



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 27, 1973

No. 246

ISRAEL PREPARED TO ALLOW EGYPTIAN FORCE ON EAST BANK OF SUZ CANAL AS PART OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Israel is prepared to allow an Egyptian force to remain on the east bank of the Suez Canal as part of a disengagement agreement but only if such force is reduced in size and strength to a point where it could not present a military threat to Israel, sources here said today. This view emerged as senior Israeli and Egyptian military officers met in Geneva late today to resume the disengagement talks that were stalemated last month at Kilometer 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

The sources believed that the size and strength of the Egyptian force would be the nub of the Geneva disengagement talks and predicted that the Egyptians would eventually agree to the Israeli compromise despite statements by officials in Cairo today that Egypt was determined to pull back neither men nor equipment from the east bank.

According to the sources, the Egyptians were staking an early bargaining position from which they could retreat at a later stage. They said the Egyptians will eventually realize that Israel will not pull back from the west bank of the canal as long as an Egyptian force of aggressive capabilities remains on the east bank. The sources do not, however, expect quick progress at the Geneva disengagement talks. They believe nothing substantive will be accomplished until after the Israeli elections.

It was reported, meanwhile, that Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, who is still in Geneva, told reporters there today that Britain and France could participate in a peace-keeping force that will be formed once there is a final Middle East peace settlement. He said that Egypt had wanted those two countries to participate in the Geneva peace conference that opened last Friday but their absence was "because of circumstances that were beyond us."

Israel's two negotiators at the Geneva disengagement talks, Gen. Mordechai Gur and Col. Dov Sion, left for Geneva earlier in the day. They refused to answer reporters' questions at the airport.

DISENGAGEMENT TALKS BEGIN; BOTH SIDES DISCUSS PRINCIPLES; MEET AGAIN FRIDAY

GENEVA, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Israel and Egypt held this afternoon their first disengagement meeting. After the meeting, which lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes, a United Nations spokesman said that the two sides had discussed "principles of disengagement." He added that these talks "would facilitate productive discussions in the future." The next meeting was scheduled for Friday at 10 a.m. Each delegation consisted of three members, two officers and one civilian.

The two delegations, the Israeli and the Egyptian, sat on either side of a U-shaped table. At the center sat United Nations Truce Chief, Lt. Gen. Ensio Sillanvuo, and two aides. The Israeli delegation, which arrived in Geneva at noon today, consisted of Maj. Gen. Mordechai Gur, Col. Dov Sion and Foreign Ministry official David Ramin. The Egyptian delegation consisted of Maj. Gen. Tahal el Mgdoub, Col. Fouad el Hav-

eidy and Nabil el Araby. It is generally believed here that the talks went into a 24-hour recess in order for each delegation to ask their respective governments for instructions.

PRESIDENT SIGNS \$2.2 B MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (JTA)--President Nixon has signed without comment the \$2.2 billion emergency bill to aid Israel, the White House announced today. Nixon had requested that sum from the Congress and it complied overwhelmingly in less than two months with authorization and appropriation legislation.

The legislation puts a ceiling of \$1.5 billion that the President may give to Israel as gifts. Nixon is authorized to determine what part of the total will be in grants and in credits and the circumstances of this support. An additional \$400 million in aid to Israel, three-fourths of it in credits for U.S. military procurement, is in the foreign aid bill which the President is expected to sign soon.

POLL SHOWS LIKUD MAY BEAT ALIGNMENT IN ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--The latest election poll published today shows Likud beating the Labor Alignment in next Monday's Knesset elections. The poll, conducted by Haaretz gave Likud 49 seats in the new Knesset and Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment 48. In the present Knesset, Labor has 56 seats and the Likud bloc 31.

Today's poll sharply contradicted one released over the weekend by the Institute for Applied Social Research which had Labor scoring an overwhelming victory with 50 percent of the decided vote against 29 percent for Likud. Neither poll, however, included voters on active military duty, which, according to most experts may prove the decisive factor. Both polls indicated an unusually large number of undecided voters considering that the elections are only five days off. The Haaretz poll placed 20 percent in the undecided category, the earlier one, 40 percent.

