



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLI - 57th Year

Monday, January 14, 1974

No. 9

ISRAEL AUTHORIZES KISSINGER TO PRESENT DISENGAGEMENT PLAN TO EGYPTIANS

By Gil Sedan, JTA Jerusalem Correspondent

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)—The Israeli government authorized Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger today to present the Egyptian government a plan for the disengagement of forces at the Egyptian front. In addition, the Cabinet informed Kissinger that Israel was willing to negotiate a similar disengagement of forces with Syria if it submits a list of Israeli prisoners of war and allows the Red Cross to visit them. The Cabinet reached this decision shortly after noon today following an almost non-stop round of meetings that began Saturday night when Kissinger arrived in Jerusalem. Premier Golda Meir was confined to bed with a viral infection and did not meet with Kissinger or participate in the Cabinet deliberations. (See separate story)

Kissinger left Jerusalem for Cairo tonight but is expected back in Jerusalem by tomorrow afternoon. The Secretary told reporters after his meetings that the talks here were conducted in the characteristically friendly fashion, and that he would present the Israeli ideas to President Anwar Sadat "to bring about the objectives which both sides seem to seek." The plan Kissinger was taking to Egypt was worked out by a group of senior American and Israeli officials who sat through the night to formulate a detailed plan. Senior American and Israeli sources said that the ideas outlined to Kissinger by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan last weekend were not sufficiently specific to elicit a hard response from Sadat when Kissinger discussed them with him Saturday. However, the Israelis received the impression from Kissinger that Sadat's initial response was sufficiently positive to warrant an all out effort by both sides to reach specific and concrete agreement.

Following the Cabinet meeting, Kissinger met at the Premier's office once again for close to an hour with Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Dayan. Following that meeting, Allon told reporters the plan which would be presented to Egypt by Kissinger was one that took into account, with all fairness, the interests of both sides. "I believe that only an agreement that would serve the interests of both sides, has the prospects of being accepted," he said, but would not elaborate on its details. He also would not say whether Israel was making concession with regard to the thinning out of Egyptian forces on the east bank of the Suez Canal. "We are not playing tactics. We are trying to achieve a very serious agreement which would make the cease-fire more solid and open new vistas for a peace settlement," Allon said. He added that he was now more optimistic than he was two weeks ago, but then again "the difficulties still exist." He said there were good chances for an agreement, but only if the other side also shows good will.

Knesset Will Provide Full Details To Nation Before Anything Is Signed

Allon said no connection was made in the talks with Kissinger between disengagement and an overall settlement. "We stated that the disengagement of forces was a target per se, and it is obvious that the cease-fire would continue, alongside with serious peace talks," he said. The Israeli delegation brought up the cease-fire violations by both Syria and Egypt, "in the most severe manner." It also demanded the return of Israeli dead that remained in enemy territory. Allon said that disengagement, if achieved, would not come in place of the Geneva talks but would "prepare the ground for more fruitful talks in Geneva."

Kissinger's visit was to have begun with a dinner at the Premier's home, but because of her illness the dinner was transferred to the King David Hotel, where Allon acted as host. Kissinger nevertheless visited Mrs. Meir at her home accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Simcha Dinitz. Earlier, Eban firmly denied that Israel had previously formulated a detailed plan for disengagement of forces with Egypt, or that Dayan presented such a plan for disengagement of forces to Kissinger at their talks last weekend.

Eban told a television audience that the government had worked out only "general ideas"—and Dayan discussed those ideas with the Secretary of State. There was "a great deal of work still to be done" in order to translate these ideas into a concrete and detailed plan, he said. Eban agreed that Kissinger seemed to have thought the Israeli ideas a serious basis for discussion with Egypt and he noted that Egypt agreed to the Secretary's visit knowing that those ideas would be a basis for discussion. Eban did not go into details of a possible Israeli pullback, "since the government itself had not yet gotten down to specifics." He promised that before Israel signed anything the government would provide the Knesset and the nation with full details.

MRS. MEIR SUFFERING FROM VIRAL INFECTION OF THE NERVE CENTERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA)—Doctors attending Premier Golda Meir said yesterday that she was suffering from a viral infection of the nerve centers which produced an irritating skin condition commonly known as shingles. Her personal physician, Dr. E. Podkaminer-Radey, said Mrs. Meir was making a steady recovery and almost certainly will be able to resume her normal duties within a week's time.

