



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

© 1973, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XL - Fifty Sixth Year

Monday, December 17, 1973

No. 239

KISSINGER, MRS. MEIR MEET FOR 3 HOURS; CONCERN MOUNTS IN ISRAEL OVER TALKS
Combined JTA Dispatches By David Landau, Gil Sedan (Jerusalem), Yitzhak Shargil (Tel Aviv)

Dec. 16 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger arrived in Israel this afternoon for an overnight stay and crucial conferences with Israeli leaders that could determine the fate of the Geneva conferences before it starts. The American diplomat landed at Lod Airport from an official U.S. jet that brought him directly from Beirut, Lebanon, the last leg of a whirlwind tour of European and Arab capitals on the eve of the conference that was to have opened Tuesday in Geneva. Kissinger met for more than three hours with Premier Golda Meir at her office in Jerusalem. Among those present were Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, and State Department officials Joseph J. Sisco and Alfred L. Atherton. Ambassador Kenneth Keating arrived at the office shortly after the talks began.

But the Dec. 18 opening date was shrouded in doubt even as Dr. Kissinger and his entourage toured the Middle East. Aides to Kissinger were saying in Amman, Jordan yesterday that the opening might be postponed to Friday, Dec. 21. United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who was to have flown to Geneva last night, postponed his departure and as of today none of the participants have received formal invitations to attend the Geneva talks. (See separate UN story.)

During the 15-minute flight between Lod and Jerusalem officials in Kissinger's entourage seemed relaxed, according to Yehoshua Tadmor, a pool correspondent who joined Kissinger and his party. When he expressed Israeli concern over the fact that the peace talks in Geneva were under UN auspices and the possibility that the Palestinians would be represented at the talks, the officials, whose names the reporter did not mention, told him that Israel was exaggerating its fear of UN involvement in the conference. They also said they felt no Arab pressure to give the Palestinians representation in Geneva. Tadmor said that one of Kissinger's closest aides told him that the Secretary was not given a list of Israeli POWs in Damascus although the matter was brought up by him in his talks with Syrian officials. Israelis are deeply concerned over last minute problems that have developed and have been waiting with a sense of urgency to see what solutions Kissinger may come up with.

The problems are many fold--the primary one being the role of the UN which Israeli officials believe will determine the nature of the conference. Another problem is Egypt's last-minute demand that the disengagement of forces issue--meaning an Israeli pull-back from the west bank of the Suez Canal--be made the first agenda item and Cairo's rejection of face-to-face contacts with the Israelis. A third serious problem is Syria's refusal to budge on the prisoner of war issue. Dr. Kissinger, who has just visited Cairo and Damascus will, it is hoped here, bring acceptable solutions to these problems that will allow Israel to participate in the Geneva parley.

Demonstrators Shout "Kissinger Go Home"

The skies were overcast and a cold wintry wind was blowing as Kissinger and his party of 50 aides landed at Lod. After being greeted by Keating, Eban and Dinitz, the Kissinger party boarded two giant Israel Airforce helicopters for the short flight to Jerusalem. Kissinger ignored the army of journalists, tv cameramen, photographers and the battery of microphones set up at the airport. He was also obviously unaware of some 200 demonstrators in a far section of the airport shouting "Kissinger go home" at the top of their voices.

The demonstrators identified themselves as groups opposed to Israeli withdrawal from the administered Arab territories. They carried posters in English, Hebrew and French reading, "Kissinger, are you preparing another Munich"; "Kissinger's Peace in Vietnam Cost 50,000 Lives"; and "Kissinger, you were saved from the Nazi Holocaust, don't put us through another Holocaust." Seventeen members or supporters of the Jewish Defense League were arrested along with their leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane after they attempted, at Kahane's exhortation, to break through police barriers.

In Jerusalem, where the Cabinet met Friday and most of Sunday to discuss the Geneva conference and Kissinger's visit, the cold, rainy weather and grim, unprecedented security measures reflected Israel's apprehensive mood. The King David Hotel, where Kissinger and his entourage will spend the night, bristled like an armed camp. Armed border police surrounded the hotel and lined the routes Kissinger's motorcade took from the helipad near the Knesset to the hotel, from the hotel to Premier Meir's office and from there to Foreign Minister Eban's residence where the Secretary of State dined tonight. Guard rails were erected on the curbs all along the route, manned by rain-coated police holding back thousands of Jerusalem residents who lined the streets despite the foul weather.

Israeli officials are most concerned over what appeared to them to be evidence of an eroding American position under pressure of the Arab bloc and oil hungry West European and non-aligned nations, to give the United Nations more than the originally intended symbolic role at the Geneva talks. Before leaving for his Mideast trip last week Kissinger reportedly met with several Jewish intellectuals in Washington and told them that Israel will have to give up a lot of territory and withdraw to its pre-June 1967 borders. He also told the intellectuals that pro-Israel sentiment in the U.S. is eroding and that Israel will not be able to expect unstinting U.S. support in the future unless it settles the question of borders, among other things, in the upcoming peace talks. Kissinger also reportedly told the Jewish intellectuals that Premier Golda Meir suffers from a "Jewish ghetto" mentality and denied that he had forgotten his own persecution by Hitler.)

Last week, Israelis seemed confident that the U.S. and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the Geneva

conference, would stand firm on their position that they alone would preside at Geneva. But as the week wore on, it became clear that the U.S. was bowing to pressure aimed at securing a more decisive role for UN Secretary General Waldheim than that of "observer" or "participant" that Kissinger and Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev had originally intended for him.

Israel fears that a UN framework would obviate the need for the Arabs to engage in a real dialogue and give-and-take negotiations. The Israelis believe that with the General Assembly or the Security Council hovering in the wings the Arabs will remain intransigent, confident that the UN will come to their support should a dispute or deadlock develop.

If on the other hand, the conference is one where the parties can negotiate face-to-face with no outside interference, Israel is ready to concede the UN its formal trappings. The question here is what do Washington--and Moscow--really intend. Is this to be an Arab-Israeli peace conference in the true sense of that term? Most observers here still believe that the superpowers will stand firm. But they are anxious to have Kissinger corroborate that view during his talks in Jerusalem in the next 12 hours.

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION LINKS UN TO GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 16 (JTA)--New evidence emerged yesterday from a private meeting of the Security Council there would be a delay in the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Geneva. The Council adopted a resolution linking the UN to the Geneva conference but, at the last minute, a reference in the resolution to the scheduled Dec. 18 opening date was deleted and the phrase "to begin shortly in Geneva" was used.

Ten nations sponsored the resolution and cast affirmative votes for it. None of the five permanent members voted for it. France reportedly abstained on grounds that the link between the conference and the UN was not sufficiently specific. The United States and the Soviet Union did not vote for it reportedly because conference preparations were not yet complete. Britain, lacking U.S. and Soviet support, abstained. China declared non-participation. The sponsors were Australia, Austria, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Panama, Peru, Sudan and Yugoslavia.

According to reports here, the Council met in private after receiving information from the Middle East that the opening of the Geneva conference would be delayed one or two days. After the 46-minute session, the Council issued both the text of the resolution and a communique on the session. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who has been waiting for several days for a letter from the United States and the Soviet Union asking him to convene the conference, said he had planned to leave for Geneva last night but postponed his departure to await "future developments."

The resolution expressed the hope that the conference would make speedy progress toward establishment of "a just and durable peace" in the Mideast and expressed "its confidence" that Waldheim would have "a full and effective role" at the conference and that he would "preside over its proceedings, if the parties so desire."

ISRAEL HAS ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF OIL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Israel, by dint of

careful planning and preparations over the last decade, has adequate supplies of oil, but the price of energy "will be much more expensive than hitherto," Deputy Finance Minister Tzvi Dienstein said here. Dienstein, who is in charge of the nation's fuel supplies, spoke at the opening session of the fourth seminar on oil sponsored by the Israel Oil Institute.

The oil supply to Israel is continuing from various sources, he said. "We have the means to transport the crude oil, refine it and supply the customers." Nevertheless, Dr. Dienstein said, Israel will make an all-out effort to increase oil prospecting and to find alternative energy sources.

He said the satisfactory oil situation in the country today was the result of increasing the size of Israel's tanker fleet, building a network of pipelines and the construction of more refineries and storage facilities. He said the new oil refineries at Ashdod, which went into operation just before the Yom Kippur War, stood up well during the crisis and with the older refineries in Haifa provided the products essential to the war effort.

4 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN EXCHANGES ON EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN FRONTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in heavy exchanges of fire on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts this afternoon and evening. Both fronts echoed with artillery, mortar and small arms fire through most of Friday and yesterday as Syrian and Egyptian forces tried to interfere with fortification work being carried out by Israeli troops in their sectors and the Egyptians tried, without success, to establish new positions outside their cease-fire perimeter. An Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded Thursday night in shooting incidents north of the Kilometer 101 checkpoint on the Suez-Cairo road.

A military spokesman reported this evening that three Israeli soldiers were wounded when Syrian forces opened fire in the vicinity of Nafaj village east of Kuneitra on the Golan Heights. The incident capped a day of intermittent shooting all along the cease-fire line which ended at nightfall. Syrian forces fired artillery and "Sager" anti-tank missiles yesterday at an Israeli tractor in the Mazraat Beth Jan area. They fired mortar and artillery shells in that sector and northwest of Shams village Friday.

One Israeli soldier was wounded on the Egyptian front this afternoon when Egyptian forces opened fire south of Ismailia. The Egyptians also opened fire several times in the northern and southern sections of the front and in the central section south of Kilometer 101, near Lake Timsah and near the Small Bitter Lake. The same areas had come under Egyptian fire Friday and yesterday. Egyptian forces attempted yesterday to break out of their perimeter south of El Baleh but were forced back by Israeli fire.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Only 3000 immigrants from the U.S. and Canada arrived in Israel during 1973, 1000 fewer than in 1972, Gen. Uzi Narkiss, director of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department, reported. He said the number of immigrants from the U.S. was closely connected with events in the Middle East and expressed the hope that next year's totals will not be any smaller. Narkiss spoke on his return from a visit to the U.S. in connection with "Aliya Month" which opens there Feb. 1. He said that all schlichim, Israeli Embassy and Consulate employees and academicians on sabbatical leaves in the U.S. have been asked to join the aliya campaign.

IN GENEVA: INITIAL OPTIMISM REPLACED BY PESSIMISM AND DESPONDENCY

(By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief)

GENEVA, Dec. 16 (JTA)--In spite of the postponement of the Geneva conference, the various delegations and United Nations officials are readying themselves for the meeting between Arabs and Israelis now scheduled for Dec. 21. A thick red carpet has already been laid along the corridors leading to the "council chamber" where the delegates are due to meet should the conference finally open in spite of the last minute difficulties. The initial optimism which reigned here in conference circles has been replaced with a certain pessimism and despondency. Many observers now doubt whether the meeting will open on Dec. 21 as scheduled and even if it does whether much can be accomplished with a weekend and Christmas just around the corner from the opening date.

Both the United Nations and the Swiss authorities live in fear of a possible terrorist attack. Special UN security guards have been flown to Geneva from New York, and the Swiss government plans to mobilize a regiment of paratroopers to guard the UN building and the routes leading to and from the airport. Hundreds of police will guard the hotels where the delegates will stay. The Israeli delegation, which already numbers nearly 100 people including administrative staff, has taken over an entire hotel in the center of the city. The heads of the delegation, including Foreign Minister Abba Eban himself, will be staying at a hotel some 10 miles from the city.

The Israelis have set up a special press center and even a special map reproducing workshop to be able to issue maps and other documentation should this discussion center on the disengagement of forces in the Suez Canal zone. The American delegation has booked some 120 rooms at the Intercontinental Hotel just across the way from UN headquarters. Both the Americans and the Swiss fear that an attempt against Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger might be made and unprecedented security measures have been taken around the building.

The Egyptians are staying one floor lower. Fewer in number--about 40 people are reportedly already in town--they include a large number of international law experts. One of the top men in the delegation is the former Egyptian Ambassador in Paris, Ibrahim el Eirun, known as Egypt's foremost authority on international law. These appointments tend to support the belief that Egypt plans to put the forthcoming discussion on a legal basis--namely, to approach the whole issue of the Middle East conflict from the juridical angle: United Nations resolutions, Security Council rulings and cease-fire agreements. The United Nations Secretariat has also brought to Geneva a number of legal experts normally stationed in New York to interpret UN resolutions.

