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LABOR PARTY STARTS INTERNAL DEBATE; MRS. MEIR DEMANDING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

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

Nov. 27 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir is expected to demand--and get--a vote of confidence from her Labor Party's Central Committee when it meets tomorrow in a grueling internal debate over national leadership in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War. But while Mrs. Meir may easily fend off growing demands from some Labor Party quarters for a new leadership team, she may be forced to revise the hard line policy on territories and withdrawal of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and her close advisor, Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili--which could lead to a Labor Party crisis of historic proportions, observers said today. The debate, which Mrs. Meir purposefully asked for last week in face of mounting criticism, will begin at 9 a.m. tomorrow in the Ohel Theater auditorium here and is expected to continue all day and well into the night. Most of the 600-odd members of the Central Committee are expected to participate.

The powerful "Gush" bloc of the Party, the core of the former Mapai faction, decided at a meeting here last night to support Premier Meir rather than align itself with Party doves, some of whom have demanded her resignation. A vote of confidence for Mrs. Meir is a vote for Dayan and Galili, as the Premier has made clear. The Party leadership is anxious to avoid a schism with election day little more than a month away. But there are strong elements in the Party that will seek to have its pre-war platform--the so-called Galili document on defense and foreign policy--quietly shelved and replaced by something less hard-line that will stress peace prospects. There has been talk of setting up a new drafting committee to produce a fresh policy plank with all three Labor factions--Mapai, Achdut Avodah and Rafi--sharing the authorship.

No one can say for certain whether Mrs. Meir will go along with this or whether Dayan and his supporters will agree. If not, and if the "Gush" bloc decides nevertheless to support the Party doves' demands for policy changes, a full-scale crisis seems unavoidable. Meanwhile, Dayan appears to be in serious political trouble. He has emerged as the focus of blame for the army's state of unpreparedness when Egypt and Syria attacked on Oct. 6. Participants in the "Gush" meeting last night stressed the need for a new security platform to present to the voters Dec. 31 and urged that changes be made in the composition of the new Cabinet that will take office after the elections. While no names were mentioned, it was clear that those present considered Dayan a prime candidate for replacement.

Dayan's resignation was demanded openly by a group of senior army reserve officers comprising the "Etgar" (Challenge) faction within the Labor Party. They said that since the Defense Minister was responsible for the preparedness of the army and security network in the first phases of the war he should draw the proper conclusions. There were some differences within the group as to whether Dayan should resign now or later. The officers adopted a resolution calling for changes in the next Cabinet and the selection of ministerial candidates before the elections. Another group of some 60 Labor Party members and supporters have signed a petition demanding Dayan's resignation. The petition is to be made public tomorrow, just before the Party debate opens. Some of the signatories said they would demonstrate near the meeting hall. The far-reaching Labor Party debate, unprecedented on the eve of a general election when normally the appearance of unity is maintained at all costs, was demanded by Premier Meir herself.

WALDHEIM WANTS MORE THAN OBSERVER ROLE FOR UN IN PEACE CONFERENCE

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim wants more than just an "observer" role for the United Nations at the Middle East peace conference scheduled to start in Geneva Dec. 18, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. The participants in the conference, as reportedly envisioned by U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, will be Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan, the U.S., and the Soviet Union and Dr. Waldheim as an "observer."

A UN spokesman said today, however, that an "observer" role is not in line with what he (Waldheim) discussed with Kissinger. "The spokesman referred to the discussion between Waldheim and Kissinger in Washington last Friday. At the same time, a U.S. spokesman here hinted that the UN role would be something more than that of an observer. "It was understood" in the Kissinger-Waldheim discussion "that there certainly will be a UN presence and participation in this conference," the American spokesman said.

The JTA also learned that there are continuing contacts here as to the exact nature of Wald-

heim's participation in the Geneva conference.

The UN was said by one observer to be seeking a "prestigious and meaningful role" that could help the parties reach a heretofore elusive peace agreement.

A spokesman for the British UN Mission said the conference should be held "under a UN umbrella" which he admitted was an extremely broad concept that could mean "anything or nothing." The Geneva conference, meanwhile, continued to be the main issue here. Waldheim met on the subject today with the Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik. He met with the British and the French Ambassadors yesterday.