Although Premier Meir has been confined to

bed for several days, no medical bulletin was issued until last night when it became apparent that she was unable to attend Cabinet meetings or meet as scheduled with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. Kissinger, however, called on the Premier at her home.

Medical sources said Mrs. Meir's present condition resulted from complications following a bout of the flu she suffered two weeks ago. Shingles are not a serious illness but the condition causes discomfort and leaves scars and pains long after recovery. It is said to be most common in persons over 50. Mrs. Meir is 75.

PROBE SET FOR ABU RODEIS FIRE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA)--A commission of inquiry has been appointed by the Air Force to determine the circumstances that led to a fire now raging for 12 days in the offshore Abu Rodeis oil wells in the Sinai peninsula. The commission was ordered after the disclosure that the fire was caused when an Israeli "Hawk" ground-to-air missile accidentally hit an oil rig. The missile had been aimed at an Egyptian plane flying over the Gulf of Suez but, instead, homed in at the oil rig. Damage to equipment is estimated at \$6 million, and some 20,000 barrels of oil have been going up in flames daily. The offshore wells supply about 17 percent of the productive capacity of the oil field which produces exclusively for Israel.

The Abu Rodeis field, jointly owned by Egypt and ENI, the Italian oil firm, began operating under the Israelis soon after the Sinai peninsula was captured during the Six-Day War. Israeli authorities at first refused to disclose the mishap of the misguided missile but confirmed the details of the accident after it was broken by NBC in the United States. The commission of inquiry is going about its work but has not yet issued any report.

At the same time, the commission of inquiry set up in mid-November to study the events leading up to the Yom Kippur War and the first stage of fighting has been meeting twice a day, five days a week. The scope of the inquiry covers the decision taken by political and military authorities in the crucial days and hours before the war. The commission's proceedings are secret, but the findings and recommendations are to be published at the end of the deliberations, but only those aspects which the commission itself deem proper.

GOLDMANN: ISRAEL'S POSITION NOT AS BAD AS MANY JEWS ASSUME IT TO BE

ZURICH, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said in an address to the Governing Council of the Congress which met here: "The Jewish people is always inclined to exaggerate in its reactions to developments, and to veer from excessive enthusiasm to excessive despair. The objective situation of Israel is by far not as bad as many Jews assume it to be. There is no danger to the security of Israel."

He observed that "Neither are the Arabs now or in the foreseeable future strong enough to defeat or destroy Israel. Nor would the United States, and also some other nations, stand by if Israel were to face real danger and her survival were threatened. Even the Soviet Union does not seem to be interested in the elimination of Israel."

Dr. Goldmann added that details of frontiers and security arrangements should be left to the Israelis themselves. He said he could understand the great distrust, which was one of the reasons for the prevailing pessimism among large groups of Israelis and Jews everywhere. Nevertheless, it was his considered opinion that the time was opportune for peace, and this opportunity should not be missed. This Dr. Goldmann said, "does not mean peace at any price." He added that he was optimistic that peace was in sight.

SHAZLY APPOINTMENT RAISES STORM

LONDON, Jan. 13 (JTA)--A storm is brewing here over the Foreign Office's anticipated acceptance of Gen. Saad el-Shazly as the new

Egyptian Ambassador to Britain. Informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that approval of Shazly's appointment is expected next week despite the general's known association with British neo-Nazis when he served in London as a military attache in 1963 and the recent revelation that he was the author of a pamphlet issued to Egyptian troops during the Yom Kippur War exhorting them to kill captured Israeli soldiers.

The JTA was told that the Foreign Office wants to avoid what it describes as a major political row with Egypt even though it is "somewhat annoyed" with Cairo for having announced the designation of Shazly before his accreditation was confirmed, a move contrary to standard diplomatic practice. The Foreign Office had refused to confirm or deny that Shazly was the Egyptian Ambassador-designate even after the news was out in Cairo. But on Friday, a Foreign Office spokesman finally admitted that an application for accreditation of Shazly had been received from the Egyptian government.

