



daily news bulletin

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EBAN REJECTS BEIGIN'S DEMAND THAT ISRAEL MAKE RELEASE OF POWs STARTING POINT FOR TALKS Israel Stands Pat On Obtaining Lists

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, head of Herut and a leader of the opposition Likud Alignment, demanded in Knesset today that Israel make release of the Syrian-held Israeli prisoners of war a condition for starting disengagement talks with Syria. But Foreign Minister Abba Eban replied that such a demand would endanger progress toward obtaining the conditions to which Israel is formally committed--obtaining lists of names of the prisoners and arrangements for Red Cross visits to them.

Eban added that he could not imagine any disengagement accord with Syria which did not provide for the immediate repatriation of the Israeli POWs. Eban added he agreed with Beigin that the next few days might be crucial in the effort for progress on the POW issue. He said that, for this reason, he was proposing the issue be debated at a closed session of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Eban's proposal was approved by a narrow majority of Labor members and some National Religious Party deputies. Three NRP members abstained. The Aguda party and Likud were joined by Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights movement in voting for a full-dress debate. The vote was 50 for Eban's proposal and 41 for open debate.

Eban also told the Knesset that many states and world organizations were acting on behalf of the POWs. He listed France, Britain, the United States, Australia, Canada, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, church bodies and the International Red Cross. He said these were acting out of humanitarian feeling. He said other countries, such as the Soviet Union and Egypt, were acting out of "other considerations and interests."

POMPIDOU SAYS FRANCE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SAUDI BIAS AGAINST JEWISH NEWSMEN

PARIS, Feb. 13 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou said in a letter made public yesterday that France "cannot be held responsible" for acts of discrimination committed by Saudi Arabia against certain French journalists who were denied entry visas because of their Jewish origin. The particular incident of discrimination involved Le Monde correspondent Eric Rouleau who was prevented by the Saudis from accompanying Foreign Minister Michel Jobert on his recent Saudi Arabian trip because he was Jewish.

Pompidou's letter, dated Feb. 5, was in reply to a letter addressed to him by Ady Steg, president of the Representative Council of the Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF) asking the French President to issue an official statement denouncing such discrimination.

In his letter, Pompidou said: "My position and my personal feelings oblige me to confirm to you most solemnly that France can in no way be held responsible for discrimination against French citizens." He reasserted that France, for its part, had never committed acts of discrimination against either race or religion.

13 ARRESTED IN CHRISTIAN ARSON CASE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The capital's Police Chief Haim Breitenfeld told newsmen here today that 13 arrests had already been made in the investigation into arson at three Christian establishments Monday. Twelve of these would be charged, he said, and one released. He expected more arrests soon. Meanwhile, Christian institutions had been given special protection--which Breitenfeld refused to describe in detail.

Of the 12, all but two were between the ages of 16 and 24. One was under 16 and one was about 40. Some--he would not say how many--were members of the Jewish Defense League headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane. The police chief was careful to avoid saying that the JDL as such had actually organized the triple arson. The JDL, subsequent to the arson incidents, issued a statement praising the bravery of the perpetrators. Breitenfeld said all but one of the arrestees spoke good Hebrew. He would not say what the nationality was of that one--or of those who spoke Hebrew. He said the arrestees were all Orthodox.

Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren issued a statement condemning the arson. "Such brutal acts are in direct contradiction to the tenets of Judaism," he wrote.

The three institutions attacked were a Baptist church, a Swedish theological center and hostel for visiting students and a Protestant evangelical center named "Zion House." Only the latter engages in activities which could be construed as missionary. The police chief said the lead to the case was provided by a young man who appeared at Shaare Zedek Hospital on the night of the arson with serious burns. His interrogation led to other suspects. An anonymous letter, the whereabouts of which were revealed to a journalist by an anonymous phone call, claimed responsibility for the arson. The letter was signed "The Organization for War Against Missionary Influence in Israel." Breitenfeld said he was not familiar with this body.

