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KISSINGER GIVES ISRAEL LIST OF 65 POWs & SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO PERMIT RED CROSS VISITS TO POWs STARTING MARCH 1; GENERAL DISENGAGEMENT IDEAS ALSO GIVEN

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger brought from Damascus today a list of names of 65 Israeli prisoners of war and a Syrian commitment to permit Red Cross visits to the POWs starting March 1, thus paving the way for the start of talks on Syrian-Israeli disengagement of forces. (In Washington, President Nixon issued a statement this afternoon announcing that the list of names was being transmitted by Kissinger to Israeli government officials along with Syria's agreement to permit Red Cross visits. Nixon's statement also said that the Israeli government would give its ideas on disengagement to Kissinger for transmittal to Syria and that Kissinger "will personally take the ideas to Damascus." It was also reported in Washington today that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko plans to visit both Cairo and Damascus and that there was a possibility that Kissinger may meet Gromyko in Damascus.)

It was reliably reported in Jerusalem that Kissinger also presented to Israeli officials some general ideas on disengagement given to him yesterday by Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus. General satisfaction throughout Israel that the names had been disclosed and on the Syrian agreement on Red Cross visits was tempered by fears that the list of 65 names of POWs was incomplete. Israeli sources had estimated the number of POWs was as high as 120, an estimate later reduced to 80, which would leave at least 15 Israeli POWs unaccounted for in the Syrian list handed to Kissinger. Observers here noted that Israel had agreed to such a pattern of settlement on the POWs when the United States first suggested it two weeks ago. Israeli officials indicated then that Israel would agree to a small time lapse between the Red Cross visits to the POWs and the start of substantive disengagement talks.

The Kissinger settlement satisfied Israel's preconditions and saved face for Syria which can claim that the talks started today when Kissinger transmitted to Israeli officials Assad's general ideas on disengagement. Israel's position is that the talks will actually start on Friday, when Kissinger is due back here, after the POWs have been visited. Syria had rejected the U.S. proposal, contending that the Israeli demands on the POW issue should be resolved as part of the disengagement talks. Kissinger said, when he arrived at the airport, that "I believe we made good progress" in Damascus "on some of Israel's most urgent concerns."

Prime Minister Golda Meir broke off her talks on efforts to form a new coalition government, to meet with Kissinger. Later she went on radio and television to report on the status of the disengagement talks. (See separate story) Kissinger briefed Mrs. Meir on his talks in Damascus and then met with other members of Israel's negotiating team and with Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar. Israeli officials have said that an exchange of prisoners is the first topic it wants to discuss. Israel holds 402 captured Syrian soldiers, including more than 40 officers and a number of Iraqis and Moroccans who fought with Syria.

The observers said that Kissinger's goal on his current Mideast visit was to establish a negotiating framework in which disengagement terms would be worked out. The framework which Kissinger himself reportedly considers would be most acceptable to Syria is a continuation of the Egyptian-Israeli military group meetings at Geneva. Syrian officers would join this group and conduct, together with the Egyptians, negotiations on disengagement. Beyond the prisoner exchange is the wider question of the extent to which Israel will withdraw from its positions in Syria and how this will be carried out. How and when Syria-Israeli talks might be resumed in Geneva is one of the topics Kissinger is expected to discuss tomorrow in Cairo with President Sadat. Kissinger is due back in Jerusalem Friday for more talks and then is scheduled to visit Damascus again Friday with Israeli proposals for next steps.

U.S. officials here said they were aware that Israel-Syrian disengagement will probably be much harder to negotiate than Israel-Egyptian disengagement was. The officials cited much more powerful and complex internal pressures influencing both the Israeli and the Syrian governments than was the case during the Israel-Egypt negotiations. Israel, they said, is far more reluctant to return stretches of Golan territory than the strip of western Sinai—because of the Golan's proximity to Israeli villages and settlements. The Syrian regime is under pressure from Baathist hardliners to settle for nothing less than the immediate return of at least part of the pre-1973 Golan. Israel's leaders have dismissed this notion as unthinkable. Premier Meir has said this would mean awarding Syria a "bonus" for attacking Israel on Yom Kippur and being driven back. The officials said they prefer to disregard—or minimize the importance—of public statements by both sides prior to this current trip. They recalled that Israel's and Egypt's initial public positions before the disengagement talks in the south were widely divergent—from each other and from each side's ultimate position when the agreement was reached.

