



# daily news bulletin

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## DAYAN NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WITH EGYPT

Expresses Appreciation For Kissinger's Efforts

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said today that he is less optimistic than some of his colleagues over the outcome of disengagement negotiations with Egypt. But he expressed appreciation for the efforts Henry A. Kissinger is personally making to reach an agreement and described the U.S. Secretary of State as the best of all the diplomats who have tried to mediate the Middle East conflict. "Direct negotiations are preferable, but as this is unrealistic, it is good that we have a man of Kissinger's personality to act as go-between," Dayan told a Foreign Press Club luncheon here.

Suggesting a wait-and-see attitude toward the disengagement talks, the Defense Minister said his doubts stemmed from the rising curve of Arab aggression which reached a peak for Israel in the Yom Kippur War and is manifested abroad by the energy crisis. He said the Soviet Union continues to support Arab aggression by political and military means. He claimed that since the Yom Kippur War, Moscow has supplied Egypt and Syria with at least three types of ground-to-ground missiles--the newest being the long-range "Scud"--which are most dangerous because they are simple to operate and could reach the center of Israel's populated regions.

Dayan said that the U.S., through Kissinger, "is making an effort just now to de-fuse the war, the shooting. This is disengagement." He added that "should Kissinger fail--and I hope he does not--we shall have to try again and not give up." Dayan said that Israel was reacting to Egyptian cease-fire violations by preventing non-military convoys from reaching encircled Egyptian forces. "If the cease-fire violations continue, there will be an Israeli reaction which will touch, in one way or another, other points of the cease-fire agreement. Either there is or there is not a cease-fire," Dayan said.

He said there was no urgent need for disengagement talks with Jordan at this time because there is no military problem as exists with Syria and Egypt. He claimed, moreover, that the present situation on the West Bank where Israel and Jordan have learned to co-exist during the past six years is in itself an interim arrangement pending a final settlement. According to Dayan, the present caretaker government has full authority to sign any agreement, even a peace agreement, but he didn't think it would have to exercise that authority before the new Knesset is sworn in next Monday. "If an agreement is ready for signature by that time, I will be very much surprised," Dayan said.

He added that even if such agreement were ready there would be no problem to postpone the signing by a day or two pending Knesset approval. He said he was sure there would be a solid majority in the new Knesset supporting any agreement approved by the present government. Dayan said that while Israel's con-

tinued mobilization created social problems and certain inequities between those who serve in the armed forces and those who do not, he was convinced that Israel could maintain its high state of mobilization as long as necessary without suffering economic disaster. As to his political future, Dayan told a questioner, "If the next Prime Minister will ask me to remain as Defense Minister, I will." (By Yitzhak Shargil)

## MORE BRUTALITY TOWARD POWs CITED

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy here has strongly contested a French journalist's account in a recent "Paris Match" article in which he attested to the "good treatment and condition" of Israeli POWs in Syria. In the Dec. edition of the weekly magazine, Pierre Demeron said he interviewed seven Israeli POWs in Syria and found them in "good condition." The article was accompanied by photographs of the seven men.

In this week's edition of "Paris Match" (due to go on sale today), Israeli Embassy Consul Ephraim Tari argues that an interview with seven prisoners "obviously cannot diminish the dramatic reality of everything that has gone before." Tari cites several instances of Syrian brutality towards Israeli POWs. He says Israel has informed International Red Cross authorities of 42 murdered Israeli prisoners, many of them with traces of torture and one with his eyes dug out.

Tari refers to the testimony of a Syrian prisoner who said he saw Syrian soldiers kick the heads in of six Israeli soldiers while they were still alive. Furthermore, says Tari, a Moroccan, who fought in the Syrian ranks, when searched was found to be carrying a bag containing parts of the bodies of Israeli soldiers such as tongues and hands which he intended to send home as "souvenirs." Tari concludes, "At one time we had reason to believe that Israeli prisoners in Syria numbered a little over one hundred. Today their number can only be considered undetermined."

## COMMUNIST PAPER DEPARTS FROM USUAL HARD ANTI-ISRAEL LINE

Seen As Possible Diplomatic Relations Move

BRUSSELS, Jan. 14 (JTA)--The Communist Party organs here have recently been circulating a text said to be written by Communists of "Jewish origins" which departs from the usual hard anti-Israel party line. The writers of the unsigned text, entitled "Reflections on the Future of the State of Israel," assert that "Israel is a living reality for us" because of "historical, traditional and family ties."

Many observers here note that the text appears at a time when there is much talk of the possible renewal of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations. These observers indicate the article may have been published in a western Communist Party paper at the instigation of the Soviet Union as a diplomatic move in order to sound out the opinion of the Jewish community in the Western world.

The outline of the article remains within the general Communist Party lines, but is noteworthy for its tone of moderation. It criticizes Israel's present government and what it calls its "suicidal" policy of "annexation," but at the same time, makes no virulent attack on Zionism and Zionist

structures in Israel.

