



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL, EGYPT AGREE ON DISENGAGEMENT

**Nixon: Significant Step Toward Permanent Peace; Eban: Agreement Is A Balanced One; Signing Due Friday; No Immediate Details Given (Combined JTA Jerusalem-Washington Reports)**

Jan. 17 (JTA)—President Nixon said this afternoon that Israel and Egypt have announced that in accordance with the decision of the Geneva conference their governments, with the assistance of the United States, have reached agreement on the disengagement and separation of their military forces. According to Nixon who appeared live on television from the White House press room at 3 p.m. Washington time, the announcement said the agreement would be signed by the chiefs of staff of Israel and Egypt at noon their time tomorrow at the Kilometer 101 check-point on the Suez-Cairo road.

President Nixon said in his statement that the agreement was being announced simultaneously in Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington. He did not mention Moscow and there was no explanation of why no announcement was forthcoming from the Soviet capital inasmuch as the USSR is a co-sponsor with the U.S. of the Geneva conference and despite earlier reports that the announcement would be made simultaneously in the four capitals.

According to unofficial and unconfirmed reports in Jerusalem this evening, released in Washington, the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement calls for the following: An Israeli pullback to the Mitla and Gidi passes; Egypt to retain eight battalions—about 3000 men—and 30 tanks but no SAM missiles on the east bank of the Suez Canal; the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) to occupy a six-mile corridor between the passes and the Suez Canal; Egypt to occupy the east bank up to the UNEF lines.

According to one report received in Washington the Egyptians will occupy a ten-mile strip east of the canal through the UN guarded buffer zone. This would indicate that the Israeli forces would withdraw 16 miles east of the canal. Some observers in Washington noted that the disengagement accord is little more than an implementation of the six-point accord signed Nov. 11 between Israel and Egypt. Details of the new agreement are expected to be announced tomorrow when Israel and Egypt sign the pact.

## Difficulties Still Lie Ahead

Nixon prefaced his announcement by saying that he had "welcome news to all Americans and people all over the world." He hailed the troop disengagement agreement as "the first significant step toward a permanent peace in the Middle East." He congratulated President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir for "the very constructive spirit" they had shown in reaching an agreement. Nixon added that he did not underestimate the difficulties which lay ahead in settling differences between Israel and the Arabs.

He said the United States could be proud of its role in helping bring about the agreement between the two countries and singled out Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for special praise. Nixon said the American role was to

bring the parties together to achieve "a fair and just settlement so that everyone in the area will be able to live in peace and be able to be secure insofar as its defense is concerned." Nixon described the Middle East as the area of the world where the potential for a Big Power confrontation was the greatest.

At a press conference in Jerusalem after the announcement was made in Israel, Egypt and Washington, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said: "We hope it will mark a turning point out of the constant cycle of tension and wars and be recognized as a first initial but nevertheless important step on the road towards a permanent peace." But Eban, like Nixon, declined to give any details of the agreement before its signing. He did, however, say that one of the elements of the agreement, namely, the limitation of forces, an American proposal, was accepted by both sides.

## Kissinger's Role Praised

The Israeli Foreign Minister said that Kissinger had helped formulate proposals "which constitute in our government's view a balanced agreement." Eban expressed his government's appreciation of Kissinger's efforts and said that every stage had been a question of discussing Israeli and Egyptian proposals and suggestions and that at no stage was there an American plan. He termed Kissinger's role "an exemplary exercise in international conciliation and we hope the results will be fruitful." Eban told newsmen that "I don't say all the details will be in the agreement but obviously we would not reach agreement unless we had reached accord."

Deputy Premier Yigal Allon told the nation on a television interview tonight that the disengagement agreement contained "very good indeed—although perhaps not excellent conditions" for Israel which would save human lives, provide security from sudden attack and open the path to talks for an overall settlement. He said he was "very satisfied" with the terms of the agreement which did not provide either side with everything it had demanded, but at the same time served the interests of both sides.