EBAN: TERRITORIAL ISSUES WILL BE LESS ACUTE IF ARABS WANT REAL PEACE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that if the Arabs agree to a full peace implying diplomatic relations, economic and commercial contacts and normal movement of people and ideas across neighboring borders, the territorial issue would become "much less agonizing and acute." If, on the other hand, peace was to be merely a synonym for a fragile cease-fire, then Israel's "indispensable conditions" for territorial security would be "more

severe." Eban made these statements at a meeting here of the Israel Bonds Organization. A 30-member national emergency leadership delegation of the Bonds group arrived yesterday for three days of top level briefings with government officials. They will discuss current efforts to sell \$642 million in Israel Bonds this year.

The Foreign Minister said Israel's first task at the peace conference should be to find out what the Arabs mean when they allude to peace. The question of boundaries, always a vital issue, would be a factor in this and therefore should be discussed second, Eban said. It had been proven, he continued, that no military deterrence was absolute and it could never be possible for Israel to completely destroy the Arab capacity to attack. The gap should be filled by "generating a lack of will to attack," Eban stated. "That's what peace is about."

He noted that the apprehensive reaction by Israelis and Jews to the prospects of peace talks was understandable in the light of centuries of Jewish history. But he called for "a balanced attitude" and said no purpose was served by "applying deprecatory adjectives to the Geneva conference."

Before addressing the Bond Organization delegation Eban conveyed to U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Keating the Cabinet's agreement in principle to take part in the peace talks scheduled for Dec. 18. The two diplomats met for more than an hour and officials said Eban had added "explanations" to the Cabinet decision and that the two discussed the issue of Israeli POWs in Syria. It is believed--though not officially confirmed--that Israel has made it clear to the U.S.--as Premier Golda Meir and Eban have declared publicly--that it will not sit at the peace table with Syria so long as Damascus does not observe the Geneva Convention regarding POWs.

NIXON ASSURES ISRAEL OF HIS SUPPORT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA)--President Nixon indirectly reassured Israel today of his continuing support of its "sovereignty" while Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger let it be known that the Arab oil embargo will probably continue until the Arabs make some gains against Israel.

These points emerged after the President and Kissinger conferred at the White House with 10 Senators and 12 Representatives constituting the leadership of both parties in the Congress. The meeting, which lasted an hour and forty minutes, was devoted almost entirely to the Middle East, the energy crisis stemming from the embargo, and Soviet-American relations.

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) told newsmen afterwards that Nixon stressed the U.S. commitment to the "sovereignty of Israel" and that Israel's "sovereignty should not be infringed upon." He said that Nixon noted that the U.S. is in a better position in the Middle East than the Soviet Union because the U.S. government has some communication with the Arab and Israeli leaderships; while the USSR does not.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), in discussing the meeting with newsmen said that Kissinger had indicated that the oil embargo is unlikely to be withdrawn until the proposed Geneva conference produces progress for the Arabs. He said the Secretary was "hopeful" that the talks would begin in mid-Dec. Economic counter measures against the Arab states were not discussed at the meeting, Fulbright said. He

and Scott both said there was no confirmation of nuclear weapons in Egyptian hands despite authoritative reports to the contrary in the past three weeks.

REPORT ARABIST TO HEAD U.S. DELEGATION TO ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE CONFERENCE

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Shifts in the State Department's high command are expected to be announced within a few days that would put an Arabist, Undersecretary for Political Affairs William Porter, at the head of the U.S. delegation to an Arab-Israeli peace conference and elevate Joseph J. Sisco, the Department's present foremost Middle East expert, to become Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's political right arm.

Department spokesman George Vest seemed to confirm these and other reported personnel movements at the top of American foreign affairs when he was asked about the reports. Vest said--he expected no announcements "in the next couple of days" but could not say they would not take place within a week or so.

