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AGREEMENT REACHED ON A THREE-PHASED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM CANAL

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

KILOMETER 101, Jan. 23 (JTA)--The timetable of a three-phase Israeli withdrawal from the west bank of the Suez Canal was disclosed today following several days of meetings between Israeli and Egyptian officers at this United Nations checkpoint. It was learned yesterday that the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) will initially occupy the zones evacuated by Israeli forces to maintain a continuous buffer between advancing Egyptians and withdrawing Israelis until the final stages of separation are reached east of the Suez Canal.

It was also disclosed today that the departing Israeli forces will leave intact the concrete launching sites for SAM anti-aircraft missiles in the occupied area west of the canal. This is in accordance with a promise made last weekend by the Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar to his Egyptian counterpart, Gen. Mohammed Gemassy that Israel will not purposefully damage military installations and civilian facilities left undamaged in the war. A majority of the missile sites were undamaged and will be handed back to the Egyptians.

Israel will also provide the Egyptians--through UNEF--with maps showing the minefields in the Israel held area. It was learned that Israeli army engineers planted some 750,000 mines but the job of removing them will be left to the Egyptians. The first phase of the Israeli withdrawal is scheduled to start Friday and be completed by noon Sunday.

3rd Army To Move Equipment Westward

The initial pull-back will be from the southern sector of the Israeli salient west of the canal and will open the Suez-Cairo road to Egyptian traffic. It will enable the Egyptian Third Army Corps east of the canal to throw up bridges and start moving its heavy equipment westward of the waterway. The evacuation of 300 Egyptian sick and wounded began today. The Israeli command for the first time permitted Egyptian drivers to use the Suez-Cairo road for that purpose.

The second phase of the Israeli departure will end Feb. 3 when the Israelis will withdraw to a line north of Fayid. The airfield there will be handed over to UNEF and thence to the Egyptians. The final phase is expected to be concluded Feb. 12 when the last Israeli troops cross to the east side of the canal. The Egyptians will be given the canal bridges constructed by Israeli engineers.

Progress On Retrieval Of Israeli Dead

Talks are also progressing on the retrieval of the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in Egyptian-held territory. Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren has been delegated by the families of missing soldiers to follow up his earlier efforts to locate the dead and return them to Israel for burial. It was learned today that Rabbi Goren had discussed the problem with the intelligence officer of the Egyptian Third Army.

Rabbi Goren was reported to have been given assurances that Israeli soldiers were interred in

temporary graves with documents and personal belongings that will facilitate their identification. The delay in retrieving the bodies was attributed to the almost continuous shooting incidents on the Egyptian front prior to the signing of the disengagement agreement last Friday.

WARNING AGAINST TOY-LIKE BOOBYTRAPS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA)--The Israeli public--and especially children--were warned by police and security authorities today to beware of toy-like boobytraps that were apparently introduced into the country by one of the Arab terrorist organizations. The lethal objects realistically resemble toy shells and cartridges. They are very small but can easily cause the loss of a hand or fingers or worse. Eight such toys have been found so far--two in Jerusalem, one in Ashkelon, another in Affuleh and some in the Haifa area. Pictures of the toys have appeared in the press and on television.

JEWISH CEMETERY TO BE DEMOLISHED

LONDON, Jan. 23 (JTA)--A spokesman for the Polish-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association told the JTA today that the Association had sent a letter of protest to the Polish Ambassador in connection with the news reaching here that the Jewish cemetery on Gensza Street in Warsaw, was being obliterated to provide a building site. In their letter, the Association asked the Ambassador to convey their protest to his government, and also to ascertain the details, and the fate of the historical tombstones in the cemetery.

KEATING: DISENGAGEMENT IS MONUMENTAL EVENT, BUT PEACE NOT AROUND CORNER

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA)--Ambassador Kenneth Keating said that the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement was a "monumental event" in the history of the Middle East but warned at the same time that its significance should not be overestimated because "peace is not around the corner." The American envoy addressed the closing session of the mid-winter conference of Hadassah here. He said the agreement had every chance of being implemented because it was based on the principle that the only acceptable peace settlement in the Middle East is one acceptable to both parties.

