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U.S. ANNOUNCES RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--President Nixon announced today that the U.S. was resuming diplomatic relations with Egypt and formally named Herman Eilts as Ambassador to Egypt. The resumption of diplomatic ties was also announced today in Cairo by President Anwar Sadat during his meeting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Eilts, a career foreign service officer who has done most of his service in Arab countries, has been Ambassador-designate since Nov. 3, 1973 when the U.S. and Egypt said they would elevate their "interest sections" in Washington and Cairo to embassies. Egypt, however, held off full diplomatic relations pending further improvements in its relations with the U.S. This apparently has now been achieved. Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal was designated Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. last November. Diplomatic relations between Egypt and the U.S. were broken during the Six-Day War.

(In Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed confidence tonight that the renewal of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the U.S. would not be at Israel's expense. One official noted that there was no reason to believe that the new development is at the expense of Israel. Officials here noted that Israel had traditionally been in favor of wide relations between all countries. "Diplomatic relations are natural," one official noted. "It is their absence which is unnatural." A similar view was expressed by Foreign Minister Abba Eban last November when Eilts and Dr. Ghorbal were designated.)

JOY AND DESPAIR AS POW NAMES ARE RELEASED WHILE SOME STILL MISSING

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Joy reigned in some Israeli homes last night, despair in others. For 65 families, the confirmation that their sons were alive, though prisoners of war in Syria, ended nearly six months of agonized suspense. A few of the families had recognized their boys in photos of POWs that appeared in newspapers or magazines over the months. But most had no idea whether they were alive or dead until the list of POWs that U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger brought from Damascus yesterday was made public.

That same list confirmed the worst fears of 18 other Israeli families whose missing sons were not on it. Whatever glimmer of hope they may have had faded when these families came to the missing soldiers identification center here to be told that the fate of their loved ones remained unknown. Presumably they are dead.

The army manpower authority acted to relieve the anxiety of the POW families as quickly as possible. The list Kissinger brought to Jerusalem from Damascus was in Arabic. It was rushed by helicopter to the Tel Aviv manpower office late yesterday where the names were translated, checked and corrected. Couriers were then sent out to the 65 homes all over the land to bring the good news. Each was accompanied by a medical corpsman for in some cases the good news proved too much and mothers fainted.

One of the families that rejoiced last night was that of Shoshana and Reuben Avinoam whose son, Yitzhak, was missing and found to be among the POWs. In the Bedouin village of Rubba near Rosh-Pina in Upper Galilee, the news that three members of the tribe were alive set off wild celebrations. They are the only Arabs among the Israeli POWs. They were captured by Syrians after their farm truck was hit by a shell in the first day of the Yom Kippur War and were not heard from since then.

All 31 Israeli soldiers missing from a position on Mt. Hermon that was captured by the Syrians in the first hours of the war are on the POW list. So are a number of Air Force men presumed to have been killed. But other Israeli pilots who were seen bailing out after their planes were hit and were believed to have parachuted safely were not on the list. It was suggested in some quarters that they may have fallen into the hands of Iraqi or Jordanian soldiers fighting with the Syrian forces who demonstrated unusual cruelty to Israeli prisoners.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE FOUND IN BUS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA)--An explosive charge in an incendiary bomb was discovered today in a bus a few minutes before it was timed to explode. The bomb was found in the bus in Rishon le Zion south of Tel Aviv. A suspicious parcel beneath the rear seat attracted the attention of one passenger who informed the driver. Police rushed to the scene and discovered a two kilogram bomb which could have caused significant damage and casualties. The bus had brought workers from the Gaza Strip to Tel Aviv and then made another trip to Rishon le Zion where the bomb was found. An investigation was immediately launched.

'LOGISTICS' OF DISENGAGEMENT TALKS MAY BE DECIDED THIS WEEKEND

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The time, place and format of Israel-Syrian disengagement talks may be decided this weekend by the parties and by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger; well-placed sources here said today. The Secretary is due in Tel Aviv tomorrow for a five-hour stop-over to confer with Premier Golda Meir and ministers and receive Israel's "ideas" on disengagement.

By the time of the meeting at around noon, the Israeli POWs in Syria should have been visited by the Red Cross under the timetable meticulously worked out by Kissinger to satisfy the demands of both parties--Syria's demand that the lists-and-visits issue be settled as part of the disengagement talks, and Israel's insistence that it would not talk disengagement until the lists-and-visits question had been settled.

The Cabinet met today in secret session as the "Ministerial Security Committee" to hear from Mrs. Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan on the talks yesterday with Kissinger. Sources said the discussion was of "general ideas," which will be presented tomorrow to Kissinger. The Cabinet is to reconvene Sunday--presumably having been apprised by Kissinger of Syria's initial reaction to the "ideas"--to work out more detailed guide-

lines for the Israeli negotiators.