DAYAN SAYS HE WILL NOT RESIGN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan declared last night that he would not resign under pressure from his critics but neither would he serve in a new government unless he had its fullest confidence. Addressing military correspondents here, he spoke in reply to recent public demonstrations urging him to resign on grounds that he was responsible for Israel's military deficiencies at the outset of the Yom Kippur War. Dayan said he believed in the principle of ministerial responsibility but that if he resigned now he would be confessing guilt on the part of Israel's defense establishment that has yet to be established by the committee investigating the conduct of the war.

Dayan recalled that twice during the war he had offered his resignation to Premier Golda Meir who twice rejected it. He said he would enter a new Cabinet only if "I feel those responsible for my appointment are convinced that I can do the job better than anyone else...not as a result of pressures and circumstances. If the Prime Minister does not call on me, I shall not be angry. I shall be angry if she approaches me even though

she may think I am not the man for the job," Dayan said. He added, "I know Golda. She won't do that."

1500 ATTEND RALLY TO DEMAND SYRIA RELEASE ALL ISRAELI POWS

PARIS, Feb. 13 (JTA)--A crowd of 1500 persons filled the Mutualite meeting hall here calling on Syria to release its Israeli prisoners of war in the name of humanity. The meeting, organized by the humanitarian "Committee for the Liberation of the Israeli Prisoners in Syria" (CLIPS), was presided over by the League of Human Rights president Daniel Mayer.

Among the guest speakers were LICA (International League Against Anti-Semitism) president Jean-Pierre Bloch, Beate Klarsfeld, Paris Chief Rabbi Meyer Jais and publisher Claude Lanzmann. All of them strongly denounced Syria's "gratuitous inhumanity" and "blatant violation" of the Geneva Conventions in its continued refusal to release a list of the Israeli POWs it holds. Mayer said the Israeli POWs "were no longer prisoners, but political hostages." Bloch compared the tactics of the Syrian military to those of the Nazi army which refused to allow its prisoners the right to at least inform their families of their whereabouts and state of health.

An emotional highpoint was reached when the fourth speaker, the wife of an Israeli POW in Syria, was introduced. Her name was not divulged and photographers were requested to abstain from photographing her. Mayer, who said total anonymity was imperative so as not to compromise the fate of her prisoner husband, simply introduced the young mother of two as "the symbol of the anguished face of Israel." The young woman, accompanied by an interpreter, spoke in Hebrew.

Until a few weeks ago, she said, she had not known whether her husband was dead or alive. She said she knew he was alive when she saw him in a photograph accompanying the article appearing in the French magazine "Paris Match," relating French journalist Pierre Demeron's interview with seven Israeli POWs in Syria. Visibly moved, she said, "the accordance of such rare interviews is no substitution for their release." She concluded with the hope that "peace would soon come to this region and our loved ones be returned home to us."

Several prominent French political personalities sent telegrams to Mayer expressing their solidarity with the CLIPS cause, among them former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France, Marseille Mayor Gaston Deferre and Socialist Party Chairman Francois Mitterrand.

ORTHODOX SEEN WINNING IN ELECTION OF HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS

BUDAPEST, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The outcome of the ongoing elections of Jewish community officials in Hungary may register a vote in favor of Orthodoxy, observers here report. They say many Hungarian Jews feel their leaders should give more priority to religious questions which they say have been eclipsed by political issues recently. Community officials are elected for 8-year terms and elections in the provinces precede those in the capital.

Apparently, the rabbis, often kept in the background of community life, have recently launched a campaign to return the community's attention to more Orthodox questions of religious life and have criticized Jewish leaders for devoting all their efforts to political problems. The two Hungarian Jewish weeklies seem to bear witness

to this trend and are publishing more articles dealing with religious topics.

In Budapest, it is expected the chairman of the National Organization of Hungarian Jews, Dr. Geza Seifert, will be re-elected. Seifert's re-election would most likely be welcomed by the government with which he has excellent relations.

5000 SIGN ASHKENAZI'S PETITION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--About 5000 persons signed Capt. Mordechai Ashkenazi's petition calling for the resignation of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan during his two-day vigil outside the Prime Minister's Office here which ended last night. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned meanwhile that the young reserve officer, a veteran of the Yom Kippur War, has been invited to testify before the judicial committee investigating the conduct of the war. The committee is headed by Supreme Court Justice Shimon Agranat.

