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CEASE-FIRE TALKS BOGGED DOWN; EACH SIDE REINFORCING MILITARY POSITION

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

KILOMETER 101, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Israeli and Egyptian negotiators meeting here remained deadlocked today on the issue of the disengagement of forces on both banks of the Suez Canal. Gen. Aharon Yariv, the chief Israeli negotiator, and his Egyptian counterpart, Gen. Mohammed Gemassi, agreed to meet again Wednesday. But that apparently was the only point on which they agreed. Today's meeting was the one that was postponed yesterday. It had been described as crucial and newsmen waited on both sides for some announcement of progress. All they got was the statement by a UN spokesman that the meeting was a "good one." He did not say what he meant by "good."

The continued adamancy of both Israel and Egypt over the pullback of their forces dissipated hope in Jerusalem that the final cease-fire problem would be resolved before the scheduled Geneva peace conference starts Dec. 18. Well-placed sources in Jerusalem said that if today's meeting failed to make any progress, the issue would be transferred to Geneva. This means that the Israeli and Egyptian armies will be locked in dangerous confrontation when the peace talks start.

Egypt so far has rejected several Israeli proposals for a mutual withdrawal of forces. The latest one called for Egypt to remove its heavy armor from the east bank of the Suez Canal in return for Israel's evacuation of its west bank salient, Israel would permit Egypt to keep a lightly armed policing force on the east bank, in effect a partial demilitarization. The Egyptians insist on retaining their armored force--about 400 tanks--on the east bank and demand an Israeli pullback to the Mitlah and Jiddi passes in mid-Sinai. According to one source, Egypt wants Israel to commit itself to a total withdrawal from Sinai. Israel says Egypt is trying to get Israel to accept its terms before the peace conference begins.

Israeli and Egyptian forces were reinforcing their positions along the Suez-Cairo road even as their respective generals were in the midst of negotiations. Considerable activity was seen behind the Israeli lines. Two Israeli trucks loaded with coils of barbed wire drove past the UN checkpoint today toward the front line positions. Further back along the road Egyptian soldiers were digging new emplacements near the roadside and truck-mounted rockets could be seen in the distance.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the Soviet Union, in a message to the Arab summit meeting which opened today in Algiers, pledged its readiness to contribute to conditions for "authentic peace in the Middle East based on justice." The message said that more than ever before, the fate of peace in the Middle East depended on the concerted policy of the Arab countries together with other forces for peace. The summit meeting is discussing the upcoming Geneva peace conference, the Arab oil boycott on which all of the states are not of a single mind, and the thorny issues of the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian problem. While the participants are seeking a common Arab front to present at Geneva, the Arab world remains divided. The Algiers meeting is being boycotted by Jordan, Libya and Iraq.

ISRAEL ASSAILS JAPAN'S PRO-ARAB STANCE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry sharply assailed Japan for the pro-Arab stance it adopted last week and urged the Tokyo government to reconsider and revise "the new principles it has now formulated for its Middle Eastern policy."

An official statement charging Japan with knowingly adopting the "distorted" Arab interpretation of Resolution 242 in surrender to Arab economic threats and pressure, was released here today. At the same time a similar note was handed to the Japanese Foreign Minister in Tokyo by the Israeli Ambassador, Eytan Ronn. The Foreign Ministry statement expressed deep regret at the Japanese move. "We had not anticipated Japan responding to threats for that can only invite further threats," it said.

The statement noted that Resolution 242 never said--as the Japanese statement contended--that Israel must withdraw from all of the occupied areas, or from any of them, in the absence of prior negotiation and agreement on secure and recognized boundaries. Nor did it demand "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" as the Japanese had. "The rights of the Palestinian people as interpreted by many Arab governments and organizations means the elimination of Israel," the statement said.

The formal note to the Japanese government

said: "It is distressing to find a power like Japan yielding to the pressure of our (Arab) enemies and to their threats against the industry and economy of Japan and the sovereignty of free nations presuming to dictate changes in their policy toward Israel. It is hoped that the government of Japan will reconsider the new principles which it has now formulated for its Middle Eastern policy and will see its way to revise them in the interests of a lasting peace."

