



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL CHARGES EGYPT WITH CRIMES OF MURDER, BRUTALITY AGAINST ISRAELI POWs Tekoah Submits Charges To Waldheim; Israeli Government Lodges Complaint With Red Cross

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah personally submitted to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today a copy of the complaint the Israeli government has lodged with the International Red Cross charging crimes of murder, torture, brutality and degradation committed on Israeli soldiers taken prisoner by Egypt during the Oct. war and subsequently during their period of captivity in Oct. and Nov. The document states that the investigation now being conducted by Israeli authorities into the treatment of the Israeli POWs "has already revealed a shocking chronicle of inhuman acts of cruelty perpetrated on the Israeli soldiers who were taken captive by units of the Egyptian army--deeds unimaginable in relations between civilized nations." It promised that "additional reports and evidence will be transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross in due course."

According to the complaint, the Israeli government "is in the possession of proven evidence indicating beyond any doubt that a large number of officers and men of the Israel Defense Forces taken prisoner by Egyptian troops were deliberately murdered, many of them while lying wounded and helpless." Israel charged furthermore that "the many instances of murder, acts of brutality and calculated humiliation are the result of a planned policy of the Egyptian authorities." The document cited a message to Egyptian soldiers from the Egyptian Chief of Staff, Gen. Saad al Shazli, contained in a pocket booklet distributed to the men which said in part, "Kill them wherever you find them and be careful that they do not trick you, for they are a people of deceivers; pretending to surrender so that they may overcome you and kill you easily. Kill them and do not show any pity or mercy."

The Israeli complaint document cited specific instances of the murder of Israeli soldiers who had surrendered. One case described nine Israeli soldiers lying wounded and helpless who were shot to death in cold blood after indicating "in the clearest possible way their intention to surrender." In another instance "Egyptian soldiers went up to the (captured) soldiers lying on the ground and stabbed them with their bayonets, killing the wounded among them." The Israeli document cited testimony from returned POWs of "incessant tortures and humiliation which were the lot of the Israeli prisoners of war throughout the duration of their captivity. All of them report that, notably during the early part of their captivity, they were most cruelly beaten all over their bodies...."

"The unbridled savagery of the Egyptian soldiers is seen more than anything else in the fact that they made a point of assaulting wounded prisoners more than the others," the Israeli document stated. "Many of the returned Israeli prisoners of war have testified that Egyptian soldiers kicked them cruelly on their open wounds and even spat on them instead of bandaging them. When the captives finally reached prisons in Egypt, their Egyptian jailers made a point of competing with each other in inventing acts of brutality and humiliation such as forcing the prisoners of war to kneel on the floor of the prison and lick it with their tongues, or urinating into the palms of their hands. The following is a representative sample of the acts of brutality and degradation as related by the returning prisoners of war."

"The Israeli prisoners of war were beaten over all parts of their bodies with any weapon that came to hand, from rifle butts to clubs, whips and palm branches. Many of the returnees still bear marks of the beatings on their bodies, despite the long period of time that has passed since then. A particularly favored means used by the Egyptian jailers was the beating of the prisoners of war over their heads and on the soles of their feet with rubber truncheons.

"The Egyptian jailers made a practice of putting out the stubs of their cigarettes on the necks and backs of the prisoners of war. Some of them would order the prisoners of war to kneel on the ground and would then sit on their shoulders and order them to crawl the length of the room with their jailers astride them. Another system of torture used by the jailers was to perform their bodily functions on the faces and hands of the prisoners of war. On several occasions they prevented the prisoners of war from performing their own bodily functions and brought them to a stage where they were forced to perform these functions in their clothes accompanied by the shouts and laughter of their jailers."

The complaint said that "According to the testimony of some of the prisoners of war, sexual assaults, unnatural acts and sodomy were committed on a number of Israeli prisoners. There are at least cases of sharp objects having been inserted into the anus of Israeli prisoners of war." The Israeli complaint also charged the Egyptians with denying wounded POWs medical aid and striking the wounded on their wounds if they asked for medical assistance. Israel charged the Egyptians with deliberately withholding food and water from Israeli POWs, forcing them to live in vermin infested cells, denying them washing facilities and, when finally allowed to wash, forcing them to do so in sewage water. "It is clear from the foregoing that the murders and acts of brutality described here-in were part of a deliberate policy and were committed in accordance with systematic instructions issued by a high central authority," the Israeli complaint stated.

Meanwhile, some 150 women chained themselves this afternoon to the iron fence that surrounds the United Nations to protest the Syrian treatment of Israeli POWs and to demand that Syria comply with the Geneva Convention and turn over the names of the POWs and the MIAs to Israel. Police permitted the demonstrators to remain for two hours after which UN security guards arrived on the scene and cut the chains. By that time, however, many of the women had already begun to leave. The

contingent was led by Mrs. Max Schenk, chairman of the Executive of the American Zionist Federation, and Mrs. Sylvia Eisen, a Hadassah leader and head of the Long Island AZF.

