



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, February 11, 1974

No. 29

EBAN: USSR TO SEEK TO CONVINCE SYRIA TO PRODUCE POW LIST AND ALLOW RED CROSS VISITS TO POWs

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The Cabinet heard today from Foreign Minister Abba Eban that the U.S. State Department had informed Israel that the Soviet Union would exercise its influence upon Syria to persuade it to produce the POW list and allow Red Cross visits to the Israeli prisoners. In a rare move which raised eyebrows among observers here, the Cabinet published this information in its official communique.

Cabinet Secretary Michael Arnon said that the ministers had not discussed any substantive disengagement ideas--because the time was not yet ripe to do so since Syria had still not complied with Israel's preconditions. He said that the Cabinet had in fact never held a substantive discussion--but of course it would do so when the time came. Arnon referred back to Wednesday's official statement denying that any erosion or softening had taken place in Israel's position of demanding POW lists and visits before disengagement talks.

Both Demands Must Be Satisfied

Well placed sources here say that all eyes are now on the planned Arab mini-summit set for this week and on the conference of oil producers to follow. No real progress on disengagement will come in advance of these crucial inter-Arab deliberations, these sources believe. They acknowledge reports from the U.S. that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has been attempting to find various ways around the POW obstacle. Among the proffered solutions, as reported in the local and foreign press, was one seeking to separate the POW list demand from the demand for Red Cross visits. But Israel remains firm that it will submit no plan of its own--to Syria or the U.S.--before both demands are satisfied.

Solutions which seem to offer more hope of success center on the idea of a very small time lag between the visits of the Red Cross and the beginning of disengagement talks. A few hours or a day at the most have been suggested as a suitably diminutive time lag to satisfy Syria's demand that the POW question be seen as part of disengagement talks. Syria has so far not responded positively to this idea--but Kissinger is reportedly still hopeful and, therefore, sources here remain hopeful, too. (By David Landau)

BAR ILAN U. SENATE ACCUSES RED CROSS OF BEING "ACCESSORY TO SYRIAN GOV'T" IN MISTREATMENT OF ISRAELI POWs

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The Senate of Bar Ilan University accused the International Red Cross today of being "an accessory to the Syrian government" in its mistreatment of Israeli prisoners of war in violation of international law. The accusation was contained in a strongly worded cable sent to the president of the IRC in Geneva with a copy to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

The cable, signed by Bar Ilan's Rector, Prof. M.Z. Kaddari, declared: "The Syrian authorities are in clear and flagrant violation of the

specific terms of the Geneva Convention, yet for months the International Red Cross did not unequivocally condemn this behavior. When your organization finally did speak out, it spoke half heartedly in muffled tones, condemning the Syrian outrages against Israeli POWs equally with Israel's refusal to permit the return of Syrian civilians to the war zone, ignoring violations of international law."

The Bar Ilan cable concluded: "Attempts to be 'balanced' are not neutral objectivity but high forms of discrimination which aid and abet the very serious violations your organization is supposed to prevent. We hold the IRC responsible for loss of life and suffering of Israeli POWs in Syria as an accessory to the Syrian government."

ARGENTINA-LIBYA PACTS SOURCE OF CONCERN May Affect Argentina-Israel Ties

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 10 (JTA)--An Argentine delegation which visited Libya last week reported today a number of agreements, including guarantees of oil from Libya, which observers said might affect the traditionally friendly ties of Argentina with Israel. The delegation said agreement also had been reached on cultural exchanges between the two countries, participation by Argentina in an international fair in Tripoli, creation of a "House of Libyan Culture" in Buenos Aires and the opening of embassies in the two countries.

The official communique on the negotiations said that "above and beyond the economic, financial and cultural results of the mission, its success should be measured by the total accord obtained in the political and ideological fields." The communique added that Argentina had become "the undisputed bridge country linking the brotherly Arab world with Latin America," adding that "the true liberation from the yoke of imperialism starts with the resolute integration of third world peoples." The announcement was made by President Peron's press secretary, who distributed photographs of Peron and President Muammar Qaddafi of Libya.