STEIN SAYS NIXON, U.S. JEWS COMMITTED TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY, WELL BEING

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said here today that six million American Jews are solidly behind Israel and will "bring to bear constructive efforts in support of Israel during the difficult days ahead." He said their activity was now concentrated on assuring Congressional passage of legislation requested by President Nixon for \$2 billion in aid to Israel and on bringing pressure on Syria to agree to a prisoner of war exchange with Israel.

Stein, who arrived today at the head of a 74-member delegation of U.S. Jewish leaders representing the Conference's 31 national membership groups, said he was carrying a message from President Nixon to Premier Meir which was delivered on the eve of his departure. According to

Stein, the letter said in part, "You can be sure that this government remains committed to the security and well-being of the State of Israel and we are taking whatever steps are necessary to continue that support."

He said that to the best of his knowledge there was no evidence of any American pressure on Israel to accept dictates which Israel considers inimical to its best interests. Stein said that he met with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Joseph J. Sisco before his departure and urged him to maximize U.S. government pressure to secure a POW exchange with Syria which is an essential part of the ceasefire agreement.

The Jewish delegation came here for the Presidents Conference second annual seminar. During their four-day stay in Israel which ends Thursday, they will meet with President Ephraim Katzir, Premier Golda Meir and other government and Jewish Agency leaders. The Yom Kippur War caused a change of program of the seminar which had been planned months before it broke out. The Jewish leaders, Stein said, will focus on learning "at first hand the impact of the war in terms of its financial impact, its political impact, its military and social impact."

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, said the program here will include meetings with operators of mass communications media to discuss political information policy. The visitors will also discuss problems of immigration, particularly from North America, Hellman said. He called the delegation the most representative of U.S. Jewry ever to visit Israel.

SEPHARDIC YOUTH PARLEY HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 26 (JTA)--The first national Sephardic youth conference ended yesterday by adopting resolutions calling for solidarity and support of Israel in "its time of crisis" along with other resolutions urging the narrowing of the gap between the Sephardic community in Israel and other segments of Israeli society, setting up an education committee among Israeli Sephardic youth, supporting efforts to help Jews in Arab lands and acting to integrate Sephardic youth into the Jewish organizations in the United States. Some 40,000 Sephardic youngsters are estimated to reside in the U.S.

The shadow of the Yom Kippur War was felt at the convention which had been planned before the outbreak of war Oct. 6. If the war hadn't broken out, one organizer told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the convention would have taken a more critical stand on the Israeli government's treatment of the Sephardic community there. More than 400 youngsters from the U.S., Canada and Israel participated in the conference which began Thursday and whose theme was "The Role of Young Sephardim in America."

Haim Eliachar, chairman of the board of the American Sephardic Federation and Mati Ronen, its executive director, told the JTA that they see special importance in organizing the Sephardic youth in the U.S. "Only by organizing them can these youth relate to Judaism since they are not part of the general Jewish youth activities in this country, Eliachar and Ronen said.

According to Ronen, the federation will devote a great deal of effort for future activities regarding the youth. A national steering committee was elected to represent the interests of the Sephardic youth in the general Jewish youth

community in North America. The conference was hosted by the Atlanta Sephardic Congregation, Or-Ve-Shalom. Cables were received from Israeli President Ephraim Katzir; Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency; and Israel Yeshayahu, speaker of the Knesset.

OIL WORKERS UNION OPPOSES EMBARGO

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 (JTA)--The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, an AFL-CIO affiliate with approximately 175,000 members in the United States and Canada, has urged the U.S. government "not to yield to the blackmail of oil producing Middle East nations."

The text of the resolution, made available today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that "American foreign affairs should be carried out on the basis of high principles and not influenced by fear of immediate inconvenience or even hardship which might be caused by disruption in the world movement of petroleum." Even from the standpoint of narrow self-interest of the United States, the resolution said, "any concession" to the Arab states on the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict "would be only a down payment leading to further demands."

The resolution suggested that the U.S. "should respond to these pressures by continuing to offer to be good customers of the Middle East countries and at the same time seeking alternative supplies." Updating the slogan, "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute," the resolution adopted by the union's international executive board in Denver concluded that "We will spend whatever necessary to provide fuel for the people but not one cent in political tribute."

