



# daily news bulletin

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

© 1974, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLI - 57th Year

Tuesday, January 22, 1974

No. 15

## KEY SENATORS SAY THERE WERE NO SECRET U.S. DEALS WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Key U.S. Senators said today after meeting for two hours with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at the White House that the United States has made "no secret agreements" with Israel or Egypt in bringing them to agree on separating their military forces along the Suez Canal and in the Sinai peninsula. Majority leader Mike Mansfield (D.Mont.) and Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (D.Ark.) in exclusive interviews with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency immediately after the meeting said that, in Mansfield's laconic statement, "There are no secret agreements." Fulbright, who like Mansfield has steadfastly opposed American aid to Israel, said that the United States served as "an intermediary" and that it would do so "whenever we can be of constructive assistance." (See separate story.)

Minority leader Hugh Scott (R.Pa.) told newsmen that "no secret guarantees" were "mentioned" at the White House meeting and "I don't believe they exist." He described the "eight or nine agreements" disclosed publicly by U.S. sources only late yesterday as "various answers given to each party" by Kissinger in the course of his intercession with Egypt and Israel to obtain the military disengagement. "Each one has a feeling of security first" Scott observed from Kissinger's briefing to the Congressional leaders about his trip in the presence of President Nixon and Vice-President Gerald Ford.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R.S.C.), ranking minority member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, replied under questioning from JTA that there should be "no fears" of U.S. "intervention." He said Kissinger "just acted as a mediator" and that the United States is "not imposing" conditions on any country. The "agreements" became known only yesterday to American newsmen while they were on their way back to Washington in Kissinger's plane. They reported that a high official in the Kissinger group said there were eight or nine secret "understandings" that Kissinger had reached with both Israeli and Egyptian officials. Earlier the Kissinger group had insisted that the only "agreements" reached were those directly pertaining to disengagement and the thinning out of forces in the belts established east of Suez and to the west of the Sinai passes.

Kissinger himself, in an allusion to the "understandings" or "agreements" told the newsmen accompanying him on his travels that the United States is "trusted by both sides to represent their point of view accurately." A spokesman for the Kissinger group denied that "any tricky business" was involved in these "understandings" some of which reportedly were in writing. He said intervention by Kissinger was essential to bring about an accord on disengagement. Most of the understandings, he said, were sought by Israel including a continued pledge of U.S. support.

The substance of these understandings were not disclosed either by the Kissinger group to newsmen or by the Senate and House leaders after their meeting with Kissinger. Aides to Kissinger, however, stressed that they did not include any departures from previous U.S. policy or involve any formal U.S. commitments to either Egypt or Israel. This much was corroborated by the Senators who were willing to discuss them. The Jerusalem Post, however, said that the United States would exercise its veto should the Security Council ever vote, against Israel's wishes, to remove the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) from the buffer zone between the Egyptian and Israeli lines under the disengagement agreement. Kissinger also was reported to have received a pledge from Egypt that it would restore the Suez Canal and the canal-side towns and that it would no longer pose a blockade threat in the straits of Bab el Mandeb.

But neither Scott nor any of the other Senators mentioned the reported veto pledge to Israel or the Egyptian promise to rebuild a civilian economy along the Suez. Both the veto and the civilian development are factors known to be ardently desired by Israeli officials as security measures. Scott specifically mentioned the Bab el Mandeb blockade, however. He said that it would "no longer be enforced" once the agreements are signed. This left the impression that the blockade continues and that the disengagement by itself will not result in it being lifted.

## WARREN CONFIRMS NIXON REFERRED GLOWINGLY TO TOP NAZI WAR CRIMINAL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--A newspaper report that President Nixon had referred "glowingly" to Albert Speer, a top Nazi during World War II, during a recent meeting on the energy crisis was confirmed today by Presidential press secretary Gerald Warren. Asked about the report in the syndicated Evans-Novak column, Warren said he understood Nixon had referred to Speer "in the context of Speer's work relating to the mobilization of industry."