Allon said he could not yet give details or draw maps. But he assured the interviewer that the vital Mitla and Gidi mountain passes into Sinai proper would remain "in the rear" of the new Israeli positions. He said that neither side had imposed its demands on the other nor had Kissinger imposed his own views on either Egypt or Israel. Kissinger's role had been "indispensable" and he had shown himself a consummate diplomat. His efforts, and the agreement attained, faithfully served President Nixon's broad aim of ending the era of confrontation and beginning a new era of consultation," Allon said.

Asked if the settlement was not in fact a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, Allon conceded that in bald geographical terms it was. But he went on to explain that the withdrawal in fact achieved the aims which Israel had sought when it originally crossed the Suez Canal and encircled the Egyptian Third Army. Now that these aims were to be achieved—or at least a start made on their achievement—Israel could lift the encirclement, Allon said. There is no indication of a time-table for implementing the accord. (By David Landau, Jerusalem, Joseph Polakoff, Washington.)

**HIGHEST COL HIKE IN 21 YEARS IN ISRAEL**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Israel's cost of living index rose by 26.4 percent in 1973, the highest rise in 21 years and the upward spiral is continuing, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The figures indicated a rise of 14.8 percent since last July when the last cost-of-living payments were made. This has led Histadrut to demand substantially higher COL allowances. The government seems prepared to accept the demand but the employers are balking.

According to the 1973 figures, the cost of housing led the inflationary trend with a 42 percent hike. Next on the list was furniture (30%); food (28%); home maintenance (24%); education (20%); clothing (19%); health services (18%); and transportation and mail (17%). Histadrut is asking COL increases that would range from IL 58 for a person earning IL 700 a month to IL 104 for a person earning IL 260 or more per month.

Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel said on a radio interview yesterday that he hoped the manufacturers would take into consideration the real value of the wages they pay and cooperate to avert labor unrest at a time of national emergency. But Marc Moscewitz, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association, said his group would oppose the Histadrut demands.

It is clear to most observers that prices will continue to soar in 1974. The first indication was the increases in the prices of oil and gasoline that went into effect at midnight Sunday. Gasoline for motorists was up by 49 percent and heating oil 40 percent. Cooking gas increased in price by 50 percent and industrial fuel by 90 percent. Heavy fuel oil used in the cement and electric industries has gone up nearly 100 percent in price.

Government officials said they expected increases in the cost of electricity and related items in the wake of the oil price rises. They blamed the increased cost of oil on the worldwide price spiral for crude oil and in part on the fire that has severely cut production of the Abu Rodets oil fields in Sinai which had been producing all of the oil consumed domestically.

The Ministerial Committee on electricity tariffs decided on a 37 percent price increase for householders. The rise must be approved by the Knesset Finance Committee. But despite overall price increases, Israeli clothing stores are going ahead with their annual end of season sales which will start next Monday. Bargains of up to 25 percent of the regular price will be offered.

**PROSECUTION RESTS CASE IN BOUSHICKI MURDER TRIAL; MAY END BY WEEKEND**

OSLO, Jan. 17 (JTA)--The prosecution rested its case in the Boushicki murder trial today after Norwegian security police investigators and the sister of one of the defendants, Dan Aerbcl, testified behind closed doors. Informed sources said officials hoped to complete the trial by the end of the week and may hold extra sessions Saturday and Sunday to complete the questioning of witnesses. Closing statements by the prosecution and defense are expected over the weekend after which the special jury of three judges and four laymen will retire, probably on Monday, to consider their verdict.

Six persons who State Prosecutor Haakon Wilson alleged were members of an official Israeli counter-terrorist organization bent on avenging Arab terrorist attacks, are charged with the slaying of a Moroccan waiter, Ahmed Boushicki, in the resort town of Lillehammer in

eastern Norway last summer.

The six have admitted following Boushicki in hopes of gathering information about Arab terrorist groups but all have denied involvement in his murder. Some of the defendants have admitted entering Norway on forged passports. All face maximum sentences of life imprisonment if convicted.