MRS. MEIR ILL; CONFINED TO HOME

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir was ordered by her doctors to remain at home due to an inflammation of the eyelids. As a result, she was unable to attend today's regular weekly Cabinet meeting and may be unable to participate in meetings with West Berlin Mayor Klaus Scheutz who arrived last night for a five-day visit as the guest of the Foreign Ministry. Mrs. Meir recently recovered from a case of shingles, a virus infection affecting the nervous system.

SEPHARDIC JEWS ASSAIL ASHKENAZIC DOMINATION OF GOV'T, LABOR PARTY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A long brewing revolt against the alleged domination by Ashkenazic Jews of the government, Labor Party and national institutions, exploded here yesterday at a convention of ranking Sephardic leaders who warned that Israel would evolve into two separate societies unless prompt measures are taken to equalize the two communities.

The gathering brought together a Cabinet minister, Knesset members, Sephardic members of the Labor Party and Histadrut Executives and town

councilmen and local authorities of Sephardic origin. They assembled at Beth Berl, the Labor Party's ideological center, to discuss such sensitive subjects as the persistent social gap between Israelis of Oriental and European origin and alleged discrimination against Oriental Jews in appointments to ambassadorial, ministerial and other important posts.

Efforts by the Labor Party leadership to prevent the gathering backfired. A letter from Labor Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin asking the convenors to call off the meeting because it was a "regressive and gratuitous act" unrepresentative of the Oriental members of the Party, only infuriated his Sephardic constituents. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel said Yadin was removed from reality. MK Itzhak Navon said the convention was neither regressive nor aggressive but progressive. Although only 135 invitations were issued, hundreds of people showed up at Beth Berl and they were in an angry mood.

Greater Representation Demanded

Speakers vowed to press for greater representation of the Sephardic half of the nation in the Cabinet, the Knesset, the Histadrut and Zionist Organization Executives and on the boards of public corporations.

"We need not be ashamed to ask for representation," Hillel said, observing that every element and clique within the party is constantly demanding representation. "The regressiveness exists in the present situation. Nothing is done to close the social gap. Yadin and the (Labor Party) leadership think everything is fine and only we are out of line. But what happens is that the lights were dimmed within the Labor Party," Hillel said.

Navon said the convention was not a "professional communal organization" and was not aimed at helping one individual or another. It was convened because the problems of the Oriental community do not get the treatment they deserve, he said. Navon observed that the Sephardic party members said nothing before the elections "But now we are duty-bound to speak out," he said.

MK Mathilda Ghez said that for years she had opposed the idea of a Sephardic pressure group but now she realized there was no other way to effect change. Former MK Mordechai Bibi demanded to know why only one ministry--Police--was reserved for a Sephardic minister. Other speakers accused the Labor Party of failing to give expression to the Oriental community and many now look elsewhere.

Shimon Avizemer, a former Consul in London, said it was not the Sephardim who are pushing toward a communal rift. "Whenever we make a demand we are blamed for communal aggrandizement but when it is them (the Ashkenazim) they claim they are representing the whole nation," he said. "We have to end the patronage of one part of the nation over the other." The convention resolved to continue holding meetings of Sephardic Laborites and to appoint a committee to decide the best ways of organizing Oriental Jews within the party.

FELDMAN'S LAWYER FORCIBLY RETIRED

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Itzhak Ezhov, the lawyer for Aleksandr Feldman of Kiev, who put in a strong appeal against Feldman's sentence, has been forcibly retired, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. The SSSJ reported that the Cincinnati Council on Soviet Jewry learned by phone that Ezhov was retired after a

six-hour hearing in Kiev. Feldman's father and brother are now looking for another lawyer, according to the SSSJ. Feldman was sentenced last Nov. 23 to 3 1/2 years in a labor camp on a charge of hooliganism.

Recently Ezhov's appeal was made public in the United States after it was smuggled out of the USSR by New York City Council President Paul O'Dwyer and Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton. Ezhov, in his brief, said he "considered the verdict as incorrect and subject to being repealed." The court investigation, he wrote was "conducted solely one-sidedly, superficially and not objectively" in violation of the Ukrainian criminal code.

