



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Thursday, December 20, 1973

No. 242

FEAR EXPRESSED THAT SYRIA MAY HAVE KILLED ALL ISRAELI POWs

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Pentagon sources have expressed the view that Syria's refusal to release a list of Israeli POWs or let any International Red Cross representative visit the POW camps may be due to the fact that there may be no Israeli POWs alive in Syria. While these sources were careful to say that they have no immediate empirical evidence, the intransigence of the Syrians appears to be a cover-up for what is feared by these sources to have been a wholesale massacre of more than 100 Israeli soldiers who were captured during the Yom Kippur War.

The State Department said today that it has received reports that the Syrians murdered all Israeli prisoners but could not confirm this. Department spokesman Paul Hare said he was not referring to any specific report when he was asked if he was discussing statements attributed to Pentagon sources. He said he was speaking only in the "general sense." Other State Department sources, however, said the Department had received "other reports" which they described as "more than press reports." These sources would not amplify.

One non-Pentagon source expressed what he termed his "gut reaction" by saying: "I might be persuaded to go along with the Syrian view that the exchange of prisoners should await the outcome of the Geneva talks, but I cannot be persuaded that a list of names cannot be provided right now if for no other reason than to dispel any suspicions about the fate of the Israeli soldiers. I have a gnawing feeling that the refusal on the part of Syria to even provide a list of names is an ill omen."

According to unofficial reports from Damascus this morning the Syrians claim that Israeli soldiers had been killed after they were taken prisoners but that the killing was the work of Moroccan and Iraqi troops who were in Syria during the war. The reports also claimed that some Syrian soldiers were themselves killed in the act of trying to protect Israeli prisoners. Observers here, however, tended to discount this version noting that this seems to be a last minute argument to stave off further international pressure and to avoid diplomatic entanglements should Syria decide to show up at the Geneva talks after all.

FAHMI SAYS HE IS ATTENDING TALKS TO SECURE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

GENEVA, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi said here today that he is attending the peace conference in order to secure "a total Israel withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the respect of the national rights of the Palestinian people." The Egyptian Minister, who arrived here this afternoon, is the first to reach Geneva where the peace conference is due to open Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived here a little later.

Fahmi said that the Middle East situation is still highly explosive and the cease-fire "fragile." He said that his delegation would seek to

have the conference implement the United Nations resolution dealing with the Middle East and said that they would expect "tangible results." Gromyko, who arrived from Moscow with a large party of diplomatic and Mideast experts, said that the Soviet Union "will firmly support the just struggle of the Arab people and will seek a settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of the implementation of "the relevant United Nations decision."

Gromyko said that the Soviet delegation to the conference will "do everything possible to facilitate the successful work of the peace conference" and appealed to all the participants "to show good will and a sense of realism." Observers here noted that neither minister mentioned the disengagement of forces on the Suez Canal which, Egyptian sources here say, is an urgent and crucial issue for Cairo.

Fahmi and Gromyko are due to meet tonight to iron out a joint strategy for the conference. Gromyko is due to meet tomorrow night with U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger who is expected in Geneva tomorrow evening. The Israeli delegation, led by Foreign Minister Abba Eban, is also expected here tomorrow evening.

WALDHEIM ON HIS WAY TO GENEVA

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim prepared to leave for Geneva tonight after he was informed by the ambassadors of Israel, Egypt and Jordan that their governments will participate in the Middle East peace conference in Geneva. The Syrian UN Ambassador, with whom Waldheim also met today, said he had no instructions from his government. This led to speculation in some quarters that Damascus may yet reverse its decision announced yesterday to boycott the conference.

The latest flurry of activity here followed the receipt by Waldheim yesterday of a letter from the United States and the Soviet Union (identical texts in English and Russian) inviting him to convene the conference in Geneva. The Secretary General immediately handed over copies of the letter to the Israeli, Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian envoys constituting the formal invitation to those countries to attend.

The U.S.-Soviet letter said that the conference would be under the auspices of the United Nations and under the co-chairmanship of the U.S. and USSR. It went on to say that the participation of other Middle East parties will be discussed at the first phase of the conference. There was no immediate indication whether this referred to possible Palestinian representation. The letter did not mention how long the first phase would last.

It stipulated, however, that the first phase would be conducted on the foreign ministerial level and will be presided over by Waldheim. The second phase will be on the ambassadorial level. Waldheim was asked in the letter to provide a UN representative for that phase.

Jarring May Represent UN At Late Stage

While there has been no announcement as yet as to who will represent the UN at the later stages of the Geneva conference, there was speculation here today that it would be Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring

who was assigned the task of mediating the Middle East conflict in 1968. A UN spokesman said today that Jarring is still the Secretary General's special representative to the Middle East but would neither confirm nor deny that he would serve as Dr. Waldheim's representative in the second phase of the conference. Jarring, who is Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow, was not invited to the opening phase of the Geneva conference.