Sisco, 54, has been Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs since his appointment by President Nixon in Feb. 1969. He is slated to become Undersecretary for Political Affairs replacing Porter who has been in that job only since last Feb. Porter, 59, gained a reputation as a negotiator by his representation of the U.S. in the prolonged Paris talks to settle the Vietnam War. He is expected to lead the American group to the conference in Geneva.

Porter, a native of England, served for more than 15 years in Arab areas. Between 1937-1946 he was on assignments in Baghdad, Beirut and Damascus. In that period he also served for a few months in Jerusalem when it was in Arab hands. In 1949 he was named Consul General in Algiers and three years later was elevated to be Ambassador to that country. In 1965 he left to become Deputy Ambassador in Saigon where he stayed until he was assigned to the Paris peace talks in 1971.

MORGENTHAU PREDICTS ISRAEL'S DEMISE

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Prof. Hans Morgenthau, the political scientist, believes that Israel will be forced by U.S. and other international pressure to return to its pre-June, 1967 borders after which it will be only a matter of time before its existence is terminated. Prof. Morgenthau believes the U.S. will exert pressure on Israel to withdraw because of the Arab oil embargo and because Americans are "blinded by detente."

He said that when the U.S. demanded that Israel open a supply route to the encircled Egyptian Third Army during the Yom Kippur War, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan telephoned Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to protest that such a move was unprecedented in the history of warfare. He was told by Kissinger that if Israel failed to accede, "you will fight your next war by yourselves," Morgenthau claimed.

He also stated that the American global alert declared by President Nixon last month was precipitated not by evidence that the Russians planned to send paratroops to the Middle East but because a Soviet ship loaded with nuclear warheads had arrived in Alexandria. When the alert was declared, the ship turned back, Morgenthau said. He made his remarks Sunday night on "Firing Line," a National Educational Television Network program hosted by William F. Buckley. Morgenthau maintained that so far the Soviets have been the only party to benefit from detente and the only quid pro quo gained by the U.S. was a muting of anti-American rhetoric by Kremlin leaders.

ROSENTHAL: ISRAEL GRATEFUL TO U.S. FOR AID BUT CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D.N.Y.), just back from an official Congressional trip to Israel, Vienna and Geneva as head of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for Europe, said today that for the first time the people of Israel have "a deep apprehension of what the future holds for them." He said the Israelis "know that the Russians will not let them have the victory for which they paid in blood." They are grateful to the United States for resupplying them with weapons. But, he added, the Israelis are also "deeply concerned about U.S. intentions and must be reassured. The U.S. can urge peace," he said, but the Israelis feel "only a peace negotiated with the parties can last."

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's promise of a U.S. military guarantee to Israel, Rosenthal said, is insufficient to the Israelis because they have "little confidence in guarantees and they feel they must depend on themselves." The U.S., he said, must take the lead in showing the world that the Arab oil blackmail cannot succeed. The European back must be stiffened. The Arabs will keep on making demands until they meet resistance. The British Empire for example cannot take orders from Kuwait, he noted.

"For the first time that I know of," Rosenthal said of his observations in Israel, "many people in Israel are not certain of their government's leadership. The Meir government is under grave pressure. Some leaders will get bruised if not more seriously affected than that," he said with reference to Israel's elections due Dec. 31 and the investigation of Israel's defenses and strategy in the 18-day Yom Kippur war. "The Israelis were not prepared for the war even though they went on to win an incredible military victory," Rosenthal said. "They also know they cannot maintain a high level of mobilization because of the economic cost."

In Vienna, Rosenthal said the Subcommittee was informed that Schoenau Castle will be closed definitely in about a week. The castle has been the transit site for the Soviet Jews bound for Israel. It has been a point of controversy after Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky capitulated to Arab terrorist demands and ordered it closed. However, Rosenthal said, the Austrian authorities are "thoroughly prepared" to continue handling Soviet-Jewish emigration and "will maintain a transit facility" temporarily at a former Austrian army camp. He described that facility as "seemingly satisfactory." The Austrian government, he said, will build a new facility near the Vienna Airport in about six months. It will be operated by the Red Cross instead of the Jewish Agency which handled the Schoenau Castle.