On Saturday, Kissinger is due to visit Saudi Arabia and possibly Jordan. The U.S. observers say the visits to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia are to be seen in the context of Washington's ongoing effort to improve ties with these states. There was speculation earlier that President Anwar Sadat and Kissinger would announce Friday the formal reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. But U.S. officials have pointed out that there was no real hurry with this since de facto diplomatic ties have been functioning satisfactorily since Jan. Kissinger will probably discuss with the Egyptians the American offers of technical assistance in reopening the Suez Canal. A U.S. Navy

team of experts has been making surveys at the southern end of the canal since early this week. Kissinger will also brief Sadat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy on his talks in Damascus and Jerusalem, since Syria apparently wants Egypt kept actively in the picture. The Secretary and his party will return home via Bonn on Sunday and Brussels on Monday where Kissinger will report to the NATO Council on his progress in the Middle East.

MRS. MEIR: ISRAEL IS DETERMINED TO SEEK FATE OF STILL MISSING POWs

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir announced on television tonight that out of 80 Israeli soldiers missing on the Syrian front, 65 were named as prisoners of war on the list that U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger brought from Damascus today. She said 62 of the POWs are Israeli soldiers and three are "Arab citizens" of Israel. A later announcement described the three as civilian guards.

The 18 Israeli soldiers not named are still listed as missing. Mrs. Meir said there was evidence that some of the missing men were killed in combat and pledged that efforts will be made to determine the fate of the rest. In the meantime, she said, the army has informed the families of the POWs and the missing men of their fate.

"The people of Israel lived with deep concern for the fate of the POWs from the moment it was informed of their captivity until the message that they were alive," Mrs. Meir said. "However, the joy was mixed with sorrow," she added. "We all participate in the agony of those families whose sons are not on the POW list." The Premier expressed hope that the POW list was the first step toward the release of the soldiers. "We shall not cease our efforts until each one of our sons comes back from captivity," she said.

The Premier expressed thanks to Kissinger for his efforts to obtain the POW list and to arrange for an exchange of prisoners. She said that Israel is prepared to exchange the Syrian POWs it holds in exchange for the Israeli POWs at "any moment." She also expressed Israel's willingness to do its utmost for a disengagement agreement on the Syrian front. She said Israel would submit its ideas on disengagement to Kissinger on Friday to be conveyed "personally" to the Syrian government.

Glued To Radios As Names Are Broadcast

Following the television broadcast, the Premier made the same announcement over the State Radio. Her speech was followed by an army spokesman who read the full names of the 62 POWs and the three civilian guardsmen. The names were read in an alphabetical order, making people in too many Israeli houses hold their breath in a prayer that their relatives are on the list. Eighteen families received the bad news that their sons were still missing. The messages were delivered by army representatives to the families.

According to American sources in Jerusalem, Mrs. Meir burst into tears when she received the list from Kissinger at their first meeting this afternoon after he arrived from Damascus. The list was delivered to the army headquarters and subsequently to each family individually.

The same sources said the White House announcement of the list today was agreed upon

with the Syrians at an earlier stage. The number of prisoners was roughly known to both the Americans and Israelis. It now appears that seven Israelis died in captivity. Unconfirmed reports have it that the Syrians explained they had to burn the bodies because they were causing infectious diseases. Mrs. Meir's obvious effort to play down the suspicion that the soldiers were murdered was interpreted here as an effort toward conciliation.

MASS RALLIES AGAINST HIGH LIVING COSTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--About 10,000 workers in the Tel Aviv area staged a four-hour strike today in protest against the soaring prices of commodities and services and the low compensation offered by the cost of living allowances. Representatives of the workers committee, assembled for hours near the Histadrut building were received by acting Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel.

The workers demanded proper compensation for the increased prices, shelving plans for added value tax and postponement of the proposed 50 percent increase in municipal taxes. Meshel said that negotiations are under way for a new package deal to link wages, COL allowances and taxes that would satisfy the workers.