When he departs for Geneva tonight, Waldheim will be accompanied by five UN officials including Undersecretary General Roberto Guyer and Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart. It was announced today that five security officials from the New York UN headquarters have been sent to Geneva to tighten security measures in preparation for the conference. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that security officials are investigating reports that Palestinian terrorists may try to gain access to the conference site with forged press credentials.

The letter yesterday inviting Waldheim to convene the conference was handed to him by U.S. Ambassador W. Tapley Bennett Jr. and Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik. It stated that both countries had been informed by the parties "of their readiness to participate in the conference." The letter also urged Waldheim to circulate it to members of the Security Council and concluded: "We believe it will be appropriate for the president of the Security Council to consult informally with the membership with a view to securing a favorable consensus of the Council. The text of the letter was also released by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's party when they arrived in Madrid.

DAYAN CONFIDENT TALKS WILL LEAD TO ACCORD WITH EGYPT, JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said last night that the chances were good for a settlement with Egypt and Jordan at the Geneva peace conference. "The mere fact that Israel will be sitting with those countries and talking to them carries the basis for an arrangement, he told a Labor Party election rally at Kfar Yehezkel.

Dayan cautioned, however, that a successful outcome at Geneva depended upon Israel maintaining its vigilance and its strength. "We are strong enough to start talking even if we have enemy tanks behind us and oil in front of us," he said.

Dayan strongly defended the United States and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger against charges by some Israelis that Israel was being sold out by its friends. Kissinger is a Jew, "but we must not forget that he is the American Secretary of State. We have no reason whatsoever to complain about him. He did not, at any time, betray us," Dayan said.

He stressed that Israel had to maintain its good relations with the U.S. "The U.S. owes us nothing. The U.S. does not want us annihilated or defeated by Russia or its emissaries. All the U.S. wants us to do is to make peace, and she supports us because we were attacked. If we need to be saved she will support us. When she sent us arms during the Yom Kippur War she did not ask how we were going to pay for them," Dayan said.

U.S. Overruled On UN Role In Talks

Dayan said that when he visited Washington recently no U.S. officials suggested that Israel rely solely on American guarantees. He said that the U.S. was no more happy than Israel about holding the Geneva conference under United Nations auspices. "But they were overruled. What can

we do but sigh and accept the new situation," he said.

He stressed that the Cabinet is united as to the limits beyond which Israel can make no concessions. There will be no return to the pre-June 1967 borders "no matter what the pressure," Dayan said. Israel, he said, must retain strategic depth in order to have defensible borders. Had the Egyptians been 20 kilometers from Gaza and the Syrians close to Deganya when the Yom Kippur War broke out, "our situation would have been very bad," Dayan said.

The Defense Minister denied charges by critics that he did not carry out his duties properly when the war started. "I did what should have been done and did it properly," Dayan said, adding, "I was not in Switzerland when the war broke out." The latter was a barbed reference to some of his critics who were abroad when Egypt and Syria attacked Oct. 6. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

JACKSON AGAINST U.S., USSR TROOPS IN MIDEAST OR U.S. MILITARY GUARANTEES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.) voiced strong opposition to the presence of either Soviet or American troops in the Middle East or a U.S. military guarantee to Israel that would convert it into "an American dependency." Jackson, who was scheduled to make his remarks at an American Jewish Committee dinner honoring AFL-CIO president George Meany for his long-standing support of Israel, had to remain in Washington because of the vote on the \$2.2 billion aid to Israel bill. Theodore Kheel, the labor mediator, read Jackson's speech to some 200 persons attending the event at the Waldorf Astoria.

In his speech Jackson said Soviet and American forces in the Mideast would constitute "a formula that carries with it the very great danger of dragging the superpowers into a military confrontation." U.S. military guarantees, he continued, would mean that the United States would "pour itself into that cauldron of instability along with the Russians and assorted other forces" that would "invite a multitude of mischief makers to try their hand at stirring the pot." He urged instead that the U.S. give Israelis "the tools they need to provide for their own defense" and "defensible borders."

In a review of Soviet-Arab "illegal" activities that led to the "Arab war of aggression against Israel" on Oct. 6, Sen. Jackson several times criticized Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. He noted in this connection "We stood by and watched while the Soviet Union supplied the means" by which the war was initiated and fought and "we continued to stand by for a week after Oct. 6 before deciding to resupply Israel with essential weapons in adequate numbers."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--An explosive charge detonated in the rear of an empty tourist bus in Rishon LeZion Wednesday morning. Splinters of glass and metal landed in the yard of a kindergarten near which the bus was parked but there were no casualties. The bus and parts of the school were damaged. Police investigating the explosion said the device was attached to the exterior part of the bus under the air conditioning equipment. Some 70 Arabs employed in the vicinity of the incident were detained for questioning.

JERUSALEM, (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren kindled the first Chanukah lights at the Western Wall this evening ushering in the annual Festival of Lights.

BERRIGAN'S CANARDS AGAINST ISRAEL DUE TO HIS IGNORANCE, RABBI TANENBAUM SAYS

By William Saphire, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The Rev. Daniel Berrigan's recent vituperative attacks on Israel stem possibly from his total lack of first hand knowledge of that country, which he has never visited and the strong influence of anti-Israel elements in the Third World liberation movement, particularly one individual closely associated with extremists in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). That was the assessment of the anti-Vietnam war activist given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee. Tanenbaum warned that "it is not sufficient simply to repudiate Father Berrigan for the simple reason that he is a major influence on university campuses and a heroic figure to many young Jews in the peace movement." He must be re-educated Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

The 52-year-old Jesuit priest who served 27 months in Danbury Federal Penitentiary for burning draft records in Catonsville, Md. in 1968, attacked Israel as an "imperialist nation" and a "settler state" which is "the creation of an elite of millionaires, generals and entrepreneurs." He deliv-ered his attack two months ago to the Association of Arab University Graduates. His remarks were published in American Report, a publication of Clergy and Laity Concerned. American Report also printed a rebuttal by Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress.

Tanenbaum said he agreed with Hertzberg's charge that Berrigan's anti-Israel statements stemmed from "old fashioned theological anti-Semitism." (See Nov. 30 Daily News Bulletin) But he opined that this may have been partially unconscious on Berrigan's part. He said the priest, who is also at odds with the Vatican may have in an "unconscious, uncritical way spoken out of 1900 years of tradition which he himself is not altogether conscious of. He simply repeats categories overlaid with tradition and habit." Tanenbaum, who is active in the ecumenical movement, said he has encountered other Christian clergy and laymen who have exhibited similar attitudes. "We simply have to start with their total re-education, make them recognize their ignorance and bring them to responsibility," he said. He told the JTA that he was "involved in efforts to establish some sort of effective communication with Father Berrigan." "While we have no illusions, there is an obligation to impress him with another understanding of Israel," he said.

Berrigan's anti-Israel remarks have cast doubt on plans to present him with the Ghandi Peace Award Jan. 9 at the Community Church here. The Rev. Donald S. Harrington, pastor of the church who was to make the presentation, said yesterday that he would do so only if allowed to disassociate himself from Berrigan's position on Israel. He said that when he accepted the invitation to present the award, "I didn't know Berrigan had said such terrible things." Berrigan's comments "trailed off into anti-Semitism which is very discouraging," Harrington said.

Among the charges Berrigan made against Israel before the Arab graduates was that "she had turned the law of nature into a mockery, creating ghettos, disenfranchised peoples, exiles, hopeless minorities, cheap labor forces, has expanded the prison system, perfected her espionage, exported on the world market that expensive blood ridden commodity, the savage triumph of the technological West--violence and the tools of violence." In an interview published today in the NY Post, Berrigan was quoted as reaffirming his condemnation of Israel and saying he "was very depressed by the silence of my own church about Israel." He denied, however, that he was anti-Semitic. "I'm as anti-Semitic as I am anti-Catholic," the Jesuit priest was quoted as saying.

Tanenbaum, describing Berrigan as "a mystic and poet who is carried away by his own rhetoric and influenced by the audience he is addressing," attributed much of his anti-Israel bias to a Pakistani political science student, surnamed Achmed, at the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago. According to Tanenbaum, the Pakistani has been one of the closest associates of Berrigan and his brother, Father Philip Berrigan, in the peace and civil rights movements. He is associated with the PLO and has also been one of the most vociferous anti-Israel propagandists, Tanenbaum said.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The U.S. government is reviewing the commercial agreement it signed with Saudi Arabia in 1933 to determine whether King Faisal's oil embargo against the U.S. is violating it. However, an early decision on the results of the review is unlikely. State Department spokesman Paul Hare, asked today about the possibility of violations of the 40-year-old agreement that gives Saudi Arabia most favored nation treatment, said that "of course we are reviewing" the agreement. "But quite frankly," he added, "we don't consider a discussion at this stage will materially contribute to our diplomatic efforts with respect to the Geneva peace conference or the oil embargo itself."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel will seek to establish new borders "somewhere between the pre-1967 frontiers and the present cease-fire lines" at the Geneva peace conference, Premier Golda Meir said Wednesday night at an election meeting of the Labor Party in Haifa. She said Israel was going to the talks "with open eyes,

knowing the road to peace is a long one." The Premier added that the public statements made by the Arabs now gathering in Geneva should not be given great weight. No one expects them, she said, to announce on their arrival that they wish to achieve peace with Israel and are willing to make concessions. ***

PARIS (JTA)--For the first time, a Soviet political review has published a map of Israel, just days from the scheduled beginning of the peace talks in Geneva. The last issue of the Soviet monthly "Novel Vremia" (Modern Times), carried a map of the Middle East showing Israel not with the borders of 1967 or 1948, but those of 1947. The caption read: "The true borders of the state of Israel, those set down in the UN plenary resolution of November 29, 1947 and the only valid ones." ***

JERUSALEM (JTA)--To boost holiday tourism, the Ministry of Tourism is urging every Israeli family to write to its relatives and friends abroad inviting them to come to Israel at this time.

