



# 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

Friday, December 28, 1973

No. 247

## DISENGAGEMENT SEEN AS MOST

### EXPLOSIVE ISSUE IN PEACE TALKS

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

GENEVA, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The Israel-Egyptian disengagement talks, the most explosive and concrete issue at the peace conference, are under way. The two delegations will hold their second meeting tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the United Nations headquarters under the chairmanship of the commander of the UN Middle East Emergency Force, Lt. Gen. Ensio Silasvuo. At their first meeting yesterday, there were no handshakes and no salutes between the four officers in spite of the fact that two of them, Israeli Col. Dov Sion and Egyptian Col. Ahmed Fouad Howeidy, are old acquaintances as veterans of the Kilometer 101 negotiations.

The only note of cordiality was injected by the head of the Israeli military delegation, Maj. Gen. Mordechai Gur who, at the start of yesterday's session, congratulated the chairman and the chief Egyptian negotiator for their respective promotions. Gen. Silasvuo was promoted to Lt. Gen., and the Egyptian negotiator, Tahal el Magdoub, to Maj. Gen., apparently in order not to be outranked by his Israeli counterpart. Gur concluded his congratulations by stressing half-jokingly that all the original participants at the talks "have done rather well" and expressed the hope that the talks will do the same.

Neither of the delegations is prepared to reveal any details of the substance of the talks. They are not even prepared to say whether the Geneva negotiations are a continuation of the Kilometer 101 talks or whether a new start has been made. The wording of the communique released by a UN spokesman after the meeting, speaking of "principles of disengagement," and the fact that none of the delegations carried or produced maps during the talk, led the observers to believe that the Egyptians made demands of a semi-political nature such as large-scale Israeli withdrawals, referring to Security Council Resolution 242.

### Presence Of Superpowers Felt

The Egyptians had been pressing for the talks to start at the earliest. Yesterday's meeting was held only a few hours after the arrival of the Israeli delegation. The fact that the Egyptians agreed to postpone the next meeting until tomorrow indicated that the Egyptians realized that their far-reaching demands made it imperative for the Israeli delegation to ask for new instructions from Jerusalem.

Yesterday's negotiations opened with a speech read by the head of the Egyptian delegation. El Magdoub later told Egyptian newsmen that the contents of his opening address had been personally approved by President Anwar Sadat. The Geneva military consultations are expected to continue for several weeks and no concrete decisions are expected until after the Israeli elections. The positions of the two delegations are currently widely divergent and no major breakthrough is expected until after the formation of a new Israeli government.

But if nothing major happens even then, the two co-sponsors--the U.S. and USSR--might make

their influence felt at the next plenary session to bring a settlement about. The major difference between Geneva and Kilometer 101 is that here the two superpowers are leaning over the shoulders of the military delegates. Even though they are not attending the sessions, their presence is nonetheless felt.

## FIGHTING ON CANAL MORE SERIOUS THAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE INDICATE

### Egyptians Fire 1000 Shells At Israelis

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Fighting along the Suez Canal front has intensified in the week since the Geneva peace conference opened and is much more serious than official communiques have indicated, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. It was reported today that the Egyptians fired at least 1000 shells Tuesday at Israeli positions on the west bank of the Suez Canal. The fire was returned.

The Egyptians are using mortars and artillery and have also thrown tanks into action. Israeli gunners hit one Egyptian tank and set it afire Tuesday. Four days ago, two other Egyptian tanks were destroyed. An Israeli soldier was injured during the past 24 hours when his vehicle hit a mine south of Nefisha village in the Ismailia area. Fire exchanges were reported south of Abu Swair, west of Fayid, in the Kantara area and near the Kilometer 101 checkpoint on the Suez-Cairo road.

Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar, who visited the west side of the canal today warned that any stalemate in the current disengagement talks in Geneva could lead to a renewal of general warfare on the Egyptian front. He saw no chance of a disengagement agreement being reached at least until the middle of Jan. or the beginning of Feb.