#### AUSTRIA KEEPS PROMISE TO TERRORISTS: SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP CLOSES

VIENNA, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Blackmail threats by Arab terrorists paid off as the Austrian government announced today that Schoenau Castle would be closed after the last group of Soviet Jewish transients leave for Israel this week. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky ordered the transit center closed on Sept. 29 in exchange for the release of three Jewish hostages and one Austrian customs official seized by two Arab gunmen Sept. 28. Following a worldwide wave of protests against this decision which was described by Israel as a great victory for terrorists, Kreisky said he had decided to close the center before the terrorist incident because the camp was a "permanent security risk."

New emigrants from the Soviet Union will be brought to a Red Cross station at Woellersdorf, lower Austria, for a short one-day stopover before being flown to Israel, government officials said. A large Red Cross insignia had been painted on the roof of the former army barracks in Woellersdorf which looks more like an internment camp than an aid station, with its barbed wire fences and Austrian police guarding the outskirts.

The Woellersdorf village council, however, protested against the shift from Schoenau to Woellersdorf, some 25 miles south of Vienna. Situated near a highway from Vienna to the southwest, the aid station is an easy target for terrorist attacks, a spokesman for the village council said. But Friedrich Proksch, chief of the Austrian Red Cross, denied that there was any threat to the village population. "I am with the Red Cross for 25 years and I have never heard that anybody disregarded the Geneva Convention protecting Red Cross stations," he said.

#### ISRAEL WILL NOT TALK PEACE WITH SYRIA UNLESS DAMASCUS PRODUCES POW LIST

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The Israeli government has decided that it will not enter into peace negotiations with Syria unless and until Damascus produces a list of Israeli prisoners of war it holds and allows the Red Cross to visit them in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention. That decision was submitted to the Knesset this afternoon in the form of a motion presented by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan on the government's behalf. The motion also stated that once Syria complied, Israel would insist that the first item on the agenda of talks with Syria should be a POW exchange.

The Knesset voted by majority to send the motion to committee. It rejected a motion by the Likud opposition faction for a full dress debate on the subject of POWs and their treatment.

Dayan, who returned from a brief visit to the U.S. this morning, said the POW exchange itself was not a precondition to peace talks with Syria--only the lists and visits were. He said he knew that U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, with whom he met Friday in Washington, would raise the issue when he visits Damascus next week. Dayan said the Syrians murdered Israeli POWs in 42 attested cases, some of them long after the fighting ended and some of them wounded prisoners. Dayan claimed there were 24 attested cases of POWs murdered by the

Egyptians. (Israel's first complaint, filed with the Red Cross yesterday, mentioned 28 cases.)

On his return from the U.S. this morning, however, Dayan told newsmen at Lod Airport, "I do not think that we should not go to Geneva because of these crimes committed by the Egyptians." On the other hand, he said, the situation surrounding Israeli POWs in Syrian hands overshadows the Geneva conference. "For us it is a question of principles but the less we talk about it the better," Dayan said.

#### No Pressure By Washington

The Defense Minister said there was no pressure being put on Israel and that he heard nothing in Washington of any conditions Israel had to comply with before the Geneva conference. "The Americans understand what we urgently need in respect to arms," Dayan said. (In Washington, Israel was reported today as seeking U.S. arms estimated at costing between \$3-3.5 billion. Informed sources persisted in saying the Soviet government was both heavily resupplying weapons to Egypt, Syria and Iraq and refusing to agree with the United States on limiting arms to the Middle East.)

Dayan said his discussions on that matter with Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger and his aides over the weekend were very detailed. "When the Russians continue to supply the Arabs with modern and sophisticated arms, we should have the right to answer it. I am satisfied with my talks in America. The Americans understand what we need and reveal sympathy toward our requests," Dayan said. He refused, however, to elaborate on the results of his talks with American officials.

Asked about the presence of Russian observers with the UN forces on the Israeli-Egyptian cease-fire lines and whether that presaged a further Soviet involvement in the region, Dayan replied that there are no Russian combat units here. "There are observers from Russia as there are from the U.S. Russian observers are here--and that's a fact. I am not sure as to the future activity of the Russians."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel's universities--whose academic years have not yet begun because of the war--will teach through the summer to enable the maximum number of student/soldiers possible to complete their courses. The academic year will begin Dec. 23--and again on March 15, with all lectures and courses being repeated twice at least--so students given leave or demobilized can take them at their convenience. At the same time, the universities will send teams of tutors and teachers around the units in the field coaching students wherever possible.

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MARIETTA, Ga. (JTA)--Bumper stickers and "mass distribution" stickers, linking Jews with the energy crisis, are offered in the current issue of "The Thunderbolt," the official publication of the National States Rights Party, described in the publication as "the largest White Racist political party in America." The bumper sticker, "Oil Yes--Jews No," is offered at four for \$1. The "mass distribution stickers" read "Stop Aid To Israeli Jews--We Want Oil!" The advertisement said the stickers "will stick to anything. Help expose the real cause of the oil-gas shortage." They were offered at 50 for \$1.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Knesset has approved an amendment to the election law that will permit persons to vote who have reached the age of 18 by Dec. 31, the date of the general elections.