Association With Neo-Nazis Cited

The announcement prompted Michael Fidler, a Conservative MP and past president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to send a letter of protest to Foreign Secretary Sir Alex Douglas-Home. The text of Fidler's letter, made available to the JTA today, said in part: "It would be infamous if Gen. Shazly, with his record eleven years ago in London of close association with the National Socialist Movement and/or other fascist organizations in Britain should now be permitted to come here in such capacity. The entire British community would be shocked to think that a person who could act in this fashion should now be coming again in this capacity."

Fidler enclosed a copy of a news item from the Daily Express "which quotes more recent sentiments expressed by Shazly in connection with the killing of Jews--whether Israeli prisoners of war or other."

The notorious Shazly pamphlet was brought to the attention of members of Parliament of all parties and British veterans and student groups last week by Moshe Barneah, secretary of the Israeli branch of Amnesty International. He noted that thousands of them were distributed to Egyptian soldiers by the Army Information Service with instructions signed by Shazly who was chief of staff of the Egyptian Army at the time of the Yom Kippur War.

The instructions ordered Egyptian soldiers to "kill mercilessly" all Israeli POWs. "Hit them, kill them wherever you find them as they (the Jews) are a nation of treacherous character. They pretend to give up only to kill you in treacherous ways," the pamphlets said. A spokesman for the Egyptian Embassy here "strongly denied" yesterday that the former Egyptian chief of staff had at any time given orders to kill Israeli POWs. The spokesman claimed that such orders bearing Shazly's name were forged by Israeli veterans organizations.

LABOR PARTY CIRCLES DEMAND DAYAN BE EXCLUDED FROM NEXT CABINET

By Yitzhak Shargil (Tel Aviv), Gil Sedan and David Landau (Jerusalem)

JAN. 13 (JTA)--Demands for the exclusion of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan from the next Cabinet were revived today in Labor Party circles. They were voiced during day-long deliberations at the Beth Berl ideological center near Kfar Saba. And while they came from left-leaning "dovish" elements not considered representative of the party's majority views, they were symptomatic of the

growing rancor within Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment as it sought, so far without success, to form a viable coalition government. Dayan's ouster had been demanded by the same "dovish" groups before the Dec. 31 elections. They were thought to have been mollified by the adoption of a 14-point platform that largely superseded the hard line of Dayan and Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili on such issues as territorial compromise and settlement of the administered areas. But now the party seems again to be in the throes of an ideological struggle which may determine the nature of the new government and Israel's future policies.

Bitter feuding and mutual recriminations among top ranking Labor Ministers and party leaders was disclosed Friday by Shlomo Nakdimon, the Yediot Achronot political reporter acknowledged to be the best informed political writer in the country. He reported that Foreign Minister Abba Eban and former Histadrut Secretary General Yitzhak Ben Aharon both lashed out against Dayan at a closed meeting of the Labor Party leadership in Tel Aviv Thursday night. Deputy Premier Yigal Allon was also reported to be unhappy with the party and his position in it and has hinted to friends and supporters that he may decline to serve in a new government, particularly if it included his old political rival Dayan.

The Beth Berl meeting was attended by Laborite academicians and intellectuals who had made no secret before the elections of the fact that they would vote Labor only because there was no alternative. They were joined by other groups who have been outspoken against the Party's leadership, including Knesset members Aryeh Eliav and Avraham Offer, two of Labor's leading "doves." The outcome of the meeting was a series of demands on the party, the first of which was that it should not deviate from the 14-point platform. They also demanded a policy of rotation in filling Cabinet and party posts, especially the Defense Ministry and the dissolution of all groups and factions within the Labor Party.

Eliav assailed the fact that "even today, after the Yom Kippur War, fateful decisions are being adopted by three people (Premier) Golda (Meir), Dayan and Galili." He claimed that "Things have gone back to their previous status, with all the horror that it entails." Offer said he did not blame Dayan "but those who follow him blind-folded." He said he had no doubt that the government wants peace but blamed Mrs. Meir for creating an impression of doubt as to her government's peaceful intentions. Israel Granit, who headed the party's organizational department until recently, demanded the replacement not only of Dayan "who has become an institution" but Eban as well because "he is too long in his office and there is too much dust and stoning" in the Foreign Ministry. Other speakers also attacked Mrs. Meir's so-called "Kitchen Cabinet" and charged that fateful decisions were being made by a tiny inner circle instead of by the full Cabinet or party forum.