Testimony was heard yesterday from Mrs. Torill Boushicki, 24, the murder victim's widow who described as "absurd" allegations that her husband was a member of the Black September gang. She told the court that Boushicki was "more interested in music than politics." She described the slaying which occurred when the couple returned home from a movie on a Saturday night last July.

"Two men jumped out of a car, and I'm sure at least one of them had a pistol with a silencer," Mrs. Boushicki said. "I heard a series of muffled bangs and threw myself to the ground." Another eye-witness, Mrs. Dagny Bring, testified having seen only one gunman.

A former telephone number of Israeli army intelligence headquarters in Tel Aviv was inadvertently revealed during the trial this week arousing cries of anguish from several of the defendants. The number, Tel Aviv 25-62-30 was mentioned by Aerbcl under questioning. Journalists here who tried to call the number were greeted by a recording saying it had been changed. No new number was given in the recording.

**JEWISH YOUTH DISCUSS THEIR FUTURE**

CARACAS, Jan. 17 (JTA)--Jewish participation in movements calling for social change in Latin America was cited as a significant fact of current Jewish affairs on this continent. This was discussed at the recently ended second Latin American Jewish Youth Conference held in Bogota and Barranquilla, Colombia under B'nai B'rith auspices.

Delegates from Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Chile and Panama gathered to discuss the role of youth in the future of Latin American Jewry. Chile, under the deposed Salvador Allende, Panama under its current ruler, Gen. Omar Torrijos, and Argentina under the newly initiated Peron regime were mentioned as three lands where Jews were or are working in the government.

Concentrating more on the state of Jewish life in Latin America than on politics, the participants demanded less external ostentation and greater emphasis on education training of Jewish professionals and putting in practice Jewish ethical values. The delegates, who held a memorial ceremony for Jewish victims of the Spanish Inquisition during a visit to the former Inquisitorial Headquarters in Cartagena, Colombia, suggested Jews work for the strengthening of pluralistic societies in Latin America to avoid a repetition of the "tragic" fate suffered by early South American Jewry at the hands of the holy office.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA)--The council of Amsterdam University voted down a proposal for "humanitarian support for the entire population of Israel" during its recent meeting here. The council consists of representatives from both the administration and the student body. Observers noted that the council recently passed a proposal for providing substantial financial aid to the University of Hanoi. In its recent meeting the delegates from the left-wing controlled Students Association all voted against the proposal, while 11 others abstained because they felt the matter had little connection with the activities of the university.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES--RABBI ROSEN: RUMANIAN JEWS HAVE FREEDOM; NAILS TRIFA**

By David Friedman, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA)--When Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, first visited the United States in 1962 he brought documentary evidence that Valeria D. Trifa, a Michigan Bishop who is head of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, had been a leader of the notorious fascist Iron Guard in Rumania and the man who directed an anti-Semitic pogrom in 1941. But Trifa was cleared at the time by the Justice Department. Now Rabbi Rosen is visiting the United States when, by coincidence, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is again investigating charges that Trifa lied about his past when he immigrated to the U.S. But Rabbi Rosen is staying out of what he says is strictly an American affair. "It is a matter of moral significance for Americans," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during an interview in his hotel suite in the Essex House.

The 61-year-old rabbi, visiting the U.S. for a three-week lecture tour under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal in order to seek additional funds for the Joint Distribution Committee's program in Rumania, said he did not have to raise the issue of Trifa now that the former Iron Guard leader's past was exposed in articles on the front page of major newspapers (Editor's note: Exposés of Trifa's have also appeared in the Jewish News of Detroit and in a two-part series distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.) The gray-bearded rabbi was joined by his wife in the midst of the conversation and she immediately guessed the discussion was about Trifa. They noted that the issue was raised by every interviewer since their arrival in the U.S.