Three Central Issues Involved

The question of "logistics" hinges on Syria's insistence that Egypt play a major role in the disengagement talks. Syria has suggested an extension of the Israel-Egypt military working group at Geneva, with Syrian officers also taking part. A Geneva site would also give the Soviet Union scope for influence. Israel does not reject totally Egyptian participation--but it will insist that Syria do its own negotiation and sign itself for any accords reached. Israel prefers a front-line site on the pattern of Kilometer 101 under United Nations auspices--thus precluding Soviet participation.

The talks themselves will probably be long and arduous, observers here believe. They point to three central issues: The first is territorial demands. Syria wants a slice of the pre-1973 Golan now, as part of disengagement, the slice to include the town of Kuneitra. Israel maintains that the disengagement must be effected only within the areas newly occupied in the October war. Israel is ready to cede all these areas: some back to Syria, some for a UN buffer zone.

The second is linkage. Syria demands that the disengagement accord be expressly linked to a final settlement involving total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied areas. Syria announced last night that Kissinger had promised Syrian President Hafez Assad that disengagement would be the first step toward total Israeli withdrawal. The third is exchange of POWs. Israel wants this to have a top priority in the talks, with exchanges beginning before the talks are necessarily concluded. Syria has demanded the return of 15,000 peasants to the newly occupied areas--and wants priority for this issue.

Well placed Israeli sources stressed today that yesterday's talks with Kissinger were very general and hardly "substantive." Maps had been used--but only to illustrate where Israel's settlements were, the sources said. U.S. officials with Kissinger had suggested last night that the talks had indeed been "substantive." This was seen here as an effort to satisfy Syrian insistence that the POW list-visit issue be seen as part of the disengagement talks. The White House statement yesterday which referred to Israel presenting its "ideas" not before tomorrow was seen as a move to satisfy Israel's demand that substantive talks could only come after the list-visits question was settled.

The pace of Middle East diplomatic activity was increased when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived unexpectedly in Damascus yesterday for meetings with Syrian leaders shortly after Kissinger left. Gromyko will go to Cairo tomorrow when Kissinger is due back in Jerusalem. Gromyko's visit to the two Arab capitals is seen as a move by Moscow to make sure that Soviet interests are not frozen out or overshadowed by Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" that has proved successful so far.

SOME 2000 JEWISH CEMETERIES IN EAST EUROPE SLATED FOR DESTRUCTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA)--More than 2000 Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe, most of them in the Soviet Union, are slated deliberately for confiscation and destruction, Rabbi Moses Rubin, president of the World Conference of European Rabbis, warned here today. He also told a press conference, called by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry,

that in the Soviet Union, the planned attacks on Jewish cemeteries were part of an overall Soviet plan to shatter the Jewish spirit and ultimately to destroy every vestige of Jewish identity in the USSR.

Rabbi Rubin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the situation was most alarming in Russia, Hungary and Poland. He said a bill has been introduced to the Polish Parliament to nationalize the land in which the cemeteries are located. He called the activities "barbarism committed against the dead" and said it was a "world obligation" to prevent such acts.

Mayor Abraham Beame proclaimed today as "The Day for Jewish Cemeteries in Eastern Europe in New York City." He called on New Yorkers to reflect on the significance of the day by endorsing a petition of the World Conference to the United Nations, asking for action to prevent the desecrations. He said the petition requires one million signatures.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Soviet Jewry organization, said that in recent weeks, "we have become aware, through conversations with Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, of a concerted campaign by the Soviet government to desecrate and to seize Jewish burial grounds. Rabbi Rubin displayed photos of desecrated Jewish cemeteries in the USSR and others left untended to a point where "they will soon fade into oblivion."

Hoenlein reported that in Lvov, a Jewish cemetery was confiscated and turned into a market place. In Odessa, the government is trying to take over land where a cemetery is located which is the resting place of many Jewish leaders. He said the Conference was asking Soviet officials to halt the campaign and to allow the families of those buried in the threatened cemeteries enough time for disinterment and removal of the remains to Israel. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

THOUSANDS MOURN FOR WARS DEAD

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Thousands of Israelis came here today from all parts of the country for a memorial service at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl for soldiers believed to have been killed in action but whose graves are unknown. Men and women, many weeping steadily, who lost husbands and sons 26 years ago in Israel's War of Independence stood next to families who had suffered similar losses in the fighting of the Sinai campaign, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the fighting between the wars. The government representatives present included Premier Golda Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

The tensions and divisions stemming from the Yom Kippur War were manifest at the rite. When Dayan rose to speak, he was interrupted by a man and a woman among the mourners who yelled at him: "You criminal, you murderer, you killed them. You sent them to their deaths." Dayan tried to ignore the interruption. He ended a brief address with the statement that "the youngest in our garden's flowers became the defense wall of our country, the defense wall to our lives, our settlements and our future. Their living memory is higher than any stone tombstone."

