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WALDHEIM TO CHAIR PEACE TALKS; CONFERENCE EXPECTED TO LAST 3-4 DAYS

Will Resume In January With Kissinger Presiding

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

GENEVA, Dec. 13 (JTA)--United Nations sources confirmed here tonight that the Arab-Israeli peace conference will open in Geneva next Tuesday under the chairmanship of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The conference, which is expected to last 3-4 days, will be organized by the United Nations and will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The sources said that the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan are also due to attend. This announcement put an end to a week of speculations during which UN officials said that they had not been officially notified about the conference. Swiss officials said the same.

The UN Secretary General is expected to send out today the official invitations to the conference participants. Observers here believe that after a formal opening and a statement of purpose by the concerned countries, the conference experts would continue to meet in Geneva, however, in order to try and reach some agreement on an agenda as well as a possible timetable. American and UN circles here say that such preparatory work is necessary if the conference is to run smoothly and without unnecessarily losing time when it reconvenes some time in the second half of Jan. All the ministers are expected to return to Geneva for the resumption of the conference's work. Kissinger is expected to preside over the Jan. meetings.

Swiss officials claim that they have not been notified as yet, at least officially, about the conference but Geneva canton officials conferred yesterday with Swiss police officials and representatives of the UN to work out security arrangements. Swiss officials say that these arrangements will be unprecedented and stricter than those enforced during the 1955 summit meeting. Hundreds of Swiss police will guard the airport, the conference site and the hotels where the delegations will be staying. Kissinger is expected in Geneva Monday afternoon. He will be arriving from Israel, the last leg of his current Middle East tour during which he is due to visit Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Israel. A number of American officials have already arrived in Geneva but they say that all conference plans, including such all-important items as a conference agenda and timetable, will be worked out by Kissinger himself with the various countries.

Soviet sources say that Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is due to arrive in Geneva Saturday while Waldheim is expected to leave New York for Switzerland Sunday evening. The Israeli and Arab delegations are expected to arrive in Geneva Monday afternoon. An Egyptian spokesman said that he has not yet been informed of who will lead the delegation or of how many members it will consist. The Syrian delegation here said that they have not yet been told whether Syria will take part in the talks.

The lack of certainty and the confusion which reign here are such that UN officials have privately nicknamed the forthcoming conference "The Alice-In-Wonderland Meeting." Observers here hope, however, that in spite of the improvisations, the conference will run smoothly once it gets started. Israeli circles privately say that they expect the opening session to last only a day or two at the most and reconvene late in Jan. after a new Israeli government is formed.

DINITZ: U.S. WILL SUPPORT ISRAEL IF SHE DECIDES NOT TO TALK WITH SYRIA

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The United States will support Israel should it decide to refuse to sit down with Syria at the Geneva peace conference next week unless Damascus by then has complied with the Geneva Convention requiring it to submit lists of Israeli prisoners of war in its hands, Ambassador Simcha Dinitz said here today. The Israeli envoy arrived from Washington this afternoon to participate in a special session of the Cabinet tomorrow which will be devoted to the Geneva peace conference and the visit Sunday of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Dinitz said that while the Americans are very anxious that the Geneva talks open without a hitch they understand that the conference could be jeopardized by Syrian intransigence and brutality toward POWs. The memory is still fresh in America of their own POWs in Vietnam, Dinitz said. He stated that the U.S. was doing everything possible to get Syria to comply with the Geneva Convention, including approaches to Syria's ally, the Soviet Union. He said it was not known up to now whether that pressure has

yielded any results.

Dinitz said that to the best of his knowledge, the U.S. will not recognize any Palestinian government-in-exile. He said it was clear that the U.S. does not want a weak Israel in the Geneva talks and is taking steps to assure that Israel is not weak when it goes to the peace conference.

ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN UPHOLD NIXON'S REQUEST FOR \$2.2 B FOR ISRAEL AID

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Administration spokesmen strongly upheld President Nixon's request for \$2.2 billion in military aid for Israel at hearings today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They clashed with witnesses opposed to the measure and disputed committee chairman Sen. J. William Fulbright's contention that there was no urgency to act on the President's request and that its passage at this time might have adverse effects on the Arab-Israeli peace conference due to open in Geneva next Tuesday.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush, one of the Administration witnesses, argued that on the contrary, the \$2.2 billion was essential now "to give assurances to Israel" and a "warning to

the Arabs" not to start the war again. Rush said the Administration wants the measure passed by both Houses before Congress adjourns for its five-week Christmas recess. The measure was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives on Tuesday. Other Administration spokesmen appearing before the committee today were William Clements, Deputy Secretary of Defense and Adm. Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. All called the \$2.2 billion essential to U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Aid Measure Assailed

The measure was vigorously opposed by Rep. James A. McClure (R, Idaho) who said the U.S. was obliged to help Israel defend her pre-June, 1967 borders against aggression "but we should not do more. We cannot have one set of standards for the Arabs and another for Israel; our policy should be based on our own self-interest," McClure said. He decried use of the term "oil blackmail" to characterize the current Arab oil embargo of the West.