Furthermore, the writers see Israel's survival in the Middle East among its Arab neighbors as positive and even go so far as to say Israel has the right to exist on condition that the Arab territories be evacuated and the national rights of the Palestinians be fully recognized. It criticizes the United States and its policy of force in the Mediterranean and advises the Jewish state to "change its allies." Such an alliance, they say, is jeopardizing Israel's chance to develop better relations with Europe and take advantage of the East-West detente. In this connection, the writers express "their hope for improved Soviet-Israeli relations in the near future."

#### FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AWAITS FURTHER INTER-PARTY TALKS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA)—While ranking government ministers conferred in Jerusalem over the weekend with U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the formation of a new government that will have to make the basic decisions affecting Israel's future marked time. The Labor Party is seeking to re-establish its old coalition with the Independent Liberals and the National Religious Party and possibly to invite the Aguda bloc to assure it of a comfortable working majority of over 70 Knesset seats.

But the NRP is committed by its pre-election pledges to demand a broad-based national coalition government including Likud and is under severe pressure from its "young guard" to press that position with utmost vigor. The ILP, meanwhile, has strengthened its position by forming a parliamentary bloc with the new Civil Rights Party, and while they see eye-to-eye with Labor on foreign policy, they are unalterably opposed to stricter religious enforcement, which is the NRP's price for joining a Labor-led coalition.

Labor for its part has ruled out a national coalition with Likud under any circumstances. While inter-party negotiations were in abeyance over the weekend, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, the party's chief negotiator on coalition matters, made Labor's position unmistakably clear. Sapir spoke on Kol Israel and the Armed Forces radio, gave interviews to the dailies Maariv and Davar and addressed economic editors over the weekend. On each of these forums he argued that a national government that included Likud would mean a paralyzed government.

A Cabinet that included Likud would get no work done and would jeopardize all movement toward a peace settlement, the Finance Minister told his various audiences. He said that Labor, therefore, wanted a coalition that included the NRP and possibly the Aguda, though he acknowledged that the latter's extreme demands on religious matters probably precluded it from participating in the new government. He expressed the view nevertheless that the Aguda could be counted on to support the government on foreign policy issues even if it remained in the opposition.

As for the NRP's stand, Sapir said he intended to ask the NRP negotiators when they meet again if they represent the full party or only a fraction of it. The NRP's younger element, represented by MKs Zevulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben Meir, have warned that they would not hesitate to split the party if its leadership backed down on a national coalition with Likud. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

#### MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR PEACE WITH ARABS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)—The majority of Israelis (73 percent) believe there is no chance that the Geneva talks would bring peace in the coming months, 66 percent believe Arab states are not willing to talk peace with Israel and 60 percent feel another war will break out in a year or two. These tendencies were reported by the Institute for Applied Social Research, which is conducting a running-research about attitudes in the public since the Yom Kippur War.

Other findings of the survey show: 82 percent believe that the Arab aim is not to regain occupied territories but to annihilate Israel; 77 percent believe they can adjust to the present situation; 70 percent feel they will not have any personal economic problems if the present emergency situation continues; 79 percent reject the claim that the more areas returned the more willing the Arabs will be for a genuine peace; and 33 percent reject accepting American pressure to return all territories.

#### TUNISIAN JEWS WORRIED ABOUT MERGER

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA)—The announcement of the Libya-Tunisia merger into the Arab Islamic Republic has come as a great shock to Jews in Tunisia, Jewish sources in Tunisia told the JTA here by telephone. The 8000 Jews in Tunisia who once felt "protected" by President Habib Bourguiba now appear completely "lost," these sources said.

Many Jewish businessmen and technicians, they said, are considering leaving for France in the very near future. As for the very old Tunisian Jews attached to their way of life and the climate, it appears they may very likely be forced to emigrate eventually because of the extreme anti-Jewish sentiment of Libya's leader, Muammar Qaddafi which they believe will be imposed on Tunisia.

#### ARAB PROPAGANDIST EXPLAINS VIEWS

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 14 (JTA)—Dr. Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's envoy who arrived in the U.S. last week to present the Arab viewpoint to the American public, said in a press conference here today that Syria will not exchange POWs with Israel until Israel adheres to all the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

He contended that Israel asks only observance of the POW issue and ignores other provisions of the Geneva Conventions. He did not elaborate. Maksoud, a 46-year-old Christian Lebanese, who is here for a three-month propaganda campaign, said that the Arab oil embargo will be lifted "when the cause of the embargo is removed to the satisfaction" of the Arabs. Talking to reporters after the press conference, Maksoud said that if Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger will provide President Anwar Sadat with guarantees on Israeli withdrawal, there is a chance for easing off the oil cut.

The Arab envoy called "marginal" the ideas expressed here recently of using U.S. military force against the oil producing countries. He pointed out, however, that "any show of force in the third world countries" has proved to be "counter productive." Regarding his mission here, he said that it is "to stop Washington from underwriting the objections of Israel."

LONDON (JTA)—The London Jewish Quarterly, the literary magazine edited by Jacob Sonntag, celebrates its 25th anniversary this week.

ISRAELI ARE GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY SADAT

Fahmy, However, Reportedly Says Israeli Proposals Are Unsatisfactory

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)—Israeli officials displayed guarded optimism today as they awaited the return of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger from Aswan with what they hoped would be an agreement in principle by President Anwar Sadat to a detailed disengagement plan hammered out here over the weekend. The plan was described as a concretization of Israel's ideas on disengagement which Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had first discussed with Secretary Kissinger in Washington ten days ago. Kissinger is expected back here tonight with Sadat's reply. The Egyptian leader is expected to balk at some details but Israeli officials are confident that the remaining differences can be resolved either by Kissinger or one of his aides returning to Cairo or through further direct negotiations between the protagonists in Geneva.

(Kissinger met for three and a half hours with President Sadat in Aswan today after which it was announced that Egypt and the U.S. had set up working groups to discuss details of a disengagement plan. The Secretary was due to fly back to Jerusalem tonight and was expected back in Aswan tomorrow night, according to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy. Fahmy reportedly told reporters in Cairo today that the Israeli proposals conveyed to Egypt by Kissinger were unsatisfactory. He said Kissinger was returning to Jerusalem with an Egyptian map and other documents which constitute a proposal for disengagement. He explained, however, that this did not mean the Israeli plan had been rejected and should not be regarded as a counter-proposal.)

A Cabinet source revealed today that the plan which the Israel government yesterday authorized Kissinger to convey to Sadat did not go beyond the ideas outlined by Dayan to Kissinger. Their crystallization in the form of detailed maps and military documents was accomplished by U.S. and Israeli working teams meeting together and separately through Saturday night and yesterday morning. Although the maps bore the imprint of Israel's two top military men—Dayan and Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar—concern was expressed in some quarters that Israel was making too many concessions. The Prime Minister's Office today officially denied a report published in the New York Times which alleged that Israel had conceded to Egypt the right to maintain heavy armed forces on the east bank of the Suez Canal after disengagement. The Prime Minister's Office said that report was "quite unfounded."

Cabinet sources said Kissinger had not pressured Israel into any concessions if only because he realized that Israel's disengagement offer was constructive and as generous as possible under the circumstances. Nevertheless, the Likud opposition party pointedly reminded the government today that it was only a care-taker regime and warned it not to commit itself to any fateful decisions. A statement issued by the Likud Executive demanded that the government submit the entire matter to the new Knesset which takes office Jan. 21 before making commitments. While government sources concede that the Israeli plan offers some concessions they insist that it demands sufficient quid pro quo from Egypt to demonstrate that country's good faith and peaceful intentions.

They revealed, however, that one thorny problem remains open--the extent of Egypt's reduction of forces on the east bank of the waterway. Sources said the Israeli plan called for a pull-back of its forces to positions just west of the Mitla and Gidi passes if Egypt thin out its own forces and prepares in earnest to reopen the Suez Canal to navigation and rehabilitate the deserted canal-side towns and villages so that their civilian populations could return. One Israeli source said that Israel would agree to keep its own heavy armor east of the Mitla pass so that its new forward positions would be guarded only by infantry, provided that Egypt undertakes a substantial reduction of its forces east of the canal.

For Israel, disengagement is above all a test of Egypt's sincerity, officials here said. If Egypt violates an agreement, it will be a lesson for Israel to be more wary in the future of negotiations with Cairo. If, on the other hand, the Egyptians begin to dredge the canal and restore civilian normalcy on the canal banks, Israel's fears and suspicions of Egyptian intentions would be substantially allayed. The so-called "linkage problem" is not expected to cause trouble. Israel is said to be prepared to declare that disengagement is the first step in negotiations for an overall peace settlement and to acknowledge that the disengagement lines are not a final boundary. Egypt on its part will have to pledge to desist from further hostilities. U.S. sources who saw the final draft said they were "hopeful" of a successful conclusion.

CABINET APPROVES RECORD IL 11 BILLION SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)—The Cabinet approved today a record IL 11 billion supplementary budget representing an increase of more than 50 percent over the regular annual budget of IL 20 billion. The supplementary budget is intended mainly to cover expenses arising from the Yom Kippur War. It is over and above an emergency supplementary budget of IL 1.25 billion approved while the war was still being fought to cover immediate expenses. The supplementary budget was approved without opposition and will be submitted to the eighth Knesset when it convenes for the first time next week. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who introduced the budget to the Cabinet said it was Israel's biggest additional budget, both absolutely and relatively. In addition to regular war expenses, the budget also covers the salaries paid mobilized men which amount to IL 200 million a month. The budget also includes sums which were determined before the war, such as the pay increases in the summer of 1973.

Sapir said that in addition to the budgetary price, there is an economic price to the war, namely the loss in the national product. This declined sharply in the last quarter of the year, more sharply than any decline in the past and was related to the partial mobilization of the economy, Sapir said. He praised the aid coming from world Jewry, and said that although the financial aid coming from the U.S. was considerable, most of the burden still falls on the Israelis themselves. Sapir said the additional budget did not call for new taxes but relied mainly on various loans in Israel and abroad.