Ashkenazi, apparently elated by the response to his one-man campaign for the departure of Dayan, asked reporters to publish his home address so that supporters could write to him. He said he planned to resume his demonstration next Sunday by going on a hunger strike. He said he expected hundreds to join him. The Hebrew University Students Union expressed support of Ashkenazi's demands. So have a group of young activists within the Labor Alignment. The latter said they were not opposed to Dayan personally but were upholding the principle of ministerial responsibility.

Ashkenazi, who commanded the only Israeli unit on the Suez Canal to hold out against the Egyptian onslaught in the first days of the Yom Kippur War, says he holds Dayan directly responsible for Israel's military deficiencies last Oct. in his capacity of Minister of Defense. He said he had offered repeatedly to testify before the Agranat committee. Committee sources informed the JTA that it will start next week taking testimony from hundreds of officers and men who participated in the fighting. Until now the committee has heard only from ministers and senior staff officers.

Ashkenazi, camped for two days on a parking lot outside the Premier's Office, was visited by Knesset members representing various parties. They included Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Arye Elav, Yossi Sarid, Chaika Grossman, Dov Zakin and Eliezer Ronnen of the Labor Alignment; Avraham Katz and Ehud Olmert of Likud; Shulamit Aloni and Dr. Boaz Moav of the Civil Rights List; and Meir Payil of Moked.

FUELING PUBLIC DISCONTENT:

5 Nabbed For Supplying Air Instead Of Oil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Police arrested five fuel oil delivery men today in connection with widespread complaints of short deliveries. A police spokesman said the investigation was just starting and that more arrests were expected. The public outcry against cheating by delivery men who bring fuel oil to centrally heated apartment buildings has been growing.

Scores of complaints have been filed with the police and with the oil companies accusing delivery men of withholding as much as one-third of the fuel charged for. At current prices, this can run into hundreds of Pounds. Police said a favorite cheating device was to pump air into the consumer's tank while the gauge on the fuel truck registered the delivery of oil. The growing incidence of cheating is believed to stem from the amalgamation of the three main oil companies during the Yom Kippur War.

DAYAN: ISRAEL MUST CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO SYRIAN ATTACKS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)—Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said last night that he thought the most opportune time to pursue a peace settlement with Egypt will come when the Suez Canal is reopened to shipping. He said the shooting would end on the Syrian front only after a disengagement agreement is reached there and until then Israel must continue to respond vigorously to Syrian attacks. He said he knew of no political pressure on Israel to limit its response.

Dayan made those remarks at a press conference with military correspondents here during which he observed that both Israel and Syria have had their Yom Kippur War losses fully replaced and expressed the view that Egypt was complying with the terms of the Jan. 21 disengagement accord. Dayan insisted that the government stands by its demand that Syria act in compliance with the Geneva Convention on POWs before Israel will sit down to disengagement talks.

He said the shooting on the Syrian line was not a "transient episode" but a deliberate policy of President Hafez Assad. Israel is dealing with an extremist nationalist regime intent on proving its point with deeds. Assad would have a harder time explaining to his people why he wasn't shooting then why he is, Dayan said.

Dayan observed that the Syrians do not consider themselves to have been beaten in the Yom Kippur War. They entered that war far stronger than in the 1967 Six-Day War and despite severe losses—1000 tanks, 200 planes, 10 missile batteries and 10,000 casualties—they have since been fully re-armed by the Russians and continue to get volunteers from Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. "They don't feel hopeless. They don't like the present lines and the Golan Heights in Israel's hands, so they shoot," Dayan said. He said a firm reply was necessary "but this alone will not end the Syrian attacks."

Armed Forces Strengthened Since War

The Defense Minister said he thought President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was anxious to have Syria enter into disengagement negotiations with Israel if only because he doesn't want Egypt to be the only Arab state to have reached such an accord. As for future relations with Egypt, Dayan said he wanted a certain amount of time to elapse to see how the disengagement agreement works out.

If the Egyptians begin to rehabilitate the canal zone, if they demobilize a large part of their army and embark on a development program, "I think it would be a mistake if we do not try to continue negotiations in an attempt to reach final peace whether in Geneva or elsewhere.... I think the most opportune moment will come after shipping operations in the canal are resumed," Dayan said.