### Israeli Snipers On Canal Bank

Meanwhile the Israeli Army magazine Bamachaneh reported today that Israeli snipers have been deployed on the west bank of the canal to counter the activities of Egyptian snipers. According to the magazine, Egyptian snipers have been operating since the cease-fire went into effect and hit many Israeli soldiers. The number was not disclosed. Bamachaneh said that while any Israeli soldier is a target for Egyptian snipers, the Israeli snipers will shoot only at enemy snipers.

## FUEL CRUNCH CLOBBERS ORTHODOX JEWS

LONDON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Orthodox Jews are harder hit than most other Jews here by the economic crisis that has gripped the British Isles as a result of the fuel shortage. This is because the three-day working week introduced by the government, beginning Jan. 1, in order to save energy, will, in some zones, fall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This means that observant Jews, who normally close their shops and business establishments at noon Friday during the winter months will have only a day-and-a-half work week.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Chief Rabbinate have been in consultation with government officials but there is little the government can do. The system of zoning--staggering the work week so that the working days are different in different parts of the UK--was de-

signed to prevent a breakdown in the electricity supply. It is therefore technically impossible to make exemptions.

While it is possible for observant Jews to work Sundays, wages are double for Sunday work. It is feared that many enterprises run by Orthodox Jews will not be able to survive. As for the majority of Britain's 450,000 Jews; they are affected no less than the general population. The government has made it clear that the unprecedented fuel-saving measures were adopted because of labor disputes in the coal and power industries and not because of the reduction of Middle East oil production.

#### YARIV HAS PEACE MAP

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Reserves Gen. Aharon Yariv described a peace map today in which Israel would retain strategic parts of Arab territory but with substantial concessions to the Arabs. He said this was the map he would like to see but would not say whether he thought it was the map Israel will get ultimately if and when there is a peace settlement. Yariv, who was Israel's chief negotiator at the Kilometer 101 cease-fire talks before resigning from active duty to run for the Knesset, spoke here to an organization of working mothers.

He expressed doubt that the Geneva conference could bring the desired peace. However, he said he would be satisfied if the talks simply opened a new era in Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors which would improve the chances for peace at a later stage. Yariv said that Israel could not give up all of Sinai. "We must retain a certain part that will include Sharm el-Sheikh so that we can assure our navigation and oil routes," he said. As for the West Bank--Judaea and Samaria--he said there was room for only two states between the sea and the desert--Israel and an Arab state. Whether the latter is called Jordan or Palestine is up to the Arabs, he said.

Yariv envisioned some form of Arab sovereignty on the West Bank but believed there would have to be an Israeli military presence on the banks of the Jordan River for some time to come. He said that the Gaza Strip would have to remain in Israeli hands, though the Arabs might be given free port facilities there. "We cannot give up much of the Golan Heights, though in exchange for peace we could give up Kuneitra and a certain strip," he said. Yariv stated that Jerusalem would have to remain an undivided city though he favored special arrangements for other religious communities, including municipal arrangements.

#### DID LIBYA INSTIGATE AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST KISSINGER?

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The State Department does not have "the basic information to corroborate or deny the report" that Libyan government officials had sought to perpetrate the assassination of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Beirut the day before five Palestinian gunmen last week killed 32 persons in the Rome and Athens airports.

Spokesman George Vest said that the Department did "not wish to discuss security stories at all" after saying that the question of Kissinger's security came up during the trip to 13 countries from which he returned to Washington last Saturday. Kissinger was under extraordinary protection beginning with his visit to London five days prior to his visit to Lebanon. The Palestinian-Black September gang was understood to be the cause of the security measures.

According to information received in Washing-

ton from European sources, members of the National Youth for the Liberation of Palestine, described as an arm of the Black September organization, planned to assassinate Kissinger in Beirut at the instigation of Libyan officials. Lebanese authorities heard of the plot and diverted his plane to a military airport 45 miles away from Beirut. According to the report, Libya finances and directs the youth group. Libyan officials were said to have wanted Kissinger's assassination before the Geneva Mideast talks originally scheduled to begin Dec. 18.