NEW APPROACH TO EMIGRATION FROM WEST

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--The Zionist Executive plenary meeting here last week decided on a new approach for the Zionist movement regarding emigration from Western countries. The plenary proposed that encouragement for aliya become the center of activities of Zionist organizations working closely with Jewish communities and organizations in the diaspora. The decision was reached after a lengthy debate on aliya problems following the Yom Kippur War. The new approach will include the organization of special "immigration months" beginning Jan.

Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, called upon Premier Golda Meir to urge ministers, public figures and senior officers to take an active part in the activities to encourage aliya. In addition to drives abroad, there is a special immigration drive among volunteers who came to Israel since the war.

Mordechai Bar-On, head of the Youth and Hechalutz Department, said his department was expecting some 7000 volunteers from the U.S., Europe and other countries, most of them scheduled to work in kibbutzim and moshavim. There are presently 4000 volunteers in Israel and some 40,000 registered in the department offices overseas.

Dulzin reported that discussions have been held between the government and the Jewish Agency concerning the possibility of building special apartments for singles and for young volunteers who would like to remain in Israel as immigrants. One suggestion calls for special immigrant quarters in Beersheba and Safad in addition to small trade and arts and crafts centers.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Hebrew University students who are on active duty, wounded or convalescing as a result of the Yom Kippur War have been assured that the university will do all to ensure that they do not lose this academic year.

LABOR PARTY-FACING CRUCIAL POLICY DECISION ON WHERE IT IS GOING

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--With the Labor Party due--at the Premier's insistence--to hold a long-postponed but obviously needed post-war internal debate tomorrow and with the Knesset elections still due to be held on Dec. 31, the Party and, therefore, the country has come to a major crossroad. The very essence of its leadership--both policy-wise and personality-wise--will to a large extent be decided in this internal debate. Golda Meir has finally decided to challenge in open combat her critics, the critics of her Defense Minister, and the critics of the Meir-Dayan-Galili policies. They have been murmuring and grumbling increasingly within the Party ever since the Yom Kippur War broke out. Mrs. Meir has demanded a frank, full-scale debate so that "we know what kind of a party we have and what it stands for."

The fate and future of the country's foreign and defense policy hinge on the outcome of Labor's deliberation because, no matter what success the Likud opposition may have in the elections, no one--not even Menachem Beigin--is thinking in terms of a post-election government without Labor. Likud's declared aim is to gain such substantial support as to make itself indispensable in any coalition and thus force, in effect, a government of national unity which Golda Meir at present so bitterly opposes. Despite the traumas of war and peace, the Israeli electorate is not expected by even the most diehard rightists to swing totally away from Labor and towards the right. Who are the murmurers and grumblers within the Party, and what is their strength?

Political observers here discern four categories: One is the powerful Tel Aviv-based "Gush" the power core of ex-Mapai members which is formally led by Tel Aviv Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz and whose members are still unswervingly loyal to Finance Minister and Party strongman Pinhas Sapir. But to an increasing degree the daily running of the "Gush" is in the hands of Avraham Ofer, the Knesset-member head of Histadrut's Shikun Ovdim building company, and the Labor Party's election campaign boss. The "Gush's" traditional aim and function has always been to install its own people in key party positions. But Labor's current soul-searching will force the "Gush" to take a stand on policy--and its stand will be all-important.

The "Gush" membership is certainly not exclusively dovish--but many leading doves--and especially Ofer himself, are key "Gush" men. "Dove" in the post-war context is a term which implies opposition to the Meir-Dayan-Galili triumvirate whose policies were Israel's policies in the areas of defense and foreign affairs over the past few years. Does this mean that the "Gush" will, in the great debate, throw its immense weight behind the other party elements--themselves weak and poorly organized--that are calling, albeit faintly still, for a sweeping change at the top?