Peace will be attained only through a concrete display of accommodation and good will, Keating said. He cautioned, however, that there are barriers on the road to peace, some of them seemingly impenetrable, but for the first time in recent history there is also hope. He said the U.S. was proud of its efforts toward peace and that the friendship between the U.S. and Israel is deep and unbreakable.

RABBI SAYS JEWISH SURVIVAL IN U.S. DEPENDS ON RISING JEWISH BIRTH-RATE

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA)--The newly elected president of the New York Board of Rabbis warned today that Jewish survival in this country depended on a rising Jewish birth-rate and a concerted battle against secularism, intermarriage and assimilation. Rabbi Sol Roth, spiritual leader of the Atlantic Beach Jewish Center, Atlantic Beach, L.I., made those points in his presidential acceptance address at the Board's 93rd annual meeting here.

Rabbi Roth succeeded Rabbi William Berkowitz as president of the NYBR, an organization of about 1000 Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbis.

At the same time, Rabbi Harold Gordon, executive vice-president of the NYBR, confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that 25 Reform rabbis have left the Board because they did not go along with its ruling last June 29 barring membership to rabbis who performed mixed marriages. Rabbi Gordon said the mixed marriage performance ban still holds. The JTA reported in its Daily News Bulletin last Aug. 7 that between 25-30 rabbis had resigned from the NYBR in protest against the ban.

Asserting that "The unity that characterizes the NY Board of Rabbis is indeed a remarkable achievement," Rabbi Roth warned in his presidential address that "The main problem facing the Jewish community today is that of survival." He noted that in the past three decades the world population practically doubled but the Jewish population in the U.S. remained at approximately six million--the same as it was 30 years ago.

Rabbi Roth said that if the Jewish birth-rate had merely kept pace with the general birth-rate there would be 12 million Jews in the U.S. today. "Sociologists have noted that this tragic condition is due primarily to two factors. One is the declining birth-rate; the other is a growing rate of assimilation," Rabbi Roth said.

"We must therefore declare that the frequently projected goal of zero population growth should find no application in the Jewish community.... It is survival that prompts mankind to seek limits; it is survival that should goad the Jewish community to grow.... We must speak urgently for larger Jewish families," Rabbi Roth declared.

With regard to assimilation, he said, "The burden of transmitting commitment to Jewish life lies with the family" rather than Jewish education. Jewish educators will succeed best, he said, "if you will bring a Jewish environment into your home and if the behavior of each member of the family and their interrelationships will be guided by Jewish traditions," he said.

Rabbi Roth contended that the major threat to religious life today--to Protestantism as well as Judaism--"derives not from the existence of other religions but from the forces of secularism.... Let us not squander our energies and exhaust ourselves in the process of struggling with each other. Let us rather invest our efforts in a cooperative venture to oppose the forces of secularism and to bring back into the fold those within our own communities who have become disenchanted with us." Rabbi Roth holds a BA degree from Yeshiva University and an MA and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He is visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University.

JOBERT ON MIDEAST TRIP

PARIS, Jan. 23 (JTA)--French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert leaves for Saudi Arabia today on the first leg of a trip to several Middle East countries to talk oil and economic cooperation. In Saudi Arabia, Jobert will probably put his signature to the recently concluded Franco-Saudi Arabian oil agreement providing for the delivery of 30 million tons of Saudi crude oil to France over a three-year period, according to observers here.

France in return will furnish the Saudis with industrial plants, technical assistance and weapons. Whether these weapons will include Mirage fighter-bombers has never been officially con-

firmed. Last Oct. France sold Saudi Arabia 38 Mirage-III-E planes, the most highly perfected versions of the long-range low-altitude interceptors.

The 5-6-day trip will take Jobert also to Kuwait which along with Saudi Arabia are countries traditionally oriented towards Anglo-Saxon powers; as well as to Syria. Jobert has stated that his mission to these countries is to develop long-term economic ties between Europe and the Arab and African worlds, and not to arrange "arms-for-oil exchange agreements."

Jobert is reportedly hoping to increase France's participation in the economic development of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait whose revenues have jumped as a result of the rise in oil prices. With Kuwait, France is currently negotiating an oil agreement similar to the Franco-Saudi Arabian accord, but the exact terms have not yet been disclosed. In Syria, where Jobert is due to arrive next Monday, he will reportedly seek to strengthen the close and long-standing Franco-Syrian ties. Syria apparently is hoping to obtain French financial aid for a large-scale irrigation project.