In Eilat the population staged a one-hour general strike this morning in protest against the higher fare for flights between that city and the rest of the country. In Upper Galilee other strikes and demonstrations were staged against soaring prices.

ELON SAYS FOUNDERS AND SONS ARE GRIPPED BY FEARS AND HOPES

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--A noted Israeli writer and journalist opined last night that the Yom Kippur War "would not, perhaps, have taken place" had not the Watergate crisis occurred. Speaking at the Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women in New York, Amos Elon, author of the highly acclaimed book, "The Israelis: Founders and Sons," said that the Israelis are living now in an atmosphere of "fears and hopes."

The fears are, according to Elon, that the future of Israel will be the same as that of Czechoslovakia in 1938. The hopes, even though vague, he said, are focused on the fact that for the first time there is an "unprecedented likelihood" for a settlement. "The Arabs say they want peace... they sit to negotiate with Israel," Elon said, noting that in the latest Arab summit meeting in Algeria the Arabs did not repeat the three No's of Khartoum. (No peace, no recognition, no negotiations with Israel.)

Answering questions on the Israeli political scene, Elon said he believes that a change of the present leadership will come rather soon. He observed that the Israeli leaders "belong to the generation of President (Calvin) Coolidge (1924-28). Referring to Menachem Begin, he said: "Begin's mind is one of the under-developed territories in Israel...."

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The Soviet Union provided the Arab nations with more than \$2.6 billion in military equipment during the Yom Kippur War, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Appropriations Committee yesterday. His estimate compared with the \$1 billion the United States said it spent on supplies to Israel and the \$2.2 billion in aid voted by Congress for Israel. He said that while the heavy use of Soviet-made anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles by Egypt and Syria did not represent a new era in military strategy, it had spurred development of better U.S. weapons to deal with them.

EBAN SLAMS ISRAELI PRESS FOR DEMORALIZING THE PUBLIC SINCE THE WAR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban accused the Israeli press yesterday of waging "an exaggerated offensive on public morale since the Yom Kippur War." He implied that this was responsible, at least in part, for the extreme melancholy felt by the public since the war but noted that before the war, the public had suffered from an exaggerated sense of self-esteem. Addressing the American Jewish Congress convention here, Eban said there were no grounds for low spirits in Israel. "This people stands with both feet on the ground and holds in its hands the resources for its future," he said.

Eban said that one of Israel's immediate goals was to restore its place in the international arena and stabilize its present international ties. He said Israel was suffering from the same elements that were sabotaging the legal establishment of the international community by acts of terror. He said the Jewish reply to the Arab solidarity expressed at the Islamic summit conference at Lahore, Pakistan last week must be increased solidarity between Israeli and world Jewry.

No Agreement With USSR On Immigration

Speaking for the government at a Knesset session, Eban agreed that a full scale debate should be held forthwith on the curbs against Jewish activists in the Soviet Union. But he dismissed as beneath contempt a charge by MK Geula Cohen of Likud that some secret agreement existed between Israel and the Soviet Union to restrict the flow of immigration to Israel or to prevent excessive publicity about activists whose visa applications were turned down.

Referring to the hunger strike of four Moscow activists--David Rubin, Vitaly Azbel, Vladimir Galatsky and Ida Nudel--Eban said that protest was only the tip of the iceberg. He said he knew of many more cases of visa applicants who find themselves in severe straits in the Soviet Union. He said Jewish scientists denied permission to emigrate were probably the worst off because they were prevented from pursuing their research, lost contact with their profession and became increasingly frustrated.

TWO HUNGER STRIKERS END ACTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Vitaly Rubin and Vladimir Galatsky ended their hunger strike last night but David Azbel and Ida Nudel continued their action, it was reported today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Rubin and Galatsky decided to end their strike after 11 days following an appeal Monday by all the senior professors at Israeli universities and technical schools which urged the hunger strikers, for the sake of their health, to end their action.

According to the SSSJ and the NCJSJ the two activists stated that they had made their views known throughout the world by conducting their action which began Feb. 15 in Azbel's Moscow apartment. Ms. Nudel began her hunger strike in her own apartment six days ago. Azbel reportedly responded to the appeal by the Israelis by saying that he felt he must continue the strike action despite the fact that he is extremely weak and can hardly stand up. A number of sympathy hunger strikes have been launched in various cities in the United States and in Europe.