Speer was one of the most important men in the Nazi government and was credited with keeping German industry at peak production during the war years. He was convicted of war crimes

at the Nuremberg trials at the end of the war. Speer's autobiography, "Inside the Third Reich: Memoirs of Albert Speer," was a best seller several years ago.

Asked if the President regretted his reference to Speer, Warren replied: "I don't think that a reference to an historical event should lead to a feeling of regret. There are lessons to be learned from both former enemies as well as former friends." Nixon's reference was seen by some here as indicating that he wanted William Simon, the government's energy chief, to be his Albert Speer.

## NEW KNESSET SWORN INTO OFFICE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA)--The new Knesset--Israel's eighth--was sworn into office today in festive ceremonies presided over by President Eph-

rain Katzir during which inter-party rivalries were set aside--for the moment at least--and gregarious good-will prevailed. "It was like shul on Yom Kippur with everybody shaking everybody's hand and saying 'mazel tov,'" one observer remarked. The MKs discarded the casual attire that distinguishes Israel's parliament from most others in the world and attended the opening in jackets and ties. Women members and the wives and daughters of MKs were resplendent in their finery.

Premier-Golda Meir, as the oldest member, was sworn in first and she administered the oath to the other 116 members present. Three MKs were absent. In the first order of business, the new Knesset re-elected Laborite Israel Yeshayahu as Speaker, something of a surprise in view of reported wide-spread dissatisfaction with Yeshayahu's alleged lack of control over the last Knesset. He was supported by all parties except the Rakah Communists, and Likud which voted for its own candidate, former Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Halevy.

Katzir had all members rise in memory of Israel's war dead and David Ben Gurion. He offered a prayer that all Israeli prisoners in enemy hands and the war wounded still recovering in hospitals will "soon be with us again." The President also spoke of "a ray of hope" emanating from the disengagement agreement signed with Egypt last Friday and the Geneva peace conference. He noted that this Knesset was considerably younger than any of its predecessors and included many more native-born Israelis.

Mrs. Meir spoke briefly and in general terms reserving her major political statement on disengagement and related matters for the first debate of the new Knesset to be held tomorrow. She said it would be inconceivable if the "get rich quick" mentality and social inequities of the 1967-73 period returned now with the trauma of the Yom Kippur War still fresh. She said much needed to be changed, above all a willingness was required of each individual citizen to make sacrifices on behalf of the State and the nation. Mrs. Meir called for high standards of debate and behavior in the new Knesset.

#### BRITAIN RESUMES MIDEAST ARMS SALES

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home told the House of Commons today that Britain was resuming arms deliveries to the Middle East. In his address, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement pact, which, he said, though it does not go so far as guaranteeing peace, certainly reduces very sharply the danger of renewed military confrontations between the two sides.

In these circumstances, he said, the British government has decided to waive its previous ban on the supply of arms to the "battlefield countries." This would seem to apply to Israel and those Arab countries bordering on it. Countries such as Saudi Arabia were never considered "battlefield countries" and were exempted from the previous ban.

#### ARABS PAYING TO GET ARTICLES INTO MASS CIRCULATION PAPERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Ilan Chevojiniski, a Paris-based reporter for the Brazilian weekly Resenha Judaica, reports that the Arabs are "paying in dollars" to obtain pro-Arab articles written by respected journalists whose columns appear in European mass-circulation newspapers and magazines, according to a report re-

leased here by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Another aspect of this "news for sale" trend, also reported by the ADL, was provided by Jewish leaders in Milan and Rome. They told ADL that, important newspapers and radio-television stations are disseminating verbatim, in the guise of news, Arab propaganda material supplied by the well-financed Arab information agencies of those cities.