Observers here say that France's growing economic role in the Arab world is not only a result of her own thrust in this direction of the world. They say the Arab nations are turning to France in an attempt to diversify their sources of armaments which currently come mainly from the Soviet Union and the United States. This diversification would lessen the risk and effect of a unilateral arms embargo which might be imposed by one of their arms suppliers, these sources say.

RECORD YOUTH ALIYA REPORTED; RECORD ALIYA OVER NEXT 18 MONTHS PREDICTED

WINNIPEG, Jan. 23 (JTA)--A record Youth Aliya population in Israel was reported and record immigration over the next 18 months was predicted by officials of the Jewish Agency addressing 1800 women at the 25th biennial convention of Hadassah-WIZO here over the weekend. Max M. Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, forecast that 100,000 newcomers would arrive in Israel between now and the middle of 1975.

Joseph Klarman, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and head of the Agency's Youth Aliya department, said Israel's Youth Aliya population for this school year has reached a peak figure of 13,500, the largest number since the mass immigration of the 1950s.

He said the increase of 2500 children this year represented 2000 additional youngsters of disadvantaged background from the slum areas of Israel and 500 from the Soviet Union. In the course of the school year, the number of children from the USSR absorbed in residential settings such as boarding schools of Youth Aliya reached more than 2000, Klarman said. He reported that the Youth Aliya budget for this fiscal year starting April 1 will be \$20 million compared to \$15 million in the last fiscal year. He also reported that the contribution of Hadassah-WIZO this year will exceed \$1 million.

Fisher told the audience that Israel now faces the most severe austerity since the formation of the State, owing to the dislocation caused by the Yom Kippur War. "The tragic war losses and the cost of providing for new immigration is beyond Israel's capacity to meet," Fisher said. "Due to these circumstances it is urgent for organizations like Hadassah-WIZO to assume an enlarged share of responsibility for these human needs," he said.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency will take place here Jan. 28-30.

MAJOR OBSTACLES TO COALITION GOVERNMENT REMAIN UNSOLVED**Labor Leaders Warn New Elections May Be Held If 'Who Is A Jew' Demand Is Not Modified**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA)--The two major obstacles to the establishment of a new coalition government--the National Religious Party's demands for a broad-based national unity government including Likud and the bitter controversy over the "Who is a Jew?" issue--remained unsolved today as talks continued between the various factions. But solutions appeared in the offing that would shelve the religious issue until after a new government is established and would give the NRP leadership the appearance of having done all they could to bring about an all-party coalition.

Labor Alignment leaders are known to have warned both the NRP and the Independent Liberals that new elections may have to be called unless they modified their demands. It was made clear to the NRP that there is no chance that Labor will accede to Orthodox demands on the "Who is a Jew?" issue. Nor will it grant freedom of conscience vote rights to coalition members on questions of state and religion, the ILP was informed. In informal talks, Labor leaders have intimated that a second round of elections cannot be excluded if efforts to form a coalition continue to lag.

They seem to hold the view that the successful disengagement agreement with Egypt and the demobilization of reserve soldiers would restore to Labor the Knesset seats it lost in the Dec. 31 elections and possibly a few more should new elections be held. Other circles doubt this and predict even further Labor losses if new elections were held. They say the Labor leadership knows it and is using the threat of new elections as a club to bring their old coalition partners into line. But political observers are inclined to the view that a new round of elections, while still a remote possibility, should not be excluded.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, who is directing the Labor Alignment's coalition talks expressed hope today that a new Cabinet will be formed within 21 days. Sapir asked the special working committees assigned the task of ironing out inter-party differences to complete their work next week. The talks are going on between Labor and the NRP on one hand and Labor and the Independent Liberal-Civil Rights bloc on the other. It was the latter that agreed more than a week ago to join a Labor-led coalition if the "Who is a Jew?" question is set aside for several months so that a new government can take up more urgent political issues. The NRP leaders balked on grounds that this would be tantamount to planting a "time bomb" in the new government. But it appeared possible today that NRP leader Dr. Yosef Burg and Haim Zadok, a Labor Alignment MK, will go to the U.S. shortly to sound out the views of the various religious trends there and try to reach a consensus.