ISRAELI CREW INCINERATED IN U.S. TANKS WHEN HIT BY SOVIET MISSILES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Inflammable hydraulic fluid in the M-60 battle tank sent by the United States to Israel tended to incinerate Israeli crews after the tank was hit by Soviet-built Sagger missiles in the Yom Kippur War, according to Senator Thomas Eagleton (D., Mo.). Eagleton, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, made a year-end trip to Israel to investigate tank battles in the war. In an informal report to Pentagon officials Thursday, Eagleton said the Israelis told him the armor plate on the M-60 was too thin, though they liked the tank's mobility and firepower.

Eagleton will make written reports on the matter to the Senate committee. It was also reported that American military experts have been in Israel evaluating the effectiveness of a variety of weapons systems and that they confirmed that there was a problem with the hydraulic lines and fluid in the M-60 tank when it was hit by the Soviet-built penetrating missiles.

ROCKEFELLER SAYS CHASE MANHATTAN'S DECISION TO OPEN BRANCHES IN EGYPT, FLOAT \$80 M LOAN IS GOOD FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, said here that the bank's decision to open branch offices in Egypt and to make an \$80 million loan to help build an Egyptian oil pipeline was good for Israel and that the Israel government recognized it. Rockefeller said this was good because the more President Anwar Sadat uses foreign investment to build his economy the less likely is he to go to war against Israel. He said, "No doubt the Israelis recognize that Sadat is changing the face of Egypt in a very significant way, a way that is bound to be beneficial to them in the long run."

Rockefeller, who visited Egypt and Israel a week ago, said that one way to encourage investment is free trade zones, and that the bank's function in them was "to act as the bellwether, encouraging others." He said he wanted to test the reactions in Israel "where we have close ties." He added that Chase Manhattan has no branches in Israel but that Israel has not sought them.

In response to his feelers, Rockefeller said, "two prominent members of the Israeli government" indicated that Sadat's emphasis on economic development was "very promising for the future" because the more Sadat concentrated on helping Egypt's economy and restoring cities along the Suez Canal, "the less likely he is going to be to want to start the war again and therefore, they said, the more foreign investment that goes into Egypt, the better we like it."

Rockefeller said Sadat "really wants peace and wants to be the person who will have brought Egypt back as a strong economic entity." Report-

ers noted that high-placed Egyptian officials have warned that if negotiations with Israel bog down, Egypt will not hesitate to renew the fighting, and that during the 1969-70 war of attrition and during the Yom Kippur War, Egypt did not hesitate to fight despite the destruction of its investment in the canal-side commercial centers.

Rockefeller said that "obviously, there is always that kind of a risk but I think the point the Israelis were making was that if the Egyptians start rebuilding the cities along the canal, and they estimate this will cost \$7 billion, it seems unlikely that they are going to risk again that being destroyed."

NATIONAL ALIYA MONTH LAUNCHED

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--National Aliya Month, aimed at encouraging American Jews, particularly young Jews, to settle in Israel was launched here today at a reception by the American Zionist Federation and the American Section of the World Zionist Organization. National Aliya Month, which will end on March 10, was initiated following a call for aliya issued to world Jewry by the WZO in Jerusalem and endorsed by Israeli Premier Golda Meir.

The reception was attended by over 100 leaders of the Jewish community in New York. The guest of honor was Israel's Consul General in New York, Ambassador David Rivlin. The guests were addressed by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, who was recently elected chairman of the Conference of Presidents, and by Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress.

Rabbi Miller said that "Aliya Month has been proclaimed as a declaration of faith in the future of Israel and the Jewish people. Aliya Month is both the central word in the Zionist lexicon and the central act in the hierarchy of Zionist responsibilities."

He noted that the AZF "fully cognizant of the personal problems attendant upon aliya, particularly the questions potential olim ask about Israel after the Yom Kippur War," has invited a group of former U.S. residents to return for several weeks to the cities from which they left for Israel to answer questions with candor and the knowledge of their own experience. "They will report on the reality of Israel today to which they are contributing their talents and presence, as well as on the dream of Israel which motivated their aliya," Rabbi Miller said.

Rabbi Hertzberg said that "Americans of all persuasions have throughout the whole of American life--the whole of the last two centuries--provided important personal help to the creation of other societies which were their realization, and that an appreciable American Jewish contribution to the formation of Israel's life and society is in keeping with American precedent."