The answer seems to lie to a large extent with Sapir himself. Until now he has kept silent as the "war of the Jews" surges about him. He has busied himself raising fabulous sums from diaspora Jewry and running the wartime economy as best he can. But now he will have to speak out. Will he fail to give Mrs. Meir the solid support that has always ensured her unquestioned leadership? At the time of writing, this key question remains unanswered. Perhaps Sapir is still mulling it over. Three other "opposition" elements inside Labor will not wait upon Sapir or the "Gush" to speak out.

One group is led by Lyova Ellav, the prodigal son, the man who stepped down from the Party Secretariat-General in order to write his "Eretz Hatzvi" which has become the dove's Bible. He spread it through Labor branches around the country and won considerable grass-roots support; how considerable no one knows. Perhaps the great debate will make this clear. Perhaps too the debate will show that Yitzhak Ben Aharon resigned from Histadrut last week to join, or even supersede Ellav as head of the doves. Another group is the young leadership, its late 20s-30s, university-trained, left leaning, up-and-coming in the Party hierarchy, and dovishly inclined.

Lastly there is an amorphous group of Party members and sympathizers which has begun a public campaign aimed at replacing the Meir-Dayan-Galili team at the top. Advertisements in the press call upon anyone interested to come along to meetings, to write letters of support--with checks if possible--to a Tel Aviv post office box. The group boasts significant membership in the university and intellectual community. Its strength is not yet known but may be clarified in the coming days. Until now it had seemed that despite the post-war dissatisfaction, the various opposition groups would not dare raise their grievances in public--for the sake of the Party's electoral image and chances of success. The hope was for intensive inner debates and perhaps leadership changes--after the elections. But now that Mrs. Meir herself has challenged her critics to come into the open, they can be expected to give voice to their feelings frankly, and perhaps even to demand changes at the top.

Since Sapir has always fought shy of responsibility in defense and foreign policy issues--and since these issues at this time are the crucial ones for Israel--the dovish opposition, if it does decide to speak out, may well turn to Yigal Allon as their candidate for the leadership. He has emerged from the war with his reputation not only untarnished, but actually enhanced. He was never partner to the pre-war policies which have proved misguided. Even if Sapir rallies to Mrs. Meir and the "Gush" decides to remain faithful to her and her team, the widespread dissatisfaction within the Party is expected to produce, at the very least, some significant changes in the Cabinet team which Labor will offer the electorate. Figures such as Rabin, Barlev, Ofer, Ellav, Yariv--figures not identified with the pre-war policymakers--will find themselves held up as suitable and necessary candidates for ministerial office.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--Four Zionist groups which withdrew from the Argentine Zionist Organization six months ago rejoined the fold last week after Yitzhak Korn, general secretary of the World Labor Zionist Movement who is visiting here, succeeded in softening positions on all sides and after 10 days of intense negotiations. The four returning groups are Mizrahi-Hapoel Mizrahi, Liberal Zionists, the Apartheidists Movement and Herut. The agreement provides that an election will be held within six months for the Argentine Zionist Organization's executive.

KATZIR: "WE ARE ALL TO BLAME"

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir told Israelis that "We are all to blame" for the many military and political mistakes made in connection with the Yom Kippur war and urged that the investigation of those mistakes not be aimed at "punishing one another."

Katzir, interviewed on radio, was referring to the judicial inquiry into the war due to begin soon. He said it should be aimed at learning lessons which might determine the fate of the Jewish people. "We wanted to live in a utopian world which is not exactly identical to the real world in which we live," he said.

Asked if he thought the nation was in a state of shock, Katzir said: "The Jewish people are a wise people but we suddenly felt the powerful Arab military might and the need for common action--something we were unaccustomed to. In addition, there was the pain felt at our losses. As a result, we have begun to review our actions soberly, with muted pain and no small sorrow at what has happened to us."

Asked what he thought of prospects for a peace conference with the Arabs, the President said the current cease-fire talks with Egypt might provide the first opening. "Perhaps the Arabs also understand now that the Jewish people will do everything to defend their state. Maybe the Arabs now will think twice whether it pays for them to once more sacrifice their sons and fathers for the dubious goal of satisfying their hatred," Katzir said.