Trifa was exonerated by the Justice Department which upheld his claim that he was a victim of communist slander. But Rabbi Rosen pointed out that Trifa lied in telling immigration officials when he came to the U.S. that he left Rumania in 1946 to escape the communists. The rabbi said Trifa actually left Rumania in 1941 when he and other Iron Guard leaders escaped to Nazi Germany after Gen. Ion Antonescu, who became Prime Minister with the help of the Guard, later turned on the organization. Rabbi Rosen said there are 123 graves in Bucharest of victims of the 1941 pogrom. He noted that Jan. 21 is their yearzeit. Rabbi Rosen himself lived through the three days of horror--Jan. 21-23--and said that several times "I was put against the wall with a gun to my head."

He said that Antonescu, although an ally of Hitler, protected the Rumanian Jews. Nevertheless, half of the 800,000 Jews in Rumania were killed in the holocaust. Rabbi Rosen said the remainder were being prepared to be shipped to their death when the invasion of the Soviet army saved them. Since the war, some 300,000 Rumanian Jews emigrated to Israel, making them the largest ethnic group in the Jewish state. Rumania now has some 90,000 Jews, the second highest Jewish population in Eastern Europe. (Soviet Jewry is the largest.) "There is not a Jew in Rumania who does not have family in Israel," Rabbi Rosen said. This added a special significance to the feelings of Rumanian Jews during the Yom Kippur War. Not only did they feel united with Israelis as fellow Jews but they were also concerned about their relatives, Rabbi Rosen explained.

"Through the JTA I would like to express our gratitude to the Joint and to American Jewry," he said. "They have made it possible for us not only to maintain physical life but spiritual life as well." Rabbi Rosen explained that the JDC program mainly helps 10,000 elderly persons who have no families or whose families have left for Israel. "It is not a program of philanthropy but of dignity," he said. These people are sent packages of food and clothing several times a year as well as money. There is also a housekeeping service for the elderly as well as medical and dental care. Ten kosher restaurants are operated in which people can pay or not depending on their circumstances.

As for Rumanian Jewry in general, Rabbi Rosen said that Jews are accepted as loyal citizens with the right to maintain religious and cultural institutions. He said this status has not been easy to attain nor has it been easy for the government to grant because of various pressures on it. Anti-Semitism is outlawed in Rumania, he said, although there are still anti-Semites in the country. But, he noted, Rumanian youth no longer receive the anti-Semitic education that was traditional in pre-war Rumania. He said that most Rumanians seemed to be sympathetic toward Israel and the Rumanian government maintained cultural and economic relations with Israel. He noted that the government wanted to be friends with all countries in the Mideast and was working toward achieving peace in the area.

Jews are permitted to emigrate to Israel as part of the government policy of allowing the reunification of families, Rabbi Rosen stressed. He again denied a recent British report that Rumania had changed its policy, noting that just before he left his country on Jan. 6 he knew of several persons who were emigrating. He added that many Rumanian Jews also go to Israel as tourists and some retired people spend six months of the year in Israel and the other half a year in Rumania. In addition, Israelis frequently vacation in Rumania since its resorts are close and inexpensive.

Rumania's 90,000 Jews, half of them in Bucharest, are organized into 70 Jewish communities with 150 synagogues, Rabbi Rosen said. He said synagogue attendance is good especially on Friday night when some 600 persons attend his synagogue in Bucharest. Crowds of 1000 to 2000 come for the holidays, he added. He visited 26 communities last Chanukah and every Jew came to the synagogue. Rabbi Rosen said that he considers any Jew who attends a synagogue even once a year as someone who wants to identify himself with his people, although, naturally, he would prefer more regular attendance. There is also a fortnightly Jewish newspaper written in Rumanian, Yiddish and Hebrew which Rabbi Rosen called a "bridge" for the Jewish community. He said all 8000 copies are sold out a day after the paper is distributed.

As for Jewish education, Rabbi Rosen said there are Talmud Torahs for youngsters after school. Surprisingly, he noted, these schools had a greater attendance during Stalin's rule. The explanation is that most of these families emigrated to Israel, he said. The real upsurge in the return to Judaism is among high school and college students, he said. He noted that frequently students in their early 20's ask that a Brit Mila (circumcision) be performed on them or that they be Bar