McClure recently returned from a visit to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait. He admitted to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later that the Kuwaiti government had paid the air fare for himself and an aide on the trip but said he paid his own hotel bills and other expenses.

Sen. Fulbright repeatedly referred to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's remarks while in the U.S. last weekend that Israel was "never stronger" and questioned its need for \$2.2 billion in weapons. Rush replied that Israel's strength was relative. He said it might be stronger than ever but weaker in absolute terms than its enemies. Sen. James Abourezk (D, SD) denounced the Administration's "bankrupt policy in the Middle East," he argued that it was "ludicrous" for Congress to appropriate huge amounts for military assistance to Israel when refusing social programs for U.S. citizens.

Clements, who met with Dayan last Saturday, said the Israeli defense chief was "worried," and had made it clear that Israel "needs supplies and needs them badly. We can't wait until the horse is out of the gate to close the gate," he said, stressing that Israel's strength must be compared to the strength of its adversaries.

Fulbright, Rush Clash

Fulbright quoted figures on past U.S. aid to Israel. He said the U.S. had given Israel \$5.7 billion in loans or grants between 1949 and June 30, 1974, which breaks down to \$833 for every man, woman and child in Israel. He observed that the United Jewish Appeal had supplied Israel with \$1.6 billion in tax exempt donations from 1948-71 and the Israel Bond Organization a like amount in the same period.

Rush contested the figures. He said that, between 1949-73, the U.S. gave Israel \$3.1 billion in total assistance including \$522 million in grants and loans of \$2.5 billion. He said this was exclusive of \$1 billion in aid given during the 18-day Yom Kippur War.

Meanwhile, the House Appropriations Committee approved a measure today calling for \$1.7 billion in grants to Israel with the balance of \$5 billion to be spent by the President if needed but subject to Congress' approval. The House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Tuesday, approved an authorization bill calling for \$1 billion in grants to Israel. The balance would be provided in the form of grants or loans at the Administration's discretion with repayment

over 25 years.

JAPAN INSISTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Japan called on Israel today to pull its forces back from the west bank of the Suez Canal. The appeal was made by Mizuo Kuroda, chief spokesman of the Foreign Ministry at a press briefing in Tokyo today, it was learned here. Kuroda said that an Israeli pullback to the positions it held when the first UN cease fire went into effect Oct. 22 should be the first step in a total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

His remarks represented the latest admission to Israel by Japanese officials since Tokyo embraced the Arab cause in the Middle East in direct response to the oil boycott. Tokyo newspapers commented that Kuroda's statement was intended as "supporting fire" for Deputy Premier Takeo Miki who is visiting eight Arab states and is due in Cairo tomorrow. His tour is part of Japan's move to placate the Arab world on which it depends for 42 percent of its oil supplies.

RED CROSS READY TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT ARABS, ISRAELIS VIOLATED CONVENTION

GENEVA, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The International Red Cross Committee announced here tonight that it is prepared, should the interested parties request it to do so, to investigate charges that Syria, Egypt and Israel had violated the Geneva Conventions. The Red Cross said that it has informed the three governments concerned of its availability to help conduct such an investigation.

The Red Cross suggested the creation of a number of committees, each to consist of three members: One each from the countries concerned and a third, neutral, which could be appointed by either the Red Cross or any other body chosen to do so by the concerned countries. These committees, the Red Cross communicate stated, would ascertain whether the Geneva Convention has been violated and define the interpretation of the conventions. The findings, the Red Cross said, would be communicated to the interested parties.

Israel has charged Syria with murdering nearly 30 Israeli POWs and with having tortured many others. Syria has still not agreed to release the names of the Israeli POWs it holds. Israel has charged that Israeli POWs have also died in Egypt having been either executed or having died as a result of "intensive questioning." Egypt claimed yesterday that Israel has subjected Egyptian POWs to "savage" treatment and that many of its captured soldiers have died as a result of "inhuman" treatment.

MEANY URGES U.S. TO RESIST OIL BLACKMAIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, declared tonight at an Israel Bond dinner before an audience of 1200 in the Americana Hotel that "we must move now, massively and dramatically, to make America self-sufficient in energy" to prevent Arab oil blackmail from dictating U.S. foreign policy. "What is involved here," Meany said, "is more than the issue of American support for Israel. If that support is diminished or destroyed by the oil weapon--and that is how the Arabs consider their oil, as a weapon--then other American policies can be determined the same way."

In a wide-ranging speech, Meany joined labor and management representatives, Israeli leaders, Mayor-elect Abraham D. Beame and Mayor John V. Lindsay, in paying tribute to Louis Stulberg, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, who received the Israel Prime

Minister's Silver Medal "in recognition of his leadership in the Israel Bond program."

More than \$5 million in Israel Bonds were sold at the dinner, it was announced by the chairman of the labor-management sponsored event, Nat Boriskin, executive director of the Popular Price Dress Manufacturers Group Inc., and Sol C. Chaiken, general secretary-treasurer of the ILGWU. The dinner was co-sponsored by the ILGWU and key representatives of the women's and children's apparel industries.