At Thursday night's meeting, Eban assailed the government's pre-war defense policies without mentioning Dayan by name. But he was clearly referring to the Defense Minister when he said he recoiled from the charismatic form of power exercised by some persons in government. Statements "from within our own camp" have weakened Israel's credibility as a peace-seeker, he said. Allon recalled that he had been sharply critical of Dayan's policies and political style even when the Defense Minister was at the peak of his popularity in the post-Six-Day War years. He said his opinions of Dayan were well known when others "still thought there was something uniquely special about the man." Allon may be a candidate for Dayan's post. He is known to be dissatisfied with the largely titular deputy premiership and to want a more prominent Cabinet position than that of Minister of Education and Culture. Yaacov Hazan, the veteran Mapam leader, said a time might come when he would support Allon for Prime Minister.

The upshot of the Labor leadership meeting was endorsement of the decision of Premier Meir and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir against a national coalition government that would include Likud. But even on that issue, the party was not of one mind. Deputy Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi and MK Mordechai Ben Porat said they would support a national coalition if Likud agreed to back Israel's participation in the Geneva peace conference and the 14 points were adhered to. But they were overruled. Over the weekend the party majority was strengthened somewhat when three Arabs elected to the Knesset officially joined the Labor Alignment giving it 54 seats in the next parliament.

At the same time, the Independent Liberals joined the Civil Rights Party headed by Mrs. Shulamit Aloni to form a new Knesset bloc of seven seats. The new combination pledged to act jointly for "Peace based on a fair territorial compromise with defensible borders." This is more or less the Labor Party line and the possibility of a Labor-ILP-Civil Rights coalition gained ground. Labor, nonetheless, is still seeking to restore its pre-election coalition with the National Religious Party. So far, talks between the two factions have stalled over the NRP's insistence on a national coalition to include Likud. The NRP is also expected to demand stronger religious control of national life, to which the ILP-Civil Rights bloc is unalterably opposed. Negotiations between Labor and its various potential coalition partners will continue this week.

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED ON SYRIAN FRONT; 5 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED OVER WEEKEND

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier was killed on the Syrian front today during six hours of heavy fire exchanges all along the cease-fire lines. New exchanges of fire also erupted on the Egyptian front today continuing the fierce artillery and mortar duels of Friday and Saturday during which five Israeli soldiers were wounded and heavy casualties were believed to have been inflicted on Egyptian forces. The Syrian front, where the shooting had been moderate for the past two days, flared anew this morning when Syrians opened fire with artillery, mortars and small arms. The shooting extended from the Mazraat Bet Jan area in the north through Harfa, Tel Shams, Antar and Um Butneh. On the Egyptian front today, encircled Egyptian forces between the Bitter Lakes and the east bank of the Suez Canal opened artillery and mortar fire on Israeli positions. Israeli forces returned the fire with artillery and tank guns. Incidents were also reported from the Ismailia area today where Egyptian forces tried to advance from their previous positions but retreated after their fire was returned. The Egyptians tried the same tactics in the Fayid area, near the Kilometer 101 checkpoint but were felled by Israeli return fire.

ORTHODOX ASSAIL REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Orthodox organizations today assailed the Reform and Conservative movements for interfering in Israel's political structure and for questioning Israel's religious authorities. These reactions by the Rabbinical Council of America and the Committee for Jewish Survival were in response to a statement last Thursday by six Reform and Conservative groups opposing a new coalition government in Israel which would accede to the demands of the National Religious Party which would deny the validity of conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis anywhere in the world.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council, stated: "Whereas we do not question the rights of Jews residing outside of Israel to question Israel's religious authorities, we express chagrin at the public pressure applied on Israel's political leaders. It is precisely at this time when unity is imperative that we feel unwarranted interference in Israel's political process by non-resident Reform and Conservative leaders is damaging to the interests of Israel even within the American Jewish community."