He disclosed the extent to which Israel's armed forces have been strengthened since the Yom Kippur War. He said the Air Force has had a five percent increase in fighter planes, 30 percent more transports, three percent more helicopters and 33 percent more Hawk missiles. On the ground, Israel has 15 percent more tanks; 85 percent more armored troop carriers; 25 percent more artillery; and 50 percent more ammunition than it had during the war.

Dayan mentioned the supply of Soviet Scud missiles to the Arab states which he said increased Israel's dependence on the U.S. for so-

phisticated weapons that it cannot afford to develop at home.

WALDHEIM SAYS RESUMPTION OF PEACE CONFERENCE HINGES ON SYRIA'S ROLE

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 13 (JTA)—Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said in Geneva today that certain problems, notably that concerning Syria, would have to be resolved before the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East can be resumed. The Secretary General made that remark in reply to reporters' questions when he arrived in Geneva, it was reported here today. He said contacts with Syria were continuing but he did not know yet whether it would be possible to begin disengagement negotiations with the Syrians.

Before leaving the UN headquarters yesterday, Waldheim conferred with Hassam Kelani, the Syrian ambassador to the UN, on the situation of the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire line and the Israeli POWs held by Syria, according to a UN spokesman. The spokesman said the Waldheim talks with Kelani were a "continuation" of the efforts of Roberto Guyer, UN Undersecretary General, who visited Syria last Dec. and discussed the problem of the Israeli POWs. Syria has refused to provide Israel with a list of the POWs or to permit Red Cross representatives to visit them.

RABBIS CALL FOR BOYCOTT

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13 (JTA)—The Board of Rabbis of Southern California has urged "our colleagues and members of synagogues of which they are spiritual leaders to refrain from purchasing" products manufactured by the Farah Manufacturing Co. of El Paso, Texas, one of the country's leading manufacturers of slacks, until the firm negotiates with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

According to a letter sent out by the Board of Rabbis, almost 25 percent of the firm's 9000 workers have been on strike for more than 19 months. "The average take-home pay of the workers; 95 percent of them Mexican-Americans and 80 percent women, is \$69 a week," the letter stated. "Although the National Labor Relations Board has recognized the ACWA as the legal bargaining agency for the cutting room workers following an election, the company has consistently refused to negotiate with that union and has pursued activities deemed unlawful by the NLRB."

The Board of Rabbis, noting that the ACWA has urged a nation-wide boycott of Farah products, said it took action to refrain from purchasing the firm's products "until the boycott is ended" after its Social Action Committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Sidney J. Jacobs together with Board President Rabbi Meyer Heller considered "the circumstances surrounding the strike" for the past months.

"It has invited and received representations, verbal and written, both from the ACWA and the management of the company," the Board's letter stated. The decision to recommend solidarity with the union boycott came after these representations were evaluated against the background of the right of employees to organize in a union and bargain collectively.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The board of directors of the Jewish National Fund Tuesday approved a 1974-75 budget for the JNF of IL 132 million—IL 38 million more than last year. A spokesman said the raise was facilitated by increased donations from abroad and increased revenues from JNF landholdings in Israel.

SEEK TO ORGANIZE INTERRELIGIOUS CAMPAIGNS TO AID ISRAELI POWs

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA)—Christian and Jewish leaders agreed yesterday that concerted pressures by interreligious groups must be made on the government of Syria in a humanitarian effort to persuade Syria to release information on the Israeli prisoners it captured during the Yom Kippur War.

Representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox communities, at a meeting called by the American Jewish Committee, discussed the possibilities of calling on Syrian missions in the United States, setting up letter and telegram campaigns, and organizing interreligious campaigns that would seek admission to Syria to ascertain how many Israeli POWs are being held, who they are and how they are being treated. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, AJCommittee inter-religious affairs director, was chairman for the meeting.

The discussion focussed on a plea by an Israeli woman who appeared under the assumed name of "Mrs. Achsa" whose 21-year-old son is known to have been captured by the Syrians. She spoke on behalf of an unofficial organization of families of Israeli POWs in Syria, and stated: "For over four months now, we live in uncertainty. We do not know if our sons are alive or dead. The Syrian government refuses even to release the names of the prisoners, and they refuse to let representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross see them. This is not a matter for politics. It is a basic humanitarian issue."