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### ISRAEL DISCLOSES NATURE OF SOVIET WEAPONS CAPTURED DURING THE WAR

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The Soviet Union has become a substantial if unwitting supplier of modern military hardware to Israel. Russian-made weapons and equipment--and some made in Czechoslovakia--including hundreds of tanks and artillery pieces, millions of rounds of ammunition, anti-tank missiles, amphibious vehicles and bridge-building equipment were captured from Egypt and Syria during the Yom Kippur War and assimilated into Israel's arsenal.

Some of the weapons, taken intact, were used immediately against the enemy. Other items in need of repair saw action against their former owners in later stages of the fighting. The army today disclosed the nature of some of the war booty won by Israel. It was pointed out that Israeli soldiers had little trouble operating the Soviet equipment since they were familiar with Russian weaponry from the large quantities captured in the Six-Day War.

Some of the materiel, however, is quite new and sophisticated. Israel's Corps of Engineers has been enriched since the Yom Kippur War by advanced types of bridge-building equipment. This includes a Russian tank ferry and mechanized bridges which consist of bridge components mounted on trucks.

The Russian artillery seized from Egypt and Syria was highly diversified. It includes 122 mm. long and short barreled guns with ranges from 11,800 meters to over 20 kilometers; 85 mm. and 100 mm. anti-tank guns with 1000-1500 meter ranges; and a 3000 meter range anti-aircraft gun. Israel also captured guns of various caliber with ranges of 6000-13,700 meters equipped with computerized radar controlled sighting and firing devices.

The booty also includes large quantities of Czech-made "Topaz" armored personnel carriers with speeds of 60 mph and Soviet BTR-50 and 60 and BRD-M2 vehicles capable of fording almost any water obstacle. Large quantities of small arms were also captured and are presently in use by Israeli forces on both the Syrian and Egyptian fronts.

### TRADE REFORM DEBATE OPENS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The House of Representatives opened its long awaited debate today on the Trade Reform Act and its provision affecting Soviet emigration. The discussion was expected to be completed late this afternoon with moves for amendments and a final vote tomorrow.

A close vote on the final passage was presaged when the House decided by only 231-150 to hold the debate at all. A large number of the members affirming the decision on debate indicated they were agreeing to hold that discussion but were opposed to granting more discretionary authority to the President in any field. This factor was seen as militating in the end against the emigration clause in the bill.

The debate had been delayed since Oct. 18 at President Nixon's request in order to avoid offending the Soviet government at a time when its cooperation was regarded as essential by the Administration to bring about a Middle East peace. However, the President reversed himself last week and urged quick approval because of problems arising with America's major trading partners.

Rep. Al Ullman (D.Ore.) acting chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, opened the debate by calling for passage of the bill as it

stands, including a denial of most favored nation treatment for the Soviet Union unless it eases its emigration restrictions.

He asked, however, that any move to ban credits to the Soviet Union on the same basis should be defeated. The Soviet government is far more anxious to receive the credits than the MFN status. The motion to ban credits is to be presented tomorrow by Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D.Ohio). Of the first seven speakers in the debate today the only opponent was Rep. James A. Burke (D.Mass.) who contended the measure would bring about additional setbacks in U.S. employment.

### TERRORISTS' HOMES DEMOLISHED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israeli security forces blew up the homes of five convicted terrorists yesterday. The buildings demolished were in Dier Abu Dayef village near Jenin on the West Bank. Their destruction represented a reversion by Israeli authorities to a policy they suspended two years ago of destroying buildings owned by terrorists or used by them for shelter.

The five terrorists were convicted of throwing hand grenades at the Labor Exchange office in Jenin and planting a mine on a road north of that town which caused injury to three Israeli soldiers. The decision to resume the demolition policy was seen here as a response to the recent upsurge of terrorist activity in Israel and the administered territories.

### KNESSET SESSION IN MEMORY OF BEN GURION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The Knesset met in special session today in memory of David Ben-Gurion on the completion of the shiva. The session opened with the playback of the recorded speech in which Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. It ended with Premier Golda Meir reading excerpts from a letter Ben-Gurion wrote from Paris at the height of the Yishuv's battle against the British which is appropriate to the situation today:

"Do not fear, do not despair; but also do not delude yourselves. Without failures and difficulties and effort we shall not reach our goal. We have to prepare ourselves for any possibility. We shall be neither Massada nor Vichy. We are not preparing ourselves for the last battle, and we are not about to die with the Philistines, because political circumstances change and disappear; and one must know that as soon as we give in and bend our head and get used to expressions such as, 'who are we and what is our strength,' we begin rolling down the decline that leads to the deep chasm."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--An inter-ministerial committee is studying the possibility of creating an urban center in the Golan Heights. A source close to the committee said, however, that a published report that work was about to begin on the construction of the city was premature. What is being considered, the source said, is a center which would have both industry and administrative offices to service the kibbutzim and moshavim on the Heights. The idea is being examined on economic and "other" grounds, the source said.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Contending that America's energy crisis is due to domestic failures and not the cut-off of Middle East oil, Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (R.Md.), told an Anti-Defamation League dinner audience that "to the extent that further additional resources from the Middle East will be required...it is because the United States has failed to develop its own resources and technology to anticipate this situation."