A bereaved father recited the Kaddish, an army cantor recited El Mole Rachamim and an army guard fired three rounds in honor of the dead soldiers. The rites originally had been scheduled for tomorrow, Adar 7 on the Hebrew calendar, traditionally the day of the death of Moses, "whose place of death is unknown." It was moved back a day so that Sabbath observers could participate.

WBAI PICKETED, BLASTED FOR FIRING SPORTSCASTER, SCRAPPING BROADCAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The office of radio station WBAI-FM was picketed by the Youth Committee for Peace and Democracy in the Middle East after the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that the listener sponsored radio station dismissed a broadcaster for criticizing Black basketball players on the Rochester University team who boycotted a game with the Israeli National Basketball Team. The Youth Committee demanded that Peter Heller, who worked for WBAI-FM as an unpaid sports-caster, "be reinstated as sports commentator without censorship, that his censored commentary be aired, and that the Youth Committee be permitted to tell the listeners of the station the reasons for our demonstration."

In a statement excoriating the radio station, the Youth Committee declared that WBAI-FM, "a self-proclaimed alternative to the 'establishment' media, recently demonstrated that its tolerance for different points of view is not greater--and probably a good deal less--than that of the larger network stations...."

Heller, the sports producer for ABC-TV (Channel 7) and author of a book about former boxing champions, "In This Corner," just published by Simon and Schuster, Inc., contended on the taped broadcast that the Black athletes had bowed to Arab pressure and noted that those who capitulate to Arab terrorism "have the moral spines of jellyfish." The criticism of the Black players was a segment of a 15-minute broadcast which was taped early Feb. 8 due for airing that evening. Heller was informed during the day that the entire broadcast was scrapped and that he was fired.

Why This Particular Commentary?

Larry Cox, news director for WBAI-FM, told the JTA that Heller was fired because "we didn't like his work, generally," and that the contested broadcast was scrapped because it had injected politics and was "a personal commentary." Heller told the JTA that he had been hired to present an over-all commentary and not a rehash or spot-reporting about the week's sports events.

The Youth Committee, a non-sectarian and liberal youth coalition, termed the station's reasoning a "clumsy attempt to justify its action." It noted, too, that "WBAI's broadcasting is filled with editorial commentary of the most controversial kind. The question is why this single piece of commentary--which was of a liberal and pro-Israel character and critical of short-sighted anti-Israel actions--was singled out for censorship."

The Youth Committee asserted that Heller ran into trouble with the radio station "not because of his ability but because of his ideas...." The statement concluded: "Certainly a radio station that has justified broadcasting a crude anti-Semitic poem (which began with the lines, 'Hey Jew boy with that yarmulka on your head/ You pale face Jew boy, I wish you were dead.') is hardly in a position to reject an intelligent commentary explaining why Black athletes were misguided in their boycott."

JEWISH YOUTHS HELP REBUILD CHURCH

MIAMI, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Students of the religious school of Beth David Congregation are collecting funds to help rebuild one of the school buildings of the Kendall United Methodist Church which was destroyed in a recent fire, Rabbi Sol

Landau reported. He said that the congregation has also offered use of its school facilities to the church during the rebuilding. Rabbi Landau said the offer had been made in appreciation for the action several years ago by the Kendall Church which made its schoolrooms available to the Beth David congregation.

AZBEL APPEALS TO RED CROSS

LONDON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today that David Azbel has appealed to the Soviet Red Cross, asking that one of their representatives visit him next Tuesday, which will be the 20th day of his hunger strike. Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the KGB, with the help of the ovir, have deceived Benjamin Gorochoy, who had originally planned to join the hunger strike at Azbel's Moscow apartment. Just before the hunger strike was due to begin, Gorochoy was told that his exit visa would be given him within a few days if he would refrain from joining the hunger strike. He agreed, but heard nothing for the next two weeks. Yesterday he and his wife, Sofia, went to the ovir to ask for their exit visas only to be told that their applications had been rejected.

GENERAL ZIONISTS AT COUNCIL MEETING

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA)--The representatives of the World Confederation of General Zionists attended all sessions of the recent meeting of the Zionist General Council in Jerusalem. Kallman Sultanik, executive vice-president stressed today. He noted that Mrs. Rose Matzkin, president of Hadassah, a constituent member of the confederation, chaired the session on aliya.

Sultanik said a misunderstanding arose out of the Confederation's participation because it decided to absent itself when the agenda was changed to "set aside a specific session which was to serve as a forum for speeches by representatives of Israeli Zionist political parties." The session was later cancelled.