#### MRS. MEIR HITS POLL JACKPOT

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir of Israel was named the "most admired woman" of 1973 in the annual Gallup Poll in which she received more than twice the number of votes as the next highest woman, Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of the President. Mrs. Meir was first in the poll in 1971 and second in 1972.

The Israeli Premier was named "The Sun's Woman of the Year" by the London newspaper, Sun, which ran a full page profile of Premier Meir Thursday. The article said: "No woman alive has done more to earn this description. Like the late Pope John, Golda was first described as a care-taker, a temporary expedient, but turned out to be something very much more.... The battle she fought in October was the gravest of her life, surrounded as she was by brilliant but acrimonious generals. There were blunders. Golda may be held responsible for them. But this old lady survived--and so far so has Israel."

#### BERRIGAN SPURNS PEACE AWARD, LABELS CRITICS 'ARMIES OF ORTHODOXY'

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Father Daniel Berrigan has accused Catholic, Protestant and Jewish critics of his anti-Israel views of representing "armies of orthodoxy" whose unquestioning support of Israel "is undoubtedly idolatrous." The controversial anti-war priest made those remarks in a letter refusing the Ghandi Peace Prize which the Connecticut-based organization, Promoting Enduring Peace, was to present to him Jan. 9.

The letter was addressed to the Rev. Roy Pfaff, head of the group. Berrigan was referring apparently to three of his chief critics--the Rev. Donald S. Harrington of the Community Church who was to make the presentation; Michael Novak, a Roman Catholic who writes for the liberal Catholic magazine, Commonweal; and Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress. All had protested vigorously against remarks by Father Berrigan to Arab graduate students several months ago, in which he charged, among other things that Israel was "the creation of an elite of millionaires, generals and entrepreneurs." Rabbi Hertzberg called Berrigan's statements "old-fashioned theological anti-Semitism."

Berrigan, who served a term in federal prison for destroying draft records during the Vietnam war, contended that his critics held Israel beyond criticism. "That which is beyond discussion, beyond critique is undoubtedly idolatrous. It is possible therefore that a question arises in your regard: has Israel itself become your idol? And in service to the idol are you urging, as a solution to violence ever more violence--including psychological, violence against those who seek another way?" he wrote.

#### JEWISH YOUTHS MEET IN COLOMBIA

BOGOTA, Dec. 27 (JTA)--At a time when the

viability of Jewish life south of the Rio Grande is being questioned in many quarters, close to 1000 Jewish youth from seven South and Central American countries are meeting here to discuss the problems of future Jewish leadership in their respective communities.

Coming from Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile and Colombia, the young people have gathered in the Colombian capital for the annual two-week youth congress sponsored by B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and BBYO chapters functioning in these lands. At the convention's opening session, the delegates were urged not to dwell on the past and blame "circumstances" for poor Jewish education and weakening Jewish commitment on the part of many of their contemporaries, but to work actively for improvements in this situation.

#### POSSIBLE THEFT OF LABELS, ENVELOPES SPARKS FEAR OF LETTER BOMB WAVE

ATLANTA, Dec. 27 (JTA)--The Israel Government Tourist Office here suspects that a quantity of its envelopes and labels may have been stolen from its premises early this month and could be used to send letter bombs to unsuspecting recipients. Marcia Goldman, a secretary at the IGTO, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the FBI, called in to investigate the possible theft, agreed that letter bombs could have been the motivation.

Miss Goldman said that the IGTO, which employs four persons including its director, Reuven Harli, is not certain that a theft took place. She said suspicion was aroused when a door lock was found broken Dec. 3 indicating a possible break-in. But according to Miss Goldman, everything inside was "intact" and nothing was missing except, possibly envelopes and labels which the IGTO uses in its mailings. She said, however, that there was no absolute evidence that large quantities of envelopes or labels were missing.