LOPEZ RIGA'S REMARKS CAUSE CONCERN

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The DAIA, Argentine Jewry's central agency, has declared in a statement it is seeking to determine the significance of a comment by Argentine Interior Minister Jose Lopez Riga on Feb. 19 that signatures of Jewish officials on Argentine documents to Libya were not helpful to Argentine interests in Libya. Lopez Riga headed a trade delegation to Libya, which negotiated several agreements between the two countries. He told a meeting of representatives of the Argentine Arab community that he found a "negative atmosphere" in Libya which he attributed to the cablegrams from Jewish officials.

The DAIA said it was seeking to determine the most effective steps to protect the honor and dignity of the Argentine Jewish community and its feeling of solidarity with Israel. Newspapers in Buenos Aires indicated that the comment was aimed at Jose Ber Gelbard, the Argentine Finance Minister who is considered Lopez Riga's most powerful foe in the Argentine government.

The Welfare Minister's comment has stirred widespread concern in the Jewish community and has been discussed in the Jewish press. In a recent editorial comment, La Nacion declared that the future of Gelbard was uncertain. Sources said that Lopez Riga and Gelbard constituted two poles of Argentine government strength and any possible shifts in their positions is followed closely by the Jewish community.

EBAN OFFICIALLY INVITED TO VISIT PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 27 (JTA)--France today officially invited Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to visit Paris and confer with President Georges Pompidou and French aides. France also accepted an invitation for Foreign Minister Michel Jobert to visit Israel at some future date.

This exchange of visits was agreed upon here this afternoon when Jobert conferred for 45 minutes with Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben Nathan. The two men decided that Eban's visit will be the first. No date has been fixed mainly because of the Israeli political crisis, but French officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they expect Eban to arrive this spring. Jobert, they said, will visit Israel a few months later.

This is the first time since the creation of the State of Israel that a French Cabinet Minister has accepted an invitation to visit the Jewish State. Diplomatic circles here say that the exchange of ministerial visits may mark "a normalization" of relations between the two countries whose relations have been strained since the Six-Day War when President Charles de Gaulle branded Israel as "an aggressor" and imposed an arms embargo on the eve of the war.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--An explosive charge detonated in an Arab bus near the Jaffa Gate shortly before noon today. Initial reports said one person was wounded. Police have already arrested one suspect. The blast is the second in East Jerusalem in two days. Yesterday a small homemade bomb went off near the Western Wall but no one was hurt.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Fifteen hundred Danes gathered Tuesday in a public meeting here to express their solidarity with Israel. Former Prime Minister Viggo Kampmann spoke to the rally in support of the release of Israeli POWs in Syria. The meeting took place without incident but under heavy police guard.

UJA DETAINEES RECOUNT THEIR 10 HOURS IN EGYPTIAN HANDS

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The members of the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet returned here last night safely and in good spirits after 10 hours' captivity in Egypt. Allan Nachman, of Detroit, remarked that it had been "a queer trip." Dr. Warren Sachs, of Norfolk, Va., said the Egyptian soldiers who captured them in western Sinai yesterday seemed embarrassed and didn't know what to do. Joseph Merbick, a Philadelphia industrialist, told how they were blindfolded and driven in their bus across the Suez Canal to headquarters of the Egyptian Second Army in Ismailia where they were interrogated for four hours.

The Egyptians were intensely curious about the UJA, all members of the group agreed. An Egyptian colonel wanted to know "how is the UJA constructed, how do you raise money for Israel, how does the campaign work?" reported Howard Stone of New York. Nachman said he was asked, "Why have I come to Israel and why am a Zionist?" The Egyptian officers also wanted to know "how many Jews are coming from Russia" and "who do you think won the Oct. war and who do the Israelis think won it?"

The UJA leaders, their Israeli military escort, guide, press photographers and several civilian guests--a party of 40--were captured by the Egyptians at noon yesterday on the Tassa-Ismailia road after their bus was permitted to pass a UNEF checkpoint in order to make a U-turn and accidentally entered Egyptian-held territory. They were released after dark at a joint Israeli-Egyptian-UNEF command post and were flown by Israeli military transport to an airstrip in Tel Aviv. In the early hours of this morning the Americans were reunited with their wives at the Dan Hotel and told the story of their adventure.