Both speakers noted that since the Six-Day War over 35,000 Jews from the U.S. and Canada emigrated to Israel, 25 percent of whom were professionals now practicing their professions in Israel's industry, research establishments and institutes of higher learning and hospitals. They also announced that more than 2000 events will take place throughout the country during Aliya Month, ranging from parlor meetings to rallies.

ISRAELI WOMAN KILLED, SOLDIER WOUNDED BY TERRORIST ROCKET

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A 20-year-old Israeli woman was killed and her soldier companion was wounded last night when their car was hit by a terrorist rocket on the Kiryat Shemona-

Banias road near Kibbutz Dan in Upper Galilee. The woman died instantly. The soldier was taken to a near-by army camp by a passing vehicle and later taken to a hospital. An Israeli army unit rushed to the scene of the ambush and fired at the retreating terrorists who apparently escaped across the Lebanese border. Neither the woman nor the soldier were immediately identified. The ambush was the second in the area in recent days. An Israeli soldier was killed in a similar incident last week.

Meanwhile, an upsurge of terrorist activity--the first in many months--was reported from the Judea-Samaria region. In the vicinity of Hebron, fire was opened on an Israeli border patrol, wounding two policemen. Near Tulkarm on the West Bank, armed terrorists stopped two private cars and demanded identification. When the occupants proved to be Arabs they were permitted to go. Security forces are investigating the incident.

ISRAELI BASKETBALL TEAM CONFIDENT

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Members of Israel's National Basketball Team said here Friday that reports of anti-Israel attitudes among Black players at Rochester University were highly exaggerated. "We did not feel anything was unusual" about the game last Monday night, according to Itamar Marzel, the team captain, speaking at a press conference at the Israeli Consulate here. Black Muslims in Rochester protested against the game and demanded that the three Black players on the Rochester University team refuse to play. One of the Black players failed to show up and the other two played only the first half of the game, won by Israel 102 to 60.

Abraham Hemmo, another member of the Israeli team, said the two players who played only in the first half quit after "they realized we were winning." The Israeli players said they did not anticipate any other incidents during their U.S. tour in which they will play 10 more games. Haim Glovinsky, the Israeli liaison officer of the U.S. Committee Sports for Israel, who is escorting the team on its tour, discussed future games with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He said he considered only three of the forthcoming 10 games as likely to be difficult, and that the one scheduled for Madison Square Garden on Feb. 13 might be the most challenging. "In the meantime, we are in a winning position and I hope we will continue," he said. The Israeli team is here under tight security measures and for that reason details of the upcoming games were not disclosed. American authorities have insisted on the tight security to avoid "a second Munich." The current visit is the first by the Israeli team since 1966. It was reported at the press conference that the Israeli National Soccer Team will be coming to the U.S. next Sept. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Four Israeli soldiers were wounded today when Syrian forces re-opened artillery fire on the northern front after several days of relative quiet. The Syrian guns went into action early this afternoon against Israeli positions in the Mazraat Bet Jan and Harfa village areas. Israeli forces returned the fire. The exchange lasted 90 minutes. Israeli military circles confirmed that Israel used 175 mm. long-range artillery to return Syrian fire last week. The big guns have sufficient range to reach the outskirts of Damascus. The circles said that Israeli gunners scored hits on Syrian artillery batteries and on ammunition dumps.

POLICE PROBS \$15 M ANGLE INVOLVING LIBYA IN BLACK MUSLIM SHOOT-OUT

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Police in Brooklyn remain without any solid clues as to the motive or the identity of the killers in a shoot-out in a Bedford-Stuyvesant Black Muslim mosque last Monday night in which four persons were killed. It was reliably learned, however, that detectives in Brooklyn working on the case have been alerted to check out the possibility that the shooting spree was the result of a Black Muslim community in-fighting over a \$15 million stake from Libya.

Police, who at first assumed that the shoot-out in Bedford-Stuyvesant was similar to other shoot-outs between rival Black Muslim groups in other cities, are now checking out a report that members of two rival Black Muslim groups clashed after Libya's President Muammar Qaddafi turned thumbs down on a request for a \$15 million loan made last summer by a delegation representing Elijah Muhammad's Chicago-based Nation of Islam group.