Rosenthal was accompanied on the 10-day trip by two other Democratic members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee--Reps. Charles Wilson of Texas and Ray Taylor of North Carolina. In Geneva they were joined by Rep. Edward I. Koch and in Israel by Rep. Bella Abzug, both New York Democrats. The House Armed Services Committee also has returned from a visit to Egypt and Israel, including tours of the Suez battle grounds. The Committee is expected to make a statement tomorrow.

PLAN UNVEILED TO RESPOND TO NEW SOVIET CRACKDOWN ON JEWS

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, announced today that initial steps are being taken by his group and its constituents to respond to the Soviet Union's new crackdown on Jews.

His announcement followed telephone calls placed yesterday by the five New York City borough presidents to top public officials in the Soviet Union to urge an immediate end to the new wave of trials and the stepped-up persecution of Soviet Jews. They also spoke with Aleksander Luntz and Vladimir Slepak, leading Jewish activists, in Moscow, who said the situation "is worse than ever before. There is more harassment and more trials." They cited the case of Aleksandr Feldman of Kiev who was sentenced to 3 1/2 years imprisonment last week.

The borough presidents, who made the telephone calls in the "action center" at City Hall to "dramatize to the Soviet government the deep concern among all Americans about this renewed surge of anti-Semitism in the USSR," also cabled Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid I. Brezhnev demanding a halt to the harassment of Jews seeking to leave the USSR.

Hoenlein charged that the USSR "is taking advantage of events in the Middle East to intensify its harassment of Jews trying to emigrate from Russia." The borough presidents pledged to continue their efforts in concert with the New York Conference to alleviate the plight of Soviet Jews.

Outlining plans, Hoenlein said a resolution will be introduced in the New York City Council urging the U.S. government to speak out against the trials, and to warn that further harassment of Soviet Jews can only serve to seriously hamper efforts to achieve a genuine detente; and tens of thousands of area residents are wiring President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to urge that they intervene and call on the Soviet Union to call a halt to the trials.

In addition, Hoenlein said bar associations and civic, fraternal, and religious organizations that represent tens of thousands of people in the Metropolitan area are raising their voices in protest against the upsurge in the persecution of Soviet Jews; and a number of area Congressmen plan to speak out soon on the new crisis on the floor of the House of Representatives.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Some 3000 Japanese will demonstrate on Dec. 2 in Tokyo to protest the "anti-Israeli policy" of the Japanese government, it was reported Tuesday to the JTA. The demonstrators, members of the Christian Japanese group, Makuya, will rally in the center of Tokyo, according to one of its members, Jacob Teshima, who received Tuesday a phone call from Japan informing him about the planned rally. Teshima is a graduate student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The first group of volunteers from South Africa--46 young men and women--arrived last Friday and a second group of 80 volunteers is expected from that country this week. Their work in Israel was arranged through the South African Zionist Federation.

HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IS GOING THROUGH NEW REVIVAL

By Dr. Andrew Suemeghi, JTA Budapest Correspondent

BUDAPEST, Nov. 27 (JTA)--The Hungarian Jewish community seems to be going through a new revival. In Budapest itself, a Jewish school--primary and secondary--is functioning, services are held in the synagogues and Jewish social services operate in a number of cities. "There are only 100,000 Jews in Hungary today, compared to 700,000 before the war, and yet many of them openly admit or even assert their Jewishness in some way or other." Thus Hungary's best known actor, Laszlo Kabos, recently told a television interviewer who was discussing his background, "I always considered myself a Jew." The fact that the interview was shown at prime listening time and did nothing to diminish the popularity of the actor is seen by many Hungarian Jews as "an excellent thing."

The most outspoken Hungarian Jews are the religious. They can still be seen walking through Budapest's streets in their traditional kaftan and stramel. Younger people, often non-religious, also avail themselves of the social services provided by the community. Many, for instance, send their children to Jewish schools or at least to the religious education classes on Saturdays. The loosest contact is maintained by the middle classes and especially by the many professional people who only attend synagogue services during the high holidays. Some, from small communities consisting of only a dozen or less families, come to Budapest at that period to attend the services in the capital. Many voluntarily pay the "community tax" which helps support social activities such as homes for the aged, a kosher canteen and help for the needy.