**CHURCH LEADER SAYS HOLLAND'S
PRO-ISRAEL STAND IGNORED 20
MILLION CHRISTIAN ARABS**

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 26 (JTA)--Clergymen attending the synod of the Dutch Reformed Church held near Utrecht last weekend failed to arrive at a unified view on the Middle East situation. Despite lengthy discussions, they did not adopt a statement on the Middle East. One of the speakers, Prof. Hendrik Berkhof, criticized the executive of the Dutch Reformed Church for not adopting a pro-Israel stand during the Yom Kippur War.

Secretary General of the Dutch Reformed Church, Albert Van Den Heuvel disagreed and called Holland's pro-Israel sentiment during the first days of the war "frighteningly one-sided," adding that it completely ignored the existence of 20 million Christian Arabs. He proposed a meeting with both Chief Rabbis of Holland and a "Christian Arab delegation."

Earlier this month, the Dutch Chief Rabbis expressed their disappointment at the neutrality of the Christian churches during the war. Prof. Zwiwerblowsky of the Hebrew University, a well-known figure in Holland, has also criticized the Christian church for its neutral stance. Prof. Zwiwerblowsky resided several years in Holland in the late 1940s.

NEWS BRIEFS

BONN (JTA)--West German police have admitted for the first time that threats had been made on the lives of senior government officials in Bonn. The threats, rumored to have come from a Palestinian terror organization, were accompanied with the demand for DM 21 million. The blackmailers said that germ bombs and germ-impregnated letters would be sent to senior officials, including some at the West German Chancellery if the money was not paid. The gov-

ernment spokesman, Ruediger von Wechmar, had no immediate comment. An Interior Ministry spokesman denied that Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in charge of the police here, would be breaking off a trip to China to take charge of the situation. The money demanded is believed to be in atonement for Palestinian terrorists shot by German police during the Munich massacre at last year's Olympics, where Palestinian terrorists killed 11 Israeli athletes.

LONDON (JTA)--Scotland Yard issued another warning Monday to postal and business offices to be on the alert for booby-trapped mail after two postal workers were injured at Frankfurt airport Saturday by letter bombs addressed to Israel. The West German airport reported that six more letter bombs were found in the same compartment that contained the two that exploded. All eight were addressed to Israel from the same West German town. Frankfurt authorities refused to disclose the sender's address or the destination of the letters.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Histadrut Central Committee quietly accepted Monday the resignation of Yitzhak Ben Aharon as its Secretary General and named his deputy, Yeruham Meshel, Acting Secretary General until a successor is selected at the convention of the Histadrut Council early next year. There was no debate on Ben Aharon's resignation and only a few speeches, some praising the former Secretary General and others--mainly by Gahal partisans--criticizing him. The vote for Meshel was 83-0 with a few abstentions.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Vladimir Mogilever, a Soviet Jewish activist who was sentenced May 1971 to four years in the Potma labor camp, disappeared from the camp Nov. 2 and his whereabouts is unknown, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported. Mogilever, one of the defendants in the second Leningrad trial, was called to the "vachta," an official building in the camp on Nov. 2 and has not been seen since. The SSSJ also reported that Oleg Frolov, who was arrested in 1969 and sentenced in 1970 to five years in the Perm labor camp, has also disappeared. In both cases, the Soviet Jewry group pointed out, the disappearance does not necessarily mean that the prisoners have met with any danger, but their disappearances have raised cause for concern.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--President Nixon conveyed last week in a letter to B'nai B'rith his confidence in the nation's "understanding and resolve" to maintain its "long-standing commitment" to Israel's security and "at the same time actively pursue the cause of peace." Unrest in the Middle East "has a profound effect on all of us," Nixon said in a letter to B'nai B'rith President David M. Blumberg. The President described American diplomatic efforts toward a settlement as a "complex" process, but said that the United States would remain "creatively engaged in all efforts to achieve that final peace." Blumberg had written to the White House to express B'nai B'rith's support for the Administration's airlift of supplies to Israel and similar measures.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--The Danish cargo ship "Bokul" arrived in Tripoli this weekend with a cargo of ammunition and explosives manufactured in Italy. The ship's owner, Steen Olsen, said here a contract was signed before the war and he could not cancel it.