The NRP leadership is also being pressed by its "young guard" not to back down on its demand for a broad coalition with Likud, something Labor has so far categorically rejected. It appeared today, however, that the NRP will insist only that the Labor Alignment meet with the Likud people to discuss the formation of a national regime. That solution emerged after a meeting between Likud leaders Menachem Beigin and Elimelech Rimalt and NRP leaders Zerach Warhaftig, Itzhak Rafael and party secretary Tzvi Bernstein. The Likud leaders reportedly stated that they were prepared to join a coalition on the basis of the outgoing government's platform or no platform at all. A similar attitude was adopted by the NRP. "We shall not give up our principles but we are ready to accept and seek roads that will enable us to sit together," the Likud leaders said. It appeared that the NRP will now take a stronger line in support of a wide coalition. If the Labor and Likud leaders meet but fail to reach an agreement, the NRP leadership could tell its constituents that they tried their best.

MRS. MEIR SAYS SADAT REALLY WANTS TO SOLVE EGYPT'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said last night that "only time will tell" if Israel made the correct move in entering into its disengagement agreement with Egypt and that the possibility of betrayal by Egypt should not be excluded. But Mrs. Meir said that she shared the opinion of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is genuinely interested in solving Egypt's internal problems.

In any case, "should Sadat decide to attack us again, the new agreement would make it more difficult for him to do it," the Premier said at a meeting of the Labor Alignment's new Knesset faction where Defense Minister Moshe Dayan also spoke. Both leaders had vigorously defended the disengagement agreement with Egypt during a ten-hour debate in the Knesset yesterday. Dayan reiterated his view that the agreement entailed many risks but was the best Israel could have hoped for under the circumstances. He said one risk was that Sadat may not be able to withstand the pressure from the Arab world and would be forced to renege on his part of the agreement even though he wanted to uphold it.

(Returning to Cairo tonight from a five-day tour of Arab states, President Sadat said that Syria was ready to discuss with Israel military disengagement on the Golan Heights and that

Egypt would not attend the Geneva peace conference unless there was a disengagement agreement on the Syrian front. In Washington, State Department spokesman John King said today that he had seen press reports of Sadat's remarks but had no comment on them.)

According to Dayan the new agreement offers a chance for ending the war and he believed it was essential not to miss it. He said the Arabs have strengthened their forces with Soviet aid and are now in possession of three types of missiles--the Skud, the Luna and the Kelt--each capable of reaching Israel's population centers. He also said that volunteers from many Communist countries were serving in the Arab armies.

Dayan disclosed at the same time that the timetable for U.S. re-equipment of the Israeli army has been advanced from the original 1978 completion date and will be completed by April, 1975. By then the level of Israeli armament will have risen by a large percentage, he said.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Rep. Mario Biaggi (D/C NY), announced that the Soviet Embassy has informed him Hersh Gutman, a Soviet Jew whose exit visa was suddenly revoked shortly before he and his family were due to depart for Israel in the summer of 1972, would be granted a new visa. Biaggi, who interceded with the Soviet Embassy on Gutman's behalf, said his visa was revoked when the KGB said he was a former member of the armed forces.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

MEXICO CITY (JTA)--A new agreement calling for Mexican-Israeli cooperation in the fields of science and technology was signed here Tuesday by officials of both countries. The accord calls for collaboration between the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology and the Israeli Institute of Research and Development. President Luis Echeverría Alvarez received the Israeli scientific delegation headed by Prof. Eliezer Tal. Foreign Minister Emilio Rabasa and Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov were present. The Israeli scientists were also received by the Rector of the University of Mexico, Dr. Guillermo Soberón.