Arab efforts to purchase favorable news and comment are also reported from Latin America. Chevojiniski states that another journalist, who recently returned from a tour of Latin American capitals, witnessed negotiations between an Arab emissary and the owner of a major television-radio station. The deal, concluded in the main office of an Arab embassy, allegedly provides for the systematic broadcast of the Arab "truth" on a long-term basis.

#### BOARD OF DEPUTIES JOINS WJCONGRESS

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--The need to conform with changing times won over hidebound tradition in yesterday's historic vote by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to affiliate with the World Jewish Congress. It was the first time in its more than two centuries of existence that the representative body of British Jewry crossed frontiers, so to speak, to join another Jewish body beyond the boundaries of the United Kingdom.

It did so only after receiving from WJC President Dr. Nahum Goldmann written assurances of its autonomy in the affairs of British Jews and preservation of the tradition that only the Board speaks for British Jews to the British government. The Board, now affiliated with the WJC, will replace the British Section of the WJC, which has become unnecessary according to its chairman, Jacob Halevy. "I am very happy that it should have become unnecessary in this way and that I should be the final chairman," Halevy said.

The overwhelming 224-28 vote in favor of affiliation reflected the views of both the new Board of Deputies that took office last year under the presidency of Sir Samuel Fisher, and the old Board, under the leadership of Michael Fidler, which had recommended joining the WJC.

But there remained a hard core of opinion in opposition to the move. Its spokesman, Solomon Tefi, a former Board president now in his eighties, voiced the opposition views in the discussion that preceded yesterday's vote. "After 214 years of existence, the Board of Deputies has developed its own traditions and methods of work which are time-hallowed and should not be changed," Tefi said. He contended that joining the WJC would entail a loss of independence of action by the Board because Dr. Goldmann dominates the Congress and thereby dominates all of its affiliates.

But Sir Samuel said, "Recent events have convinced me more than ever of the need for complete Jewish unity on an international scale." He said there were "ample safeguards" in the terms of affiliation "for our independence as the representative body of British Jewry." The same view was expressed by David Tack, chairman of the Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen and Women, who was the first speaker to present the views of supporters of affiliation:

"All British institutions have undergone or are undergoing change. There are ample safeguards for the independence of the Board. It would be absurd to remain in isolation while the rest of the diaspora cooperates across frontiers in the interests of the Jewish people as a whole." He said the WJC does not reflect exclusively the views of Dr. Goldmann.

**NATION'S LEADERS PRAISE KISSINGER**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--President Nixon, Vice-President Gerald Ford, House Speaker Carl Albert and a score of leaders of the major committees of both Houses of Congress gave Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger a "round of applause" when he appeared at the White House today to report on his 11-day 15,600 mile trip to the Middle East.

Their bipartisan show of support punctuated their expressions of admiration of Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" that they made clear has their full support. But they also made clear that the disengagement of the Israeli and Egyptian forces that he had engineered is "a preliminary step" in the process towards peace in the area.

Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (D.Ark.), Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R.Pa.), Strom Thurmond (R.S.C.), ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the chairman of that committee, John Stennis (D.Miss.), joined after the meeting in praising Kissinger's work as "magnificent" and "a great job." Scott saw the Kissinger-engineered disengagement as meaning the "removal" of the "largest single blockade" to the "ultimate lifting" of the oil embargo against the United States by the Arab oil producing states. He would not, however, make any predictions when the embargo would be lifted.

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Fulbright said that Kissinger had "done a very good job" and that his trip achieved "a very good preliminary step." This is the "only time" he noted, that "such negotiations have taken place." Fulbright was reminded that he had said in October to the JTA that Israel should be assured of "physical and political security" and he was asked what he thought of the separation agreement in relation to that security.

"It is in the interests of Israel," Fulbright replied. "Israel is more exposed than anyone." When it was observed that Egypt and Israel did not have face-to-face meetings for the disengagement agreement, Fulbright replied that they are "engaged in the process of negotiations" and "the climate is moving in that direction." He said the disengagement is "a beginning process to be carried on in Geneva."