According to sources close to the investigation of the shooting spree, the \$15 million angle was brought to the attention of the police in a report last Wednesday in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Daily News Bulletin. That report was based on information given to the JTA by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. It noted that Qaddafi turned down the \$15 million loan request after being notified by other Muslim groups that the Nation of Islam is not authentically Moslem and is a racist group.

U.S. Aware Of Funds

At the same time, high U.S. official sources in Washington told the JTA that they are aware that funds are coming into the coffers of Black Muslim groups in this country from Libya, among other Arab countries, ostensibly for religious and educational aid. According to these sources a number of Libyan students in the U.S. sent word back to Qaddafi that the Nation of Islam members were racists and not true to the teachings of Islam. Consequently, the sources noted, Qaddafi lost interest in the Nation of Islam group but might have continued funding other Black revolutionary or authentically Moslem groups here as he has been funding the IRA in Northern Ireland.

These sources said they had no other information concerning the JTA report that outright gifts had been extended to the Nation of Islam by the Persian Gulf states of Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar and by Syria. These gifts, according to the ADL, have totalled \$280,000. In addition, the Nation of Islam had negotiated a \$2,978,406 short-term loan in May 1972 then renegotiated that loan in Sept. 1972 so that payment would not be due until 1981.

A source close to the investigation of the Bedford-Stuyvesant shoot-out told the JTA that if the clash involved a rival Black Muslim group outside New York State and if it involved funds from a foreign government the investigation would move beyond city detectives to the FBI.

SURVIVORS OF HOLOCAUST CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Jewish survivors of the holocaust--now living in the U.S.--are calling an all-day conference here on Feb. 17 because they believe that "the world has shown the same indifference to the fundamental right of Israel to live in peace and freedom as the world showed in World War II to the murder

of innocent Jews by the Nazis." The conference is sponsored by the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, Inc.

Eli Zborowski, president of the Survivors Federation, said the gathering "will discuss the role and the ways in which Jewish survivors can remind all mankind that the consequences of indifference can lead to total mass murder." He announced that Ambassador Jacob Barmore of Israel's Mission to the UN will address the conference. Several hundred delegates from across the country are scheduled to attend.

In discussing the program for the gathering, Zborowski said that after World War II, about 250,000 persons--survivors of Nazi terror, arrived in the United States--and many of these, 30 years later, see a "similarity between the isolation of Israel today, the Arab blackmail and the indifference and isolation of the Jew in Europe during World War II. The present reminds us of the 1940's and we are gathering to do something about it." Another aspect of the program for the day's events will be the discussion of plans for further education of American Jewish youth to the events of the holocaust.

AIRLINES FIND PASSENGERS DON'T HAVE TO BE JEWISH TO ASK FOR KOSHER MEALS

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Airline officials have discovered that passengers don't have to be Jewish to enjoy kosher meals. In fact, according to reports, many passengers these days ordering kosher meals during flights aren't Jewish. This discovery came to light as more passengers began ordering kosher meals when airline companies recently began to cut back on the number of meals or the quantity of food served as part of an economy drive by airline companies.

Regular free in-flight meals are served by all airlines on long haul flights. Jewish passengers who want kosher meals can get them if requested 24 hours prior to flight time. Those who do, get relatively palate-ous meals that are usually more elaborate than the economy-class fare; brisket of beef on the kosher menu has for some time looked more appetizing to the other passengers who are chomping on a piece of hamburger or roast beef.

But airline officials, presumably working on the theory that nourish-keit is akin to narish-keit, have devised their own way of combatting the rising kosher food requests. On short-haul flights that feature sandwiches, those ordering kosher food get kosher sandwiches. There's a lesson in all this: you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy a good kosher sandwich, in fact, you don't even have to be kosher.

MONTHLY COMPENSATION INCREASED

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Government monthly compensation payments to victims of Nazi persecution in The Netherlands during World War II have been raised to 1500 Guilders to offset the rise in the cost of living. The increase will also apply to payments to victims of Japanese persecution in the Dutch East Indies during this period. Seven thousand of the 23,000 compensation payment applications in The Netherlands were made by Jews. Since processing so many applications is long, the government has agreed to make advance monthly payments to those whose applications have been under review longer than eight months.

There will be no Bulletin Monday, Feb. 18, due to Washington's birthday, a postal holiday.