The Confederation, which represents the non-political wing of the Zionist movement, felt that such a session, according to Sultanik, "would tend to carry over throughout the lands of the diaspora the public debate now being waged by some leaders of Israel's political parties, oftentimes excessively acrimonious in character. The World Confederation felt that such a controversy did not belong to the sessions of the Action Committee which were to be dedicated primarily to the all-important purposes of aliya and rallying of public opinion."

DE PINTO MANSION TO BE RESTORED

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28 (JTA)--Queen Juliana has made a contribution to a project to restore a 17th century mansion which belonged to the wealthy Sephardi Jewish De Pinto family and stands in Amsterdam's former Jewish quarter. In very bad disrepair, the stately mansion, built by architect Elias Bouman, is one of the few vestiges of the former Jewish quarter which has been almost entirely demolished due to the ongoing construction of the Amsterdam subway.

The De Pinto's were Sephardi Jews who belonged to the Amsterdam merchant class and were shareholders in the East Indies Trading Co. A public committee for the restoration of the mansion was formed three years ago and it is a pilot project in the "European Monuments - 1975" restoration campaign currently in progress. Restoration of the 300-year-old Amsterdam Sephardi synagogue, a large tourist attraction, is another of its projects. Large contributions to the projects will also come from the Amsterdam municipality.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: SADAT BOOSTED BY U.S. -- By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat's recent intervention to help negotiate the Syrian-Israeli disengagement of troops and the announcement earlier this week that Egypt was willing to act as broker on Syria's behalf toward the disengagement is seen here as another element in a widening pattern of Washington-Cairo ideas on cooperation, apparently designed to establish Egypt as the dominant local power in the Arab Middle East.

Other elements of Egypt's aid to the American peace initiative, for which Sadat is to be rewarded, were his intercession to influence Saudi Arabia to lift the oil embargo and his apparent reasonableness to drop the demand that Israel publicly declare that it will withdraw totally from the Sinai as a precondition for an interim agreement.

Among the American contributions to his build-up are pledges of credits from the Export-Import Bank and private American banks, along with apparent support for Egyptian requests to the World Bank for loans. This financing would enable Sadat to be financially independent of Saudi Arabia's oil wealth. In addition, there is now a U.S. Navy team in Egypt conducting a study of the feasibility of clearing hundreds of mines from the Suez Canal.

Moreover, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy in Jan., which led to the disengagement of the Israeli and Egyptian troops, also provided Sadat with the stature to engage in his own shuttle diplomacy between various Arab capitals on the issue of the Syrian-Israeli troop disengagement and to be viewed as a statesman at the Islamic conference in Lahore. But most important, it is believed in Washington, is the hint given to Sadat that with American help--the restoration of formal diplomatic ties is the clincher--he will emerge ultimately as the hero of the Arab world on a level that his predecessor, President Nasser, tried to achieve and failed.

Future Cairo-Moscow Ties Uncertain

Sadat, apparently taking his cues of playing off Moscow and Washington against each other from Yugoslavia's President Tito who was the original grand master of that art, is profiting handsomely from the Yom Kippur War from which the superpowers rescued him from catastrophe, and the Arab oil embargo which enables him to be of help to Washington. Whether he will let go of his Moscow ties completely and link himself to Washington as a reliable ally is, at this time, however, far from certain.

What is certain though is that Moscow is extremely irritated with Cairo for having permitted Kissinger to take the ball in the disengagement arrangement and is also upset by the fact that Sadat has apparently not asked the USSR for technical help in clearing the canal. These irritants have been sufficiently provocative, observers here note, for the Soviet Union to have decided to send its Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, to visit Cairo within the next few days.

There is also no question, some observers here note, that Moscow is still chafing from Sadat's glowing remarks in Lahore when he said that the U.S. has changed its policy toward the Middle East, implying that Washington is now becoming pro-Arab. Undoubtedly, part of Gromyko's mission to Cairo is to sound out what the Soviet Union's status might be in Egypt--and in Syria--in the future. The USSR still has

a jaundiced view about the expulsion of its technical and military advisors from Egypt in 1972.

Despite all this, it is still uncertain whether Sadat will sever ties entirely from the Soviet Union. This possibility seems unlikely if only because the U.S. may be reluctant to assume the tremendous responsibility of going it alone, at least now, in this corner of the globe because it could create strains in the ongoing efforts by Washington to maintain detente with Moscow. In addition, Moscow, too, appears reluctant to assume the role of sole patron of Egypt and other Arab states because of the drain and strain it creates within its own economy and diplomatic pursuits internationally.

In the summer of 1972 Washington glowed with satisfaction when Sadat "threw out the Russians." But Moshe Dayan, during a visit to Washington some months later, had a different view. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about the Soviet ouster, Dayan replied characteristