



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

Tuesday, December 18, 1973

No. 240

KISSINGER PERSUADES ISRAEL TO SET ASIDE RESERVATIONS ABOUT GENEVA CONFERENCE

By Gil Sedan (Jerusalem) and Yitzhak Shargil (Tel-Aviv)

Dec. 17 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger left Israel today after successfully persuading its government to set aside mounting reservations over the Geneva peace conference and agree to attend the opening session now scheduled for Friday. At the end of a visit of barely 21 hours which included more than 10 hours of intensive closed-door discussions with Israeli leaders, Kissinger was able to announce "complete agreement about procedures and terms of reference of the opening of the conference." This was confirmed by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban who announced that Premier Golda Meir had requested him to proceed to Geneva to head the Israeli delegation.

Kissinger and Eban who accompanied him to Lod Airport this afternoon, used such words as "warmth," "friendship" and "harmony" to describe the meetings which began in Jerusalem shortly after Kissinger's arrival late yesterday, continued well into the night and were resumed for four hours this morning. Kissinger gave assurances that at Geneva "the United States will maintain the closest contact with the government of Israel throughout the negotiations." Both he and Eban, as they shook hands, said they looked forward to meeting again in Geneva at the end of the week.

Exactly what transpired during the intensive round of talks in Jerusalem and at a midnight-to-3 a.m. Cabinet meeting was not disclosed. Israel's hesitation over the Geneva conference was attributed to concern that it would become a UN controlled event and thus weighted in favor of the Arabs. There was also the serious problem of Syria's refusal to comply with the Geneva protocols on prisoners of war; fear that a Palestinian delegation might be given representation at the last minute; and apprehension over indications that Egypt sought to turn the talks into a forum on Israeli withdrawal rather than a genuine peace conference.

Kissinger apparently succeeded in allaying some or most Israeli fears. But there were indications that he and the Israeli leaders still do not see eye to eye on all matters. In his remarks at Lod Airport, Kissinger stated specifically, "We also agreed that the opening phase of the conference should be over the problem of the separation of forces," meaning the disengagement of Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez cease-fire lines. Eban confirmed this, but went on to remark that the problem of separation of forces will be taken up some time after Jan. 1, 1974, following the Israeli elections which take place Dec. 31. Kissinger, however, seemed to regard the "opening phase" as that which will take place next Friday, Dec. 21 and last for one or two days. That is also, apparently, the Egyptian view.

Kissinger obviously did not bring with him from Damascus the list of Israeli POWs in Syrian hands. Asked about Israel's decision not to participate in any aspect of the Geneva talks that include Syria until the Syrians comply fully with the Geneva Convention, Eban said the Israeli attitude had not changed, but because of the "humanitarian aspects" of the problem he would not elaborate. The POW issue, however, is very much in the minds of Israelis. About 20 persons, parents and relatives of missing soldiers believed to be prisoners in Syria; demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem as Kissinger emerged from his talks with Mrs. Meir this afternoon. Shivering in the cold, they raised signs reading, "Bring Our Boys Home From Syria"; "Prisoners Are Not Hostages"; and "Kissinger, Keep Your Promise." Some of the demonstrators claimed that the Foreign Ministry had promised them a meeting with Kissinger. There was no confirmation from Ministry sources.

UN RESOLUTION RAPS ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 17 (JTA)--The General Assembly voted 90-5 today for a resolution accusing Israel of exploiting "the human and natural resources of the occupied territories" and demanding that it "halt such measures forthwith." Twenty-six nations abstained, including Britain, France and West Germany. The United States joined Israel in casting a negative vote. Other countries opposed were Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

The resolution drafted in the General Assembly's Second (Economic and Social) Committee, was one of the last orders of business of the current General Assembly which will adjourn its 28th session tomorrow.

The draft was strongly denounced prior to the vote by the Israeli representative, Israel Elashiv, who contended that it dealt with matters beyond the scope of ECOSOC and singled out an issue "which cannot be divorced from the whole complex Middle East problem." Elashiv also maintained that the resolution "seeks to preju-

dice the forthcoming peace talks in Geneva and will contribute absolutely nothing to the concerted efforts for the quest of peace in our area."

The resolution, introduced by Pakistan with the support of the Arab states, affirmed the right of "the Arab states and peoples whose territories are under foreign occupation to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources" and called Israeli exploitation of them "illegal." Elashiv held, however, that "there is no basis in international law precluding the orderly use of resources in the area." He claimed that what the resolution was calling for "is in fact a restoration of the sad and unbearable situation which prevailed before 1967."

U.S. SHOCKED BY TERRORIST CARNAGE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA)--The State Department today related the "vicious attack" by Palestinian terrorists at the Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome and their slaughter of 42 people to the Arab-Israeli peace conference expected to open in Geneva on Friday. The U.S. government deplores incidents such as this at any time," it

declared, "and particularly at a time when a peaceful settlement of the Middle East question, a factor apparently in the minds of the terrorists, is being sought by many peace loving governments and individuals." (See P. 3 for story on terrorist carnage.)

"This new outrage underlines the urgent necessity to strengthen the civil aviation security measures throughout the world," it said in a statement read to the press by Department spokesman Paul Hare. Department officials who had long sought measures in the United Nations and other international forums to combat such terror expressed shock at the wanton killings and carnage sown by the Arab terrorists in Rome earlier today.

The UN General Assembly last month postponed action to next year on its special committee's report for measures regarding terrorism. "Members who were against it said they did not have time to consider it," a U.S. official closely connected to the study told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He pointed out that the U.S. initiated resolution for an international convention to combat terrorism was offered in 1972. A special committee set up by the General Assembly met last summer and made a report but it lacked any specific measures against terrorism.

"The committee was not enthusiastic to do anything," the official said. "It was divided with Arab or pro-Arab elements arguing that action against terrorists would deter national liberation movements." The Assembly's Legal Committee did, however, draft a convention for the protection of diplomats from terrorists. That measure is now open to signatures of member nations.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR CONDEMNS SYRIA'S TREATMENT OF ISRAELI POWS BARBARIC

PARIS, Dec. 17 (JTA)--France's well-known author and philosopher, Simone de Beauvoir, today decried the "inhuman behavior" of Syria in its continued refusal to turn over to the Red Cross a list of Israeli prisoners it holds captive. In a special article in the newspaper "Le Monde," Ms. de Beauvoir condemned Syria's "gratuitous cruelty" and said that if Damascus continues "to step on the laws (Geneva Conventions) recognized by all nations to limit the horrors of war, then it deserves to be called 'barbaric.'"

Furthermore, she said, the "vindictive obstinacy" on the part of Syria runs completely counter to the rest of the Arab world's campaign since the outbreak of the October War to improve its rather negative world image. She referred in particular to Egypt's efforts to show the world it was treating its POWs humanely. Ms. de Beauvoir concluded with the plea that if "Syria refuses to heed the protests of its enemies, perhaps the Arab world could make Damascus listen to reason by convincing the Syrians of the great damage they are doing to the Arab cause in the world."

ISRAEL ADMITS HAVING PILOTLESS PLANE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Israel has admitted that pilotless planes are in use by its air force. The admission came after such a plane was downed Thursday by Egyptian forces. According to the Egyptian announcement an "Israeli spy plane in the southern Suez Canal area was shot down by anti-aircraft fire." An Israeli spokesman reporting on the incident did not reveal the type of plane involved nor any

other details. Until this incident Israel declined to make any statements about the pilotless planes despite American reports that such planes have been in operation for some time.

It is known here that the U.S. has over a period of several years developed several types of pilotless planes. The model best known is the "Firebee," produced and developed by the San Diego firm, Ryan Aeronautics Co. The various "drones" of the Firebee type are developed according to the tasks they will have to perform: target sighting, pathfinding, reconnaissance and photographing. Usually the Firebee is launched from a mother carrier--normally from a Hercules transport which Israel possesses--and is recovered with the aid of a helicopter.

RABIN PREDICTS TALKS IN GENEVA WILL BE TOUGH AND PROLONGED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA)--"Our going to Geneva under present conditions will not be an easy task and we shall have to face a prolonged and tough struggle on every subject and against everybody, including the U.S.," This was stated by former Ambassador to Washington, Yitzhak Rabin addressing a weekend luncheon of the Bar Association. According to Rabin, Israel can go now to Geneva because "the Egyptians have removed the barriers to it. Till now they declared they will not sit with us until we retreat to the June, 1967 lines. Now they are willing to sit when we are on the west bank of the Suez Canal."

Menachem Beigin, Herut leader, speaking at Rishon Le Zion, said that the UN Security Council's resolution adopted Saturday turns the Geneva conference into another element of the UN with all its consequences of probable bias. He blamed the Labor government with continuing to deceive the public by claiming that the Geneva conference is a historic turning point. "It's not true," he said. "We sat with the Egyptians in Rhodes, we are with the Egyptians and Saudians in the same room - at the UN. So what's the difference?"

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The Senate today reversed its Appropriations Committee by a voice vote and without dissent approved an amendment by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D.Me.) to provide \$36.5 million to help settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel. The committee had earlier voted down the assistance measure on the basis that the Administration did not want to appropriate the funds. The Senate is due to vote on the entire bill late today which includes \$300 million for military sales credit and a credit grant of \$50 million in economic supply assistance to Israel.

BUDAPEST (JTA)--The Hungarian Jewish community is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of an agreement between the government and representatives of the Reformed, Unitarian, Jewish and Evangelical Churches. During their celebration, the national agency of Hungarian Jews and the Budapest Jewish community drew up a resolution stating that Hungarian Jewry has found its place in socialist society today. They indicated that Hungarian Jews are no longer finding it incompatible to be Jewish and Hungarian at the same time.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--Ambassador Shabtai Rosenzweig, Israel's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, has been elected chairman of the Appeal Board of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration. Rosenzweig is presently in New York attending the General Assembly as a member of the Israeli delegation.

VIENNA AIRPORT UNDER HEAVY GUARD IN ANTICIPATION OF NEW TERRORIST ATTACK

Arab Terrorists Kill 42 In Rome, Destroy Pan American Jet In An "Unspeakable Massacre"

VIENNA, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Austrian authorities announced today that they would beef up police protection at Vienna's Schwechat Airport in anticipation of new Arab terrorist attacks because Austria is still admitting Jewish emigres from the Soviet Union enroute to Israel. The announcement coincided with a new terrorist outrage at Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome where at least 42 persons were killed today when four Palestinian terrorists hurled incendiary bombs into a Pan American jet, sprayed the terminal with machinegun bullets and hijacked a Lufthansa jet which eventually landed at Athens. The hijackers were reportedly negotiating with Greek authorities for the release of two terrorists jailed in Greece under the threat of murdering hostages and blowing up the Lufthansa plane. Two of the hostages were murdered while the negotiations were going on, according to late reports.

According to reports from Rome, 21 persons were burned alive aboard the fire-bombed Pan Am jet and 19 others were mowed down by bullets in the terminal as they waited to board the plane. Italian authorities described the attack as an "unspeakable massacre." The Pan Am plane was reportedly "devastated" by flames. One report said the bodies of the victims were charred beyond recognition. Panic was reported at the Rome air terminal. The terrorists made their machinegun and firebomb attack after they were detected by Rome airport authorities carrying concealed weapons aboard the Beirut-bound Pan Am plane, apparently with the intention of hijacking it once in the air. But they destroyed the American plane instead and seized a nearby West German airliner, forcing at least 11 hostages to board it under gunpoint. The pilot was forced to take off and the plane landed at Athens Airport after the hijackers reportedly were refused permission to land at Beirut, Lebanon.

At Athens, two of the hostages were shot to death and the terrorists reportedly threatened to shoot one hostage every ten minutes beginning at 8 p.m. Athens time unless the Greek government surrenders the imprisoned terrorists. It seemed likely that the hijackers had intended originally to make similar demands of the Italian government. Their attack at Rome airport occurred three days after the opening of the trial in Rome of three Arabs arrested last Sept. 5 in an aborted plot to shoot down an El Al airliner with ground-to-air missiles concealed near the approaches to Rome airport. Two other Arabs accused as accomplices were released on their own recognizance.

The announcement of increased police protection at Vienna airport was made before news of the Rome outrage was received here. In light of today's events, the measures are expected to be even stiffer. Schwechat airport was the scene of a kidnaping attempt last Sept. 28 when Arab terrorists, with three Jewish emigres and an Austrian customs official as hostages, demanded safe conduct out of Austria. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky agreed to close Schönbau Castle in return for their lives. However, Austrian authorities were warned that the Palestinians consider Kreisky to have reneged on the deal. An Egyptian official, Selim Rizkallah, an undersecretary in the oil ministry, said in an interview with the Austrian daily, Linzer Volksblatt, that new Arab action against Austria was imminent. He claimed that while Schoenau was shut down last week the Austrians still hosted Jewish emigrants, having merely shifted their transit center to Woellersdorf.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL DENIES KISSINGER DISCUSSED FINAL PEACE BORDERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA)--A top-ranking Israeli official denied today that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had told a group of American Jewish intellectuals and academics in a recent Washington meeting that Israel would have to withdraw to its pre-June 1967 borders. The official's denial came after a report appeared yesterday in Maariv by its correspondent, Yuval Elizur, stating that Kissinger had said this. The official asserted that Kissinger could not have discussed this and then hope to continue in his present role in the Mideast.

According to Elizur, who is also the Israeli correspondent for The Washington Post, Kissinger met with the group that included four Harvard professors and Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary, in the hope that they would exert their influence on the Israeli government. The meeting was reportedly held at Kissinger's initiative on Dec. 6, a day before his meeting in Washington with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. (Podhoretz, called today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, confirmed the statement by the Israeli official that Kissinger had not discussed the problem of Israel's borders. He told the JTA that he was not sure why the Secretary of State called the meeting. "I think he may have wanted to make his position clear that he had no intention of harming Israel in any way," Podhoretz said. "This was not a political meeting since none of the people in attendance has a constituency.")

Elizur reported that Kissinger had told the group that he hoped to push the Geneva talks along at a brisk pace dealing with one issue at a time and hoped the conference would be concluded within four months. Kissinger also reportedly told the group that the U.S. airlifted 110,000 tons of equipment, approximately 25 percent of conventional hardware that the U.S. had stockpiled for its own forces in order to resupply Israel during the Yom Kippur War and implied that Israel could not expect a repetition should a new war erupt in the Middle East. Kissinger blamed both Israel and the U.S. for missing "golden opportunities" for peace negotiations in the past and blamed himself, too. He contended that both Egypt and Jordan had been ready to talk peace on past occasions, Elizur reported.

The correspondent, who is regarded as one of Israel's leading journalists, did not mention the source of his information on the meeting which he said lasted 90 minutes. During the course of the meeting Kissinger also reportedly claimed that Israel won a tactical victory but suffered a strategic defeat during the war. He expressed the view that the Arabs could have scored greater successes were it not for their mistakes, such as exposing their armor unprotected to Israeli air attack. Kissinger also reportedly expressed the hope that the territories evacuated by Israel would be demilitarized as a result of the Geneva talks.

There will be no Bulletin dated Dec. 25 (X-mas) and dated Jan. 1 (New Year), both postal holidays.