Syrians and Jordanians have not yet arrived here and spokesmen for their permanent delegations say that no definite date or plans have yet been fixed. A Syrian spokesman said here today, "We have not yet been told by Damascus that the conference will take place or that Syria will participate." The Jordanians, plagued by the problem of "Palestinian representation," are just as vague. Only the Egyptians are here and claim to be ready to start the talks "as soon as all the participants arrive." Few of these are expected, however, before the end of the week. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has indefinitely postponed his departure and the Soviet delegation here announced today that Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has also cancelled his arrival for the time being. In spite of the Egyptian official optimism, it is not known when Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi will reach the city.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger described his 3-hour meeting this afternoon with Premier Golda Meir and other top Israeli officials as "very good." He emerged smiling from the Premier's office. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who left an hour before, seemed preoccupied and would say only that the meeting was cordial. He would not say what subjects were discussed. Ambassador Simcha Dinitz described the meeting with the word "alright." There was speculation that the Cabinet, which had been meeting before the U.S. Secretary of State's arrival, might resume its meeting at midnight or even later.

ISRAEL LISTS THREE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PEACE TALKS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Israel listed three conditions today which it says must be fulfilled before it participates in any contact with Syria at the Geneva peace conference. According to an official communique released by the Prime Minister's Office, the conditions are that Syria present Israel with a complete list of prisoners of war it holds; that the Red Cross be permitted to visit Israeli POWs in Syria; and that the Red Cross affirm that the POWs are being held under conditions compatible with the Geneva Convention requirements.

The third condition, which had not been mentioned in previous statements on the POW issue, means that Israel would refuse to talk to the Syr-

ians unless it is assured that Israeli POWs are receiving humane treatment. The communique added that these conditions would not prevent Israel's participation in talks with Egypt and Jordan at Geneva. But unless they are met, Israel will not take part in any context of the conference in which the Syrians participate, the statement said. The communique was issued while the Cabinet met in its weekly session. The Cabinet took no final decision on the Geneva talks, but will meet again after Kissinger's departure.

3 MORE BODIES FOUND ON GOLAN

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The bodies of three men, all handcuffed, were discovered during the weekend in the Khoushanyeh area on the Golan Heights. The bodies were taken to the Institute of Forensic Science for examination. It seems very probable that the bodies are of two Jerusalemites--Aharon Eigel, 17 and his brother Joseph, 24 and their guest tourist from Spain, Phillipe Mariabo Corengo.

The three left for a tour of the Golan Heights in a hired car for Yom Kippur day. The car, found in the Khoushanyeh area when the Israelis recaptured that area, had been hit by hundreds of bullets. There was no sign of the occupants. An Israeli soldier later testified he saw the three bodies near the car when he retreated. Last week a settler noticed a grave-like place near the Khoushanyeh point. A search in the area revealed the bodies with their hands tied behind their backs.

FATE OF 18 PRO-ALLENDE JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency here has just received a report from a highly reliable source in Santiago, Chile, identifying 18 Jews who were prominent in the administration of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens and describing their whereabouts. Their "actual situation" as of October, according to the source, is as follows:

Jacques Chonchol, minister of agriculture, granted political asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy; Jaime Faivovich, Santiago Mayor, political asylum in the Mexican Embassy; Volodia Toitlebaum, Communist Senator, in Moscow; David Silberman, executive of the copper mine of Chuquicomata, serving 13-year prison term; Frida Modak, Allende's press chief, probably in Peruvian Embassy; David Bettelman, vice-president of the agrarian reform cooperative, whereabouts unknown; Heriberto Cammi, director of the National Service of Identification, resigned.

Enrique Kirberg, director of the Technical University, sent to Dawson Island in the south of Chile; Jaime Schatz, superintendent of electrical services, political asylum in Mexican Embassy; Sergio Politoff, lawyer in government, probably has asylum in some embassy; Jacobo Schaulson, member of the Constitutional Tribunal, resigned and free; Alberto Tallas Esquenazi, president of division of compensation in the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, free; Enrique Testa, president of the Defense Council, resigned and free.