They told how the bus driver was advised by Finnish UNEF officers to proceed a short distance into the UN zone in order to make a turn without bogging down in the sand dunes. "We advanced and suddenly we saw a military jeep approaching us. The soldiers made signs for us to stop and in a moment it was apparent we were held by Egyptians," Nachman said. He said the Egyptians seemed as surprised as the people they captured. "They simply did not know what to do. They awaited instructions from higher quarters."

Dr. Sachs said the Egyptians ordered the passengers out of the bus but did not display force. He said the entire party milled around outside the bus for about two hours while the soldiers awaited instructions. When lunchtime came, the Americans and their Israeli escorts ate their box lunches as the Egyptians looked on.

When orders came "We were told to mount the bus and to cover our eyes," Merbick recalled. "I put a handkerchief over my eyes and others pulled their jackets over their heads," he said. He said they were driven across the canal by way of an earthen bridge constructed by Israeli engineers but did not glimpse the waterway. They were taken to a large museum-like building in which were hanging pictures of President Anwar Sadat and the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Dr. Sachs reported.

He said the only time they were apprehensive was when the Egyptians separated the Americans from their Israeli escorts for questioning. Nachman said the Americans were concerned

over their Israeli companions and agreed not to leave without them. But they were relieved when, after four hours of questioning, the entire party was assembled in one hall. Nachman said the Egyptians behaved correctly, offered them soft drinks, coffee, cheese and bread. After dark they were put back on the bus, blindfolded and driven to the tripartite command post where they were released.

The adventure ended with a champagne supper at the Dan Hotel in the early hours of the morning. The wives of the UJA leaders listened with interest to their husbands' stories. Their "busy day" had consisted of visits to a deaf children's school, vocational schools and a stop at Kfar Silver. Women are not permitted to make the trip to Sinai.

In addition to Nachman, Dr. Sachs and Merbick, the others were identified as: Harold Siegel, Allen Rothenberg and Gene Waldman, all of Philadelphia; Robert Copeland, Dr. Kenny Albinder, Dr. Allan Jaffe and Warren Karesh, all of Norfolk, Va.; Irwin Alterman and Dr. Sheldon Sonkin of Detroit; Michael Bryan, Rabbi Fred Neulander and Sam Lear, all of Camden, NJ; Stephen H. Cohen and Neil Ginguld of Syracuse, NY; Robert Gerber and Marshall Grossman of Los Angeles; Paul Fierstein of Newark; Marcus Hirsch of Baton Rouge, La.; Leonard Wein Jr. of Miami Beach; Howard Stone of New York; and Sherwin Weinstein of Rochester, NY.

Three others, believed to have been guests, were identified as William Milgrom, Howard Sherman and Leon Miller. Their addresses were not immediately available.

UJA MISSION EXPLAINED BY ZUCKERMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA)--In the wake of the temporary detention by the Egyptians of a group of United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet members, Paul Zuckerman, UJA general chairman, today explained the purpose of their trip to Israel. He said: "The young leadership group was participating in a continuing UJA program to inform American Jewish men and women of the activities of the people of Israel and the conditions in which they work and live.

"We believe that a people-to-people program is the only effective way of showing the sacrifices made by the Jews of Israel. In addition to meeting young Israeli men and women serving their army duty, our tours visit old-age homes, absorption centers where new immigrants are housed and educated, schools, community centers, new settlements and all the other areas of Jewish humanitarian concern for which UJA funds are used."

TERRORISTS REFUSE TO SHOW FOR TRIAL

ROME, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The three Arabs accused of planning to blow up an El Al airliner last Sept. have refused to appear at their trial which opened here today. Currently in an Italian prison, the three men, an Algerian, Iranian and a Lebanese, said their refusal was an affirmation of their innocence and said they were putting their trust in Italian justice.

The trial went ahead despite the absence of the defendants and it is believed they will be expelled from Italy to avoid possible Arab reprisals. Italian investigators are reported to have found Soviet-made SAM-7 rockets in the apartments of the defendants who were arrested last Sept. Two other Arabs were also arrested at the time but later released temporarily and it is believed they have sought refuge in Libya.