According to the Haaretz survey, the National Religious Party dropped from 12 to 9 percent and the two Agudat Israel parties from six to four. The Independent Liberals fell from four to three percent but two new splinter factions which did not exist in the last elections, were given at least one Knesset seat each. These are the civil rights list headed by Labor Party defector Mrs. Shulamit Aloni and the Communist-left-wing coalition Moked.

The disparity between the poll results has left all parties in a quandry. The candidates have largely ignored them and are campaigning at full steam. Labor members of the Knesset seemed despondent but not nearly as much as two weeks ago. Privately they expect "Beigin to save us again," meaning that the uncompromising hard line adopted by the Herut Likud leader will deter many voters from supporting Likud.

Likud meanwhile is running full page newspaper ads in which scores of professors and other academicians announce support for the non-Labor alignment. The purpose of the ads is to demonstrate that by no means all of the academic community supports Labor.

DAYAN BATTLING FOR POLITICAL LIFE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--With only five days left for campaigning before the Knesset elections,

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is battling for his political life. He is speaking more frequently and getting more media coverage than other Cabinet ministers and in his speeches he is stressing areas where his expertise is undisputed--military matters and security.

Addressing a Labor Party meeting in Haifa today, he offered a frank appraisal of Israel's military position and conceded that the situation is more difficult and fraught with peril than before the Yom Kippur War. Yesterday, addressing newspaper editors here, he assessed the prospects of the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement talks at Geneva and suggested that they include declarations of non-belligerency. (See separate story)

Dayan's intensive campaigning is attributable to his loss of stature since the Yom Kippur War. He has borne the brunt of criticism for the army's state of unpreparedness when Egypt and Syria attacked Oct. 6 and is now trying to restore public confidence in him as the nation's defense chief. He readily concedes that he and others misread intelligence reports but insists he made no mistakes once the war broke out and that even if the reserves had been mobilized faster, the outcome would have been about the same.

Dayan is fighting critics in his own party who have insisted that he be left out of Premier Golda Meir's next government, should Labor win a new mandate in next Monday's elections. Dayan clearly wants to remain at the defense helm. He told his audience in Haifa that if Mrs. Meir wins reelection and asks him to serve again as Defense Minister, "I shall gladly accept this and serve." He does not see himself in that post automatically. He noted that while the judicial committee presently investigating the Yom Kippur War may determine whether or not it was properly fought, the public will be the ultimate judge when it goes to the polls next week.

Israel Must Plead For Aid

The Defense Minister observed that Israel is the only country in the world which cannot make deals at will for the purchase of tanks and planes. "Only the U.S. is ready to supply us with equipment and even this only with the specific approval of the State Department and for that Mrs. Meir has to go to Washington each time to discuss and persuade," he said. "With all due respect to the U.S., we do not enjoy the same relations that Egypt has with Russia which supplies it with military equipment in any quantity and under any conditions without interruption," Dayan said.

Charging that the Soviets have turned the Middle East into their weapons testing ground, Dayan said the Russians had learned valuable lessons from the defeat of their arms in 1967 and improved them by 1973. "As the SAM-2 and SAM-3 (missiles) were rather restricted in their efficiency, the Russians brought up the SAM-6 and to fight our tanks they brought up the 'Sager' anti-tank missile," Dayan said.

He said that "the new reality" Israel must face is qualitative, quantitative and the time element. As to quantities, the Egyptians had 27 missile sites in 1967 compared to 200 in Egypt and Syria now, Dayan said. "While in the Six-Day War we faced 400,000 Arab soldiers, we face now well over one million, and the ratio of their tanks and planes has tripled. As a matter of fact, our casualties also tripled," Dayan said.

He noted that the Russians supplied the enemy with new weapons which proved qualitatively superior to those of seven years ago. "As to

the time element, we are restricted in our reserves. After all, we are but a city in American terms as regards population," Dayan observed.