Israeli Consul Amos Ganor assured the religious leaders that any delegation that managed to visit Israeli POWs in Syria would be welcomed in Israel and would have the opportunity of visiting the Syrian POWs being held in Israel. "There are more than 300 Syrian prisoners now in Israel," Ganor said. "The Red Cross visits them. They get good medical care. They may send and receive mail. Syrian parents, wives and children do not have to agonize over them. All we ask is that the Syrian government accord us the same assurances about our Israeli boys."

Among the Christian leaders at the meeting were Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Sister Kathrin Hargrove, Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart; Mrs. Edna McCallion, Church Women United; Dr. Bernard Olson, National Conference of Christians and Jews; the Very Rev. Dr. John A. Poulos, pastor of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church; Mrs. Elenor Schnurr, American Baptist Church; and Dr. James Sheldon, Council of Churches of the City of New York.

DORON REPUDIATES ANTI-ISRAEL CHARGES

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 13 (JTA)—Ambassador Jacob Doron, Israel's acting permanent representative to the United Nations, declared Monday before the UN Commission on Human Rights that "no human rights or freedoms of anybody have been violated by Israel" in the administered territories. Instead, Doron noted, one of the countries complaining against Israel has violated human rights by murdering Israeli prisoners of war during the Yom Kippur War and by refusing to release the names of POWs it holds.

Delegates from Egypt and Iraq interrupted Doron several times and challenged his right to bring up the POW issue since they claimed this

topic was not on the commission's agenda. But Doron noted the commission was discussing "Questions of the Violation of Human Rights in the Territories Occupied as a Result of Hostilities in the Middle East."

Despite Doron's denials, the commission adopted by a 21-1 vote, with eight abstentions, a resolution deploring Israel's "continued grave breaches" of the Fourth Geneva Convention in dealing with the civilians in the territories acquired in 1967 and charging Israel with "war crimes and an affront to humanity." Nicaragua cast the lone negative vote.

The draft, similar to one adopted by the commission last March, called on Israel to stop immediately the establishment of settlements in the occupied lands and urged other states to see that Israel desisted from "all acts and policies aimed at changing the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied Arab territories."

In rejecting the charge, Doron pointed out that even the Egyptian representative admitted that many Arabs visit the territories. "It should be obvious to him, as to everyone else," Doron said, "that had there been even an iota of truth in these allegations, the visits by Arabs, from neighboring and far away countries and many walks of life, would not be taking place, for the simple reason that these people would not be willing to take the risks involved in visiting an area where all those grave breaches and violations are allegedly continuously taking place, and secondly: would Israel allow hundreds of thousands of Arabs to come and witness such a state of affairs, had it in fact existed?"

Doron said that Israel has been repeatedly condemned by UN bodies for action in the territories through resolutions that "fly in the face of the actual situation." He said that "even the war unleashed against my country in 1973 could not bring about a change in the attitude of the population of these areas, who in their vast majority continued going about their lawful occupations. The bridges on the Jordan River remained open, traffic and commerce continued to flow, and in the areas themselves, the progress, prosperity and tranquility achieved since 1967 continued undisturbed."

MOSHE GROSS-ZIMMERMANN DEAD AT 82

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)—Funeral services were held today for Moshe Gross-Zimmermann, a prominent Yiddish writer and journalist who died here last night at the age of 82 after a long illness. Mr. Gross-Zimmermann was honorary president of the Yiddish Writers Association in Israel, a member of the Journalists Association and of the world executive of the Federation of Jewish Journalists.

Born in Borislaw, Galicia, the son of a Hasidic family, he went to Vienna at 17 for a general education. In 1917 he began publishing articles and stories in major Jewish newspapers in Poland, New York and elsewhere and toured extensively on behalf of Keren Hayesod. He came to Palestine in 1937 and for many years headed the Kol Zion Lagolah radio broadcasts to Jewish communities abroad.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir is well again and back at work at her office. She had been house-bound Saturday through Tuesday suffering from "inflammation of the upper eyelids."

Reminder: No Bulletin dated Monday, Feb. 18.