Ten provinces out of a total of 19 have a community life of their own with a local, often part-time rabbi. The local rabbi also serves as Hebrew and religious instruction teacher. The only rabbinical seminary in all of Eastern Europe, "The General Rabbinical School," operates in Budapest. Some of the students come from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other socialist states. Two of the students currently attending classes come from the Soviet Union. The school principal, Dr. Sandor Schreiber, is often interviewed on radio and television and is considered an authority on Jewish and Hebrew questions by the Hungarian Academy of Science and Arts. The school choir, specializing in traditional Jewish music and Hasidic songs, often tours the provinces and also gives concerts in Budapest itself. Invariably all tickets are sold out long in advance.

The local community paper, "Uj Elet" (New Life), with a circulation of 20,000 appears every second week. It is rather difficult to obtain and the editors explain that this is due to the shortage of newsprint and printing facilities. The paper, formerly known as "The Paper of Hungarian Israelites," is now edited by Geza Seifert who is also chairman of the community board. "Uj Elet" carries mostly religious news as well as a list of forthcoming holidays. It carefully avoids politics, thus, it pointedly avoided even mentioning the Yom Kippur War. The top organ of the community is the Representative Council of Hungarian Jews, directed by its board. Most communities are represented on the board which usually contacts the Chief Rabbi before taking any major decision. The board is also in contact with the Hungarian Office for Religious Affairs.

ABZUG URGES JOINT U.S.-USSR RESOLUTION IN UN ON ISRAELI POWs IN SYRIA

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA)--Calling for a joint U.S.-Soviet resolution in the United Nations to require Syria to adhere to basic international law and humanitarian considerations concerning prisoners of war, Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D.N.Y.) released photos last night showing the results of Syrian atrocities against captured Israeli soldiers.

The pictures, released by Rep. Abzug at a news conference at her New York office, were given to her by Prime Minister Golda Meir when the Congresswoman was in Israel last week with a House fact-finding group. They show some of the dead Israeli captured soldiers found at Wadi Yahudi, Golan Heights, after the territory was retaken from Syrian forces.

The men were bound, blindfolded and murdered. In all, according to information provided Rep. Abzug by official Israeli sources, approximately 30 men were located under similar circumstances at several Golan Heights sites--including Tel Faras, Mount Hermon and Nafah. Men were found shot, stabbed and with heads smashed by rifle butts. There was also evidence of torture, including eye-gouging. The Israeli sources told Rep. Abzug that Syrian prisoners as well as other informants had confirmed the commission of atrocities.

Rep. Abzug said the UN resolution should call on Syria to fulfill Geneva Convention requirements by providing Israel a list of prisoners and permitting the International Red Cross to contact the captives and visit POW facilities. The reso-

lution, she suggested, should also call for release of wounded prisoners, as was arranged between the Egyptians and Israelis.

"It seems to me--particularly in light of the evidence of Syrian atrocities--that it is time for the world community to exert pressure on Syria to conform with basic international law and humanitarian considerations concerning prisoners of war," she said. Decrying the apparent "knuckling under" by some European and Asian countries to Arab oil blackmail, the New York Congresswoman said that these countries should be willing to back such a resolution on simple humanitarian grounds. "It would be an important step toward achieving peace in the Middle East," she said.

MAJORITY OF WEST GERMANS SAY WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD NOT SUBMIT TO ARABS

BONN, Nov. 27 (JTA)--The majority of the West German population feels that Western Europe should not capitulate to Arab demands in the current oil crisis, according to a public opinion survey by the Allensbach Demoscopic Institute. Fifty-seven percent said Western Europe should stand firm despite Arab threats, while only 16 percent felt Western Europe should withdraw its support from Israel to keep oil supplies moving.

Fifty-eight percent thought that capitulation would bring fresh demands from the Arabs, while only 19 percent believed capitulation would help improve relations to the Arab states. Forty-nine percent of the population considered Western Europe had shown weakness, only 17 percent strength towards the Arabs in the oil crisis. Forty-five percent did not believe that the Soviet Union would get control of Arab oil supplies; one-third believed it would.