CHANUKAH FOR WAR INVALIDS

TEL-AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--It was a sad gathering -- yet there were songs, applause and laughter. It was a special Chanukah evening for invalids of the five Israeli wars: the War of Independence, the Sinai campaign, the Six-Day War, the war of attrition and the Yom Kippur War. The five candles were each lighted by an invalid of one of the wars. Only the fifth candle was lighted by two invalids--one whose right arm was amputated, and the other whose left arm was amputated. The two of them together held the candle--and were smiling and reciting the blessings.

The Chief of Staff, Gen David Elazar, was there and told the veterans of the Israeli army that it is still the Israeli army that assures the existence of Israel. "It is because of the strength of the Israeli army that we reached Geneva and we shall reach peace because of our strength, our ability to fight and because of the spirit of devotion and sacrifice that you, the injured, are the best example of. Let us only hope that we shall no more have to light candles of war."

Elazar said that the Israeli army is still recruited and there is a high alert on the lines. "They call it cease-fire," he said, "but there is ample fire along the lines. There is a peace conference going on in Geneva but we are still far away from peace." Israeli artists then performed to the joy of those present. A fleet of ambulances and buses then took the injured back to hospitals.

THE ZIONIZATION OF DIASPORA JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the World Zionist Executive, claimed today that the Yom Kippur War resulted in "the Zionization" of diaspora Jewry. The former term, "partnership," is no longer the appropriate definition. The State of Israel is now an integral and indivisible part of the wider Jewish identity. Consciousness that Israel and world Jewry are parts of the same nation now pervades the widest circles of diaspora Jewry, Dulzin contended.

He spoke at the opening of a three-day seminar on diaspora identity with Israel during the war. The seminar is being held at the residence of President Ephraim Katzir with the participation of Jewish intellectuals from Israel and abroad. The meeting was closed to the press.

According to Dulzin, the Oct. war engendered three reactions from diaspora Jewry: a depth of identification with Israel borne out by record fund-raising and solidarity activities, often opposed to local government policy; a broader scope of identification covering circles hitherto remote from Zionism; and a return of Jewish youths and students to Zionist activism after years of leaning toward the New Left.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--About 1000 demonstrators gathered Wednesday afternoon at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to express solidarity with Israel. Despite the pouring rain the demonstrators marched to the Israeli Consulate, several blocks away, and conducted a solidarity rally. They carried with them nine torches made out of helmets in the shape of a Chanukah menorah. The rally was sponsored by the American Zionist Federation.

Reminder: There will be no News Bulletin Jan. 1. There will be a special supplement on Geneva talks and Israel elections on Jan. 2.

DAYAN: BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE FOR DISENGAGEMENT TALKS TO SUCCEED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday that there was better than a 50-50 chance for the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement talks in Geneva to succeed. He warned, however, that this could come about only if Israel maintained its high state of mobilization and held fast to its positions west of the Suez Canal until an agreement is reached. Dayan spoke to Israeli editors at Bet Sokolow, the journalists' house here. He said that an agreement on the separation of forces should be linked to what he called a declaration of non-belligerence. He said Israel could not withdraw from militarily advantageous positions as long as a state of belligerency existed.

Dayan dwelt at length on what he considered a fundamental change of attitude on the part of the Egyptians following the Yom Kippur War. He noted that previously Cairo had refused to consider peace talks until Israel committed itself to withdraw from the territories in accordance with the Arab interpretation of Resolution 242. "Now they are sitting with us in Geneva and listen to Foreign Minister Abba Eban declare that we shall not return to the 1967 borders," Dayan observed. He also cited newspaper reports that Egypt is prepared to reopen the Suez Canal as soon as the disengagement of forces is implemented, whereas formerly, they spoke of reopening the waterway only after a final peace settlement.