Asked about the Soviet role in the disengagement process Fulbright said "the Russians have not obstructed it and have been cooperative." Kissinger, he added, "could not have done it without their acquiescence but he is the initiator and deserves the credit."

Stennis told JTA that "I am very much encouraged by this preliminary step as far as it goes." Thurmond also emphasized the "preliminary" nature of the disengagement. "I repeat," he cautioned, "This is just the first step. We should keep that in mind."

**ALMOGI: ISRAEL'S IMAGE DISTORTED / BY ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Mayor-elect Joseph Almogi of Haifa accused Israeli representatives overseas last night of painting a dark picture of the situation here in order to raise more concern for Israel. Almogi, who was Minister of Labor in the outgoing Meir government, returned from a tour of the U.S. "I intend to tell Finance Minister (Pinhas) Sapir and the heads of the Jewish Agency that current Israeli information in the U.S. is all wrong," he said. But

Almogi conceded that Israelis were badly in need of morale boosters and said that present confusion and uncertainties here are reflected in Jewish communities abroad and have an adverse effect.

Meanwhile a campaign to boost morale was launched here today at the initiative of the Israeli Advertisers Association. Its slogan, "We Shall Overcome," borrowed from the civil rights movement in the U.S., has been plastered on buses, taxis and road signs over the picture of a smiling Israeli. If the advertisers have their way, the slogan will become part of everyday greetings and will replace "yours truly" and similar salutations in Israelis' letters.

**3 ARMY OFFICERS FREEZE TO DEATH**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Three Israeli army officers froze to death Thursday night in a Sinai snow storm at the Santa Katerina monastery in southern Sinai. One woman soldier was severely stricken by the frost. The three who died were identified as: Maj. Meir Sela and Captains Mordechai Puznik and Chaim Duweik.

According to an army spokesman the officers were part of a command team that listened to visit an Israeli army unit in the Santa Katerina region which was in difficulties because of the weather. Six officers and two women soldiers travelled in two jeeps from Sharm el Sheikh to Santa Katerina. Their trip was difficult because of the snow and the icy winds. The jeeps became stuck in heavy snow a few miles from their destination. The commander decided to make the rest of the way on foot after notifying headquarters of their plight by radio. Rescue teams and a helicopter were sent out but were forced back due to the weather conditions.

A woman soldier and the education officer were the first to collapse. The others decided to continue in an attempt to reach the unit and send help to the two that were left behind. Two more officers collapsed. By morning, helicopters discovered the woman soldier and the education officer; and two hours later the other two officers were spotted and taken by the helicopter. The three officers were dead when they were brought to a hospital. The woman soldier was in critical condition. A committee has been set up to investigate the tragedy.

**DAYAN: ISRAEL TOOK CALCULATED RISK**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said last night that Israel took a calculated risk when it agreed to pull back its forces east of the Suez Canal but that the risk "may bring us nearer to peace." Addressing a meeting here of former Rafi members, Dayan said the real test of the disengagement agreement with Egypt will come when the separation of forces is completed in 40 days and if Egypt follows it up by rehabilitating the Suez Canal and restoring normal civilian life in the canal-side towns.

Dayan refuted a charge by Likud leader Gen. Ariel Sharon that Israel blundered by giving up a strategically vital ridge 10 miles east of the canal, under the terms of the disengagement agreement. If Israel had kept the ridge, the Suez Canal would have remained in range of Israeli artillery, Dayan said, and this would have prevented the normalization of life in the Suez Canal zone.

\*\*\*

BONN (JTA)--The president of the German-Israeli Association, State Secretary Heinz Westphal (Health Ministry) presented Israel's Ambassador in Bonn, Eliashiv Ben-Horin, with a check for DM 360,000 for transfer to the Israeli Red Magen David. The money, donations resulting from an appeal, will be used to help victims of the Yom Kippur War.