CAPE TOWN (JTA)--The three sons and three daughters born to Susan and Colin Rosenkowitz are making good progress at a nursing home here and the boys will be circumcized according to Jewish ritual when they reach a weight considered safe by doctors, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned Wednesday. The parents of the sextuplets have two other children--Samantha, 7, who attends the Weitzmann Jewish Day School and Anthony, aged 5. The couple was married in London in 1966 when Mrs. Rosenkowitz was converted to Judaism. They are members of the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana, complained to Democratic Party chairman Robert Strauss here several days ago that the United States is considering giving \$35 million to help relieve famine conditions among Blacks in the Southern Sahara areas while the Congress voted \$2.2 billion to aid Israel. "The party should be taking a strong position on the fact that Black Africans are starving," Hatcher said. He was one of a dozen Black Democratic political leaders who told Strauss that Blacks contributed 25.7 percent of the votes received by the Democrats in the last Presidential election and should, therefore, be represented at least to that extent in the party's groups making policy and decisions.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The world renowned scholar Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik of Boston, honorary president of Agudath Horabonim (Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada) declared to the leadership of Agudath Horabonim that he absolutely opposes to any compromise in the "Who is a Jew" Law in Israel. Rabbi Soloveitchik said: "The National Religious Party in Israel may definitely not withdraw her demand that the Law of Return should be amended so that it should state explicitly that conversions will be recognized only if they are performed in accordance with halacha. Any compromise is deceptive and will not serve its purpose."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The American semi-automatic rifle M-16 is now used by the Israeli army it was learned here from reliable sources. The rifle, of the 1959 vintage, is famed for its quality and reliability. It can be used for launching anti-tank and anti-personnel bombs. It is used in small quantities, by the Lebanese and Jordanian armies.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Hadassah presented its highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Award, to the Netherlands government and its people. The award, presented at Hadassah's mid-winter conference here was accepted by Prof. Simon Giter, a Dutch citizen currently teaching in Israel, at

his government's request. In presenting the award, Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the award committee, said: "In an age when few nations choose moral position over expediency, in an age when few nations choose spiritual power as a sign of greatness and strength, the world must be grateful that the government and the people of the Netherlands shine as an example of how small nations can lead the world."

TORONTO (JTA)--At the Jewish National Fund, Negev Dinner held here Dec. 1971, 11 families each subscribed \$25,000 in honor of John W.H. Bassett, at that time publisher of the Toronto Telegram, one of the largest dailies in Canada, as a mark of tribute for his friendship for Israel and the Jewish community. These funds were used to establish a sports center in the Arava kibbutz at Yotvata in Israel. That center was dedicated last month by the Toronto United Jewish Appeal mission led by Murray B. Koffler in the presence of Bassett and his wife.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress will hold its national convention next month, in two hotels--the Roosevelt in New York City and the King David in Jerusalem. From Feb. 16-18, some 500 convention delegates from throughout the U.S. will gather in New York for the AJCongress' biennial policy-setting meeting and election of officers. More than 100 delegates will then board an El Al jet for an eight-day convention mission to Israel, which will include meetings with Israeli government figures, religious and military leaders, social scientists, academicians and others.

It will be the first convention of the Congress in Israel, although its Executive Committee held meetings there in 1971 and 1973 and the Congress has sponsored an American-Israel Dialogue in Israel each summer for the past 11 years. In announcing the meetings in New York and Jerusalem, Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami Beach, convention chairman, said the Congress had originally planned to convene in Miami Beach in May. The date and place were changed in order to make possible a convention mission to Israel, aimed at demonstrating "our complete solidarity with the people of Israel at this critical moment in their--and our--history."

STRASBOURG (JTA)--The Council of Europe Assembly has adopted a Swedish delegate's report on the maltreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. With the exception of the Communist delegate from France, the delegates voted for the report which strongly criticized "the arbitrary arrests and harassment" of Jews by the Soviet government. The report demands that the Soviet Union eliminate the obstacles to the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and make it easier for them to obtain visas. It also demands that the cultural and religious rights of Jews be respected in the USSR. According to the report, 130,000 requests for visas by Soviet Jews are still in the processing stage.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart, who has just returned from the Middle East, said here Tuesday that the UN legal advisor and the UN legal office here are working on the legal status of UNEF in the Mideast to determine such problems as freedom of movement and deployment when UNEF is placed as a "buffer" between the Israeli and Egyptian forces after disengagement. According to Urquhart, the reopening of the Suez Canal will require a "massive job." A UN spokesman said the UNEF strength to date is 5882 men. The troops are reported in good spirit despite the harsh desert conditions.