided the particulars of the localities and of the number of murdered Israeli POWs found in them: the bodies of 11 Israeli soldiers were found at the Hushneyah crossroads; 7 bodies were found at Hushneyah village; 3 bodies were found at Tel Faris; and at least 7 Israeli POWs were murdered by the Syrians at the Israel Defense Forces strong-point on Mount Hermon. "In light of the condition in which the bodies were found, it is clear that the Israeli soldiers were murdered systematically and in cold blood after they had been taken prisoner," Tekoah stated in his report. "They were blindfolded, their hands were bound, and in certain cases their legs also." Tekoah specified the findings as follows:

HUSHNEYAH CROSSROADS: The bodies were found in a wadi concealed methodically but not completely by stones and shrubs. In every case, their hands were bound behind their backs with laces taken from their own boots, and their eyes were blindfolded with rags or bits of clothing. Some of the bodies were found unclothed and unshod. Examination of the bodies discloses that the prisoners were shot at very close range. Every body was riddled by a number of bullets. Considering that some of the bodies were found unclad and stripped of all their personal belongings, including identity discs, it has been possible to identify only six by name.

HUSHNEYAH VILLAGE: The murdered Israeli POWs were found all together in a field near the village, their hands bound, their eyes blindfolded. Of the seven bodies, only three could be identified by name. Five of the bodies were found with their upper parts bare. Two other bodies were discovered dressed only in undershirts. All the bodies were found, as said, together in one spot. Beside the bodies were found shirts of the murdered men. On examination, it was seen that the shirts were intact and not pierced by bullets. Empty cartridges were found only a meter away from the bodies. One of the murdered men was found with his legs bound.

TEL FARIS: Here the bodies were found in a ditch, the hands of all three of the murdered men tied with rope. The men were clad in their underwear only. All had been shot at very close range. All have been identified by name.

MOUNT HERMON STRONG POINT: At least 31 soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces surrendered on Oct. 8 to a Syrian force which surrounded the position. According to the testimony of Syrian officers and men who were taken prisoner by the Israeli Defense Forces, the last 5 of the 31 Israeli soldiers to emerge from the strong-point when the garrison gave itself up were shot dead while their hands were raised and they were unarmed. The testimony in question affirms that the 5 Israeli prisoners who were shot were murdered on the specific orders of the officer commanding the Syrian battalion on the spot. Two other Israeli soldiers were murdered as the line of prisoners marched towards the neighboring Syrian strong point. According to the evidence of the Syrian prisoners, orders were given to the Syrian escort to kill every Israeli prisoner who lagged behind. Two of the prisoners had difficulty in walking because they were wounded, and they were accordingly shot dead by the Syrian soldiers.

Five photographs are attached which show with horrifying clarity what was seen by the Israeli soldiers who found the bodies of the murdered Israeli prisoners of war. It is possible to distinguish plainly that the prisoners were concentrated in a single group and then were shot dead at point-blank range. It can also be seen that all of them had been blindfolded with bits of clothing and rags, and that the hands of every one of them had been bound behind his back.

PLANS EMANATED FROM CENTRAL AUTHORITY: Tekoah stated: "The fact that four separate groups of bodies of Israeli prisoners of war were found in different places leads to the conclusion that in this war methodical murder was perpetrated in accordance with plans and orders emanating from a high central authority. The murder of prisoners of war constitutes a violation of Article 13 of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war. Under Article 13, the deliberate murder of a prisoner of war is a grave violation of the Convention. Needless to say, the murder of prisoners of war constitutes the most serious imaginable infringement of the whole basis of the Convention and of the principles of humanity accepted among civilized peoples."

The Israeli envoy added: "So as not to cause additional anguish to the families of the murdered men, the Government of Israel has refrained until now from bringing these dreadful facts, in all their tragic detail, to the knowledge of the general public. Since, however, the story has been widely reported in the press, the Government of Israel regards it as its bounden duty to bring the shocking findings which have come to light to the knowledge of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Government of Syria bears unequivocal responsibility for these methodical crimes."

DEMANDS OF THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT: "The Government of Israel calls upon the International Committee of the Red Cross to take, at once, the necessary steps to condemn the barbaric and disgusting crimes that have been described, and to ensure that proper and full protection be extended to Israeli prisoners of war," Tekoah stated. "It demands that every means be taken immediately to guarantee the health, welfare and honor of the Israeli prisoners of war held captive in Syria."