Dayan attributed the change in the Egyptian attitude to three factors: They succeeded in overrunning the Barlev line, gaining a narrow stretch on the east bank of the Suez Canal which increased their self-esteem; Israel punched through their lines and gained a salient on the west bank of the canal; and the two superpowers intervened, primarily the U.S. and its Secretary of State, Kissinger, Dayan said. As a result, unlike the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War was followed almost immediately by political moves for negotiations. "With the lines we hold today it is much easier for us--there is more readiness to talk of withdrawal, much more than we were ready seven years ago," Dayan said.

Wrong Estimate Of Enemy Hardware

He admitted that before the Yom Kippur War he was wrong in evaluating the effectiveness of the armament in enemy hands and their fighting qualities. Nevertheless, he said, he still did not think that a pre-emptive strike by Israel before Oct. 6 would have basically changed the outcome. He said he did not think that calling up the reserves or launching a preventive strike was the right solution whenever there is a threat of war.

He revealed that several times since the cease-fire "good information" was received that the Egyptians and Syrians were preparing to launch a new war. "Nevertheless, we decided against a preventive strike. The political situation in which we find ourselves does not allow us to make such a move," he said.

Asked about Israeli prisoners of war in Syria, Dayan said he did not believe reports that all Israeli POWs were murdered nor that there are only 29 POWs in Damascus. The number should be much higher, he said. He said he hoped the Syrians would follow the Egyptian example and enter into negotiations. "Our position in Syria should encourage them to come to the talks," he said, adding, however, that "Egypt is the key to the whole situation."

POLICE BREAK UP TERRORIST RING

PARIS, Dec. 26 (JTA)--French police said today that they have broken up a Palestinian terrorist ring headquartered in France that was preparing a major operation in Europe using Turkish militants for the first time. Thirteen men, 10 of them Turks, were arrested within the last week for stockpiling arms and explosives. Three of the men, one of whom has been identified as Palestinian, were arrested on Dec. 19 at the French-Italian border town, Mondane, in a car which police sources said was used to transport arms to a villa in a southern suburb of Paris.

A day later, 10 Turks who said they were working in cooperation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) were arrested in the villa where the police discovered 44 pounds of plastic explosives, detonators, grenades, machine-guns, small arms, book bombs and numerous false identity papers.

According to many observers, the PFLP was responsible for the recent terrorist attack at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport which claimed 32 lives. The investigation here was carried out by the "Direction de la Securite du Territoire," the French equivalent of the FBI. According to Israeli sources, the DST was put on the alert by the Israeli secret service which is said to have warned French police of the possible presence in France of a car carrying Palestinian terrorists.

Police sources said the villa served as an arsenal for weapons to be used in a future Palestinian operation somewhere in Europe, but most likely not in France. These sources pointed out that it is the first time Turkish militants have participated in Palestinian actions outside their own borders. They recalled that Japanese militants have already aided Palestinian terrorists as witnessed by the May 30, 1972 attack on Lod Airport.

Meanwhile, in Rome, heavily armed security forces were deployed in and around Ciampino Airport today in a sudden alert following warnings of a possible terrorist attack. Police would not reveal the source of the warning which came little more than a week after five Palestinian terrorists fire-bombed a Pan American jet at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport, killed 32 persons and hijacked a Lufthansa jet to Kuwait.

Ciampino is Rome's second airport. It was surrounded this morning by armored cars as police armed with machine-guns spread out through the terminal buildings. People and cars entering the airport were carefully searched. A West German charter flight was delayed in departing for Strasbourg while its luggage was searched. Police said nothing was found.

INCIDENTS ALONG CEASE-FIRE LINE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier was wounded yesterday in an exchange of fire with Egyptian forces in the Fayid area. Other shooting incidents were reported along the full length of the Suez cease-fire line during yesterday and Monday. Egyptian army snipers attacked Israeli forces west of Adabiyeah on the Gulf of Suez. Two Israeli patrols were attacked in the same sector. Israeli forces returned the fire in all instances, a military spokesman reported.

Six Egyptian soldiers who refused to recognize the Oct. 22 cease-fire and have been holding out in a bunker north of Suez since then, surrendered to Israeli forces Monday, it was disclosed today. The Egyptians emerged with their hands up after their food and water gave out.