The dinner in honor of Stulberg was a major highpoint in an intensive worldwide effort to provide \$642 million through the sale of Israel Bonds to finance Israel's Development Budget to restore its war-dislocated economy. Ambassador David Rivlin, Consul General of Israel in New York presented the Israel Prime Minister's Silver Medal, inscribed by Mrs. Golda Meir to Stulberg.

Energy Crunch is Squeeze Play

In spelling out the importance of overcoming the energy crisis, Meany said, "The American people need to understand that even if the Arab oil embargo is lifted, the price of oil will continue to go up and up and up. It is the old story--squeeze the supply to jack up the price. And other oil companies--American oil companies--are going along with the game. It is very, very profitable. There is no real way out of this problem except to develop self-sufficiency. We must move with the same determination that put a man on the moon. We must do this not just for Israel's sake--but for our own."

Emphasizing that "Israel is a trade union country," Meany stated: "To us Israel represents the kind of social and economic progress that can be made by a free people, a free working people, in a free government resting on free, democratic institutions. Labor's commitment to that little land will last as long as our commitment to the values she upholds, and which we uphold in our own land in difficult times."

Critical of the role of the Soviet Union in the Middle East, as well as the conception of detente, Meany said of the recent October war that Israel was faced with "the most concentrated military force ever assembled in the history of warfare." He declared that in the last six years, the Soviets gave Egypt and Syria 4000 tanks, "more than triple the number that Adolf Hitler used to invade Russia in World War II--and he had a lot of land to cover as well as millions of people to conquer." He added: "Detente, you know is a French word. It means relaxation. In case you do not realize it, that is what the Russian tanks were doing in the Sinai. Relaxing."

MRS. MEIR SKEPTICAL ABOUT GENEVA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said tonight that the only way Israel and the Arab states can reach a peace settlement is if each side recognizes that the other has "essential needs." But she said she doubted that the Arabs will take that line. Mrs. Meir made the remark in the course of a political speech here on the eve of the Geneva peace conference. She said she anticipated long and tiring negotiations and seemed skeptical of their outcome.

With the peace conference opening only five days away, the Premier said Israel's participation depended upon many "ifs" but did not specify what they were. She implied, in fact, that she was still not sure that the Geneva conference will take place. "If we reach negotiations and if there is a conference and if we do go there we

shall have to adopt a line that says the only way to reach a peace contract is to recognize that both parties have essential needs," she said.

The Premier stated that during the Geneva conference Israel may be forced to say "no" to her best friend, the United States. She said that at present there was no pressure on Israel. But she disclosed that on her visit to Washington in Oct. she had a "difficult and severe argument" with a person whose identity she would not reveal.

RESHUFFLING OF EGYPTIAN HIGH COMMAND

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Important political significance was seen here today in President Anwar Sadat's firing of the Egyptian Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Saadeddin Shazli on the eve of the Geneva peace conference and his replacement by Maj. Gen. Mohammed Gemassi, the chief Egyptian negotiator at the Kilometer 101 cease-fire talks.

The major reshuffling of the Egyptian high command which included the firings of the commanders of the Second and Third Armies, was viewed in Israeli circles as an important victory for President Sadat and his policy of negotiation.

Shazli and a group of army officers around him had been outspoken in demanding renewal of the war by Egypt and were opposed to the Geneva conference. His ouster is expected to give Sadat a freer hand at the peace parley. The dismissals of Shazli and of Maj. Gen. Abdel Moneim Khalil and Abdel Moneim Wasel, commanders of the Second and Third Armies respectively, was motivated primarily by the "military mistakes" that allowed an Israeli task force to punch a hole through Egyptian lines and establish a salient on the west bank of the Suez Canal during the second week of the Yom Kippur War.

After that fiasco, the Egyptian armor remained pinned down in the narrow bridgehead it had gained on the east bank of the Suez Canal in the first hours of the war and the initiative went to Israeli forces. Sadat is said to believe that Shazli supplied him with incorrect reports as to the extent of the Israeli breakthrough. Sadat is also believed to hold Shazli directly responsible for Egypt's failure to follow up the initial success of its Oct. 6 surprise attack and penetrate deeply into Sinai.

Shazli's successor, Gemassi, has been a rising star in the Egyptian military hierarchy. His conduct as chief of operations at general headquarters and as chief negotiator at Kilometer 101, recently won the praise of the War Minister, Gen. Ahmed Ismail, who recommended him for the Chief of Staff position. Gen. Aharon Yariv, Israel's chief negotiator at the Kilometer 101 talks, spoke well of Gemassi today. He described the 53-year-old Egyptian officer as a pleasant man with a sense of humor. "He is a person one can talk to and yet he can be very tough in negotiations," Yariv said. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--The DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry, elected new officers last night. Dr. Nehemias Resnitzky, formerly secretary general, was elected president, succeeding Dr. Shon Cohen Imach. Dr. Juan Gurevich was elected secretary general and Salomon Lubov, treasurer. Israel's Ambassador, Eliezer Doron, who praised the incoming and outgoing presidents for their dedication to Jewish causes and Israel said that at least half of Argentine Jewry was oblivious of or even hostile to certain Jewish problems.