Oscar Weiss Band, director of "La Nacion," Dawson Island; Gabriel Smirnoff, member of the Qutimontu Editorial, asylum in Mexican Embassy; Rene Nahmias, socialist director of "La Serena," whereabouts unknown; Benjamin Teplicky, radical lawyer, president of the Unidad Popular Party, Dawson Island; Efraim Volovskiy, Communist leader, under arrest.

According to the source "there is more, based on conversations held with people, but only rumors and suppositions. The truth is that until now no Jew has been shot, and if some Jew is being sought it isn't because he is a Jew but because he cooperated with Allende's government." In addition, there are no Jews among the 10 "most sought-after persons in Chile," like former leaders of left and far left parties.

SENATE COMMITTEE DRAGGING ITS FEET ON \$2.2 B AID FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Despite the Administration's appeal for urgency in enacting its requested \$2.2 billion emergency aid legislation for Israel the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has not yet scheduled a vote on the measure and probably will not act on it until after the scheduled opening of the Mideast peace conference in Geneva. All other Congressional bodies concerned with the bill have acted speedily. The full Senate is scheduled to vote tomorrow on the measure adopted by its appropriations committee.

The House has approved both the appropriation and authorization measures essential for the legislation. The three committees that have acted have all approved the total of \$2.2 billion and also that at least \$1 billion should go to Israel as a credit. The remainder of the funding may be used by the President either in grant or credit form or both. The language for that is not precisely alike in the measures and they will need to be harmonized in Senate-House conferences.

U.S. WILL NOT SELL OUT ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--American intercessions for a Middle East settlement and a lifting of the Arab oil embargo will not involve "selling Israel down the river," a B'nai B'rith official said today. Herman Edelsberg, B'nai B'rith's director of international affairs, described such fears as groundless. Addressing a symposium on Middle East issues at the annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors, Edelsberg said any U.S. policy "which permits Israel to go down" would be inimical to vital American interests.

"The Middle East would then fall under Soviet domination and America would cease to be number one in the world. It is a grievous error to assume so colossal a failure of American resolve and purpose," Edelsberg declared. "Inevitably," he added, "there will be American pressure on Israel and disagreements between the two countries. The requirements of Israel's security look different when viewed from Jerusalem or Washington. But they will be the disagreements of friends with a common objective," Edelsberg maintained.

He said that "realistic expectations" of the Geneva conference offered, at best, "peace-making in slow stages, hopefully beginning with cautious concessions on both sides." Clouding the conference, Edelsberg said, were two overriding questions: "Is the Arab vendetta against Israel over? And is the Soviet Union willing to see peace in the Middle East rather than tensions it can exploit?"

Another symposium speaker, Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, warned against "public misunderstanding" of the Arab oil embargo as "a political ploy that would disappear if Israel disappears." Epstein urged efforts to encourage greater public awareness "that the essential intent of Saudi Arabia is economic and that a lifting of the oil embargo tomorrow would not substantially diminish the energy crisis."

He said the Saudis had "calculatingly initiated an enforced scarcity" by limiting their production while maintaining huge annual earnings through higher prices and "doing better for themselves" by keeping more oil underground. "It is worth noting that such countries as Great Britain and India, each of which adopted a pro-Arab attitude in deference to the oil embargo, are nonetheless confronted with serious energy shortages unrelieved by Arab oil fields," the ADL leader declared.

At an earlier session, B'nai B'rith reacted to the British government's pro-Arab policy during the recent war and announced it was cancelling London as the site of its triennial convention next year. The cancellation was proposed by B'nai B'rith president David M. Blumberg and adopted by the Board of Governors. Blumberg stated that the action followed numerous petitions and protests from its members "expressing concern that a convention in London might be construed as indifference to the British government's anti-Israel policy." He added that the action "is not meant to be vindictive. We have no quarrel with the fair-minded attitude of the British people."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Negev University of Beersheba is to be named the "Ben Gurion University of the Negev." The proposal came from Education Minister Yigal Alon who said the university symbolized three of David Ben Gurion's aims: education for all, developing the Negev and the advancement of science and research.