Rabbi Bernstein stated that it is the Conservative and Reform movements that "have broken the ancient Jewish tradition with wide deviations from fundamental principles of Jewish religious laws." He pointed out that Premier Golda Meir recently informed the American Jewish community that if they wished to change Israel's laws and to influence its political system they must come and reside in Israel. He urged American Jews, at a time when Israel is beleaguered and its future is at stake, to offer Israel "warm support and offers of assistance, not pressures and criticism."

Yosef Wilenkin, general secretary of the Committee for Jewish Survival, a group involved in campaigning for the halachic definition of who is a Jew, and for conversion according to halacha, castigated the Conservative and Reform movements for introducing politics into the conversion issue. "The essence of conversion is a religious act, and must, by its very concept, adhere to religious principles," he said. "The introduction of political overtones is, in effect, itself a political play."

Wilenkin, referring to the Reform-Conservative statement that the majority of Jews in the world are non-Orthodox, said that while this may be so "the majority of Jews would not recognize non-halachic conversions, and, indeed, would not have their children marry converts whose sole criterion in being Jewish is having undergone a meaningless (non-halachic) ceremony devoid of religious value and commitment. It is precisely the Reform and Conservative which have removed the standards that have stood the Jewish people in good stead for thousands of years."

AJCongress Raps NRP

Meanwhile, the American Jewish Congress urged Mrs. Meir to reject "pressures" by the NRP to disqualify Conservative and Reform rabbis from performing valid conversions in exchange for the NRP's participation in the coalition government now in formation. In a cable to Mrs. Meir, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the AJCongress declared: "We are profoundly disturbed by political pressures now being exerted to coerce changes in the Law of Return. These pressures seek to disqualify

Conservative and Reform rabbis throughout the world from the performance of valid conversions, even such conversions as may be in all substantive respects in perfect accord with halachic requirements."

He noted that an identical effort failed of passage in the Knesset in 1970. "The current attempt seeks to achieve by political force what could not be achieved by political consensus," Rabbi Hertzberg said, adding: "It could not be more ill timed or more damaging to the maintenance of worldwide Jewish solidarity imperative both for the security of the State of Israel and the dignity of the Jewish people." The efforts of one group to assert "exclusive access" to religious conscience must not be given "the sanction of legislation," and "divisive attempts to disparage large segments of the Jewish people everywhere be repudiated," Rabbi Hertzberg said.

AFL-CIO GROUP GOING TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA)--George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, has named a five-man delegation to make a goodwill visit to Israel in response to an invitation from Yerucham Meshel, acting secretary general of Histadrut. The group will arrive in Tel Aviv on Jan. 21 and spend a week in the country.

Heading the delegation is Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. He will be accompanied by Thomas W. Gleason, president, International Longshoremen's Association; Murray Finley, president, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Robert Georgine, secretary-treasurer, Building Trades Department of the AFL-CIO; and John W. Schmitt, president, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

The delegation will meet with top Israeli government and Histadrut leaders, to ascertain the needs of the country and the role of labor in Israel's post-Yom Kippur War economy. They will visit Histadrut hospitals, vocational schools and other institutions, as well as historic sites in Jerusalem and the frontier zones of the Golan Heights and the Suez Canal.

The group will be escorted by Uzi Bloch, American representative of the Histadrut Executive, and Gregory J. Bardacke, executive director of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut. The delegation will report to the AFL-CIO Council meeting in Miami in Feb.

54,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN 1973

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA)--Last year 54,000 immigrants arrived in Israel, including 4600 from North America, 4350 from South America, 1400 from France, 700 from England and 600 from South Africa. These figures were given by Uzi Narkis, director general of the Immigration and absorption department of the Jewish Agency at the Zionist Executive meeting. Narkis presented several projects to absorb scientists in industrial plants in Israel and projects for intensifying volunteer activities here.

Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Zionist Executive, said preparation work is taking place to turn the volunteer movement into an organized movement, with the suitable facilities to direct volunteers in the country according to professional abilities.

LONDON (JTA)--J. Edward Sieff was released from the hospital Thursday less than two weeks after he was shot and seriously wounded by a mysterious gunman who broke into his home. The 68-year-old department store executive and Zionist leader was reported fully recovered from surgery. His assailant has still not been identified.