(The JTA was informed today by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, that it learned of the theft from friends outside New York. According to a Seminary spokesman, an FBI agent in Atlanta identified as Mr. Held announced that an unspecified number of airmail and regular envelopes of various sizes and an unspecified number of blank labels with the IGTO return addresses were stolen from the Atlanta office, possibly for use as letter bombs. The labels were described as printed in Roman type in orange ink on white, bearing the IGTO emblem --two men carrying a vine of grapes. Underneath they carry the IGTO address in Atlanta, 795 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 635.)

#### ALARM EXPRESSED OVER WIDESPREAD ASSIMILATION OF SOUTH AMERICAN JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Members of the World Zionist Executive and its representatives dealing with South American Jewry expressed alarm here over widespread assimilation among Jews on that continent, particularly the youth. Speakers, some of whom criticized the Jewish leadership in Argentina, the Latin American country with the largest Jewish population, called for stronger Zionist efforts to counter the New Left, criticized "shlichim" (Zionist emissaries) who are not steeped in Judaism and warned against increasingly successful propaganda campaigns mounted by Arabs in Latin American countries.

Yitzhak Koren, a Knesset member and leader of the Labor Zionist movement, said a million Jews in South America face the danger of assim-

ilation; 80 percent of Jewish students in South American countries are detaching themselves from Judaism and Zionism; and in Buenos Aires there are 21,000 Jewish students but they are not engaged in any Jewish or Zionist activities.

He said that anti-Semitic and anti-Israel trends are spreading; and warned that unless radical measures are taken South American Jewry is likely to be completely assimilated. Koren, who visited South America recently, said the Arab League was trying to exert economic pressure on local governments to change their policies toward Israel. He proposed a revision of educational methods and Zionist activities in South America and suggested the appointment of a member of the WZO Executive to reorganize efforts there.

#### Qualifications For Shlichim

Betzalel Bazak said that shlichim from Israel who are not sufficiently qualified in Judaism and are closer to the New Left should be replaced. He said that while shlichim should represent all the trends within the Zionist movement, they should have one qualification in common--deep personal involvement in Jewish life. He suggested that not only the younger generation but the older one as well could use assistance and guidance.

Yaacov Tsur said that despite worry about assimilation, Argentine Jewry is still vital and one expression of this was the Argentine aliya to Israel. He also criticized shlichim who, he said, thought they could achieve better results if they adopted New Left slogans. He demanded the establishment in Argentina of "a high institute for Judaism and Zionism" to create new leadership for Argentine Jewry. Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the WZO Executive, said the discussion would continue in mid-Jan. with a study of ways and means to encourage aliya from South America.

#### FELDMAN SENTENCE UPHELD BY COURT

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA)--An appeal by Aleksandr Feldman of Kiev to have his 3 1/2 year sentence in a forced labor camp revoked was turned down today by the Kiev City Court. According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the 26-year-old activist's sentence on charges of "malicious hooliganism" was upheld by the court. Feldman's trial took place Nov. 23.

#### KISSINGER BELIEVES PROGRESS WILL BE MADE AT THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today that the United States is committed to make a major effort to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East that recognizes the security of all nations "and the legitimate aspirations of everyone in the region."

Speaking at a press conference late this afternoon, which was devoted mainly to "The Year of Europe," Kissinger said he believed that progress would be made at the Geneva peace conference but noted that "We are at the very beginning of a slow and agonizing effort." He said "We believe progress will be made in talks on troop disengagement between the Israelis and the others."

Kissinger praised the Soviet Union for its role in helping the Geneva talks to get underway. He said, "The Soviet Union's behavior in the prelude of the talks and in the first phase has been constructive and has been recognized as such by all parties." He stated that the U.S. is determined that the Mideast situation does not develop into one resembling the Balkan states before the first World War "producing a catastrophe from which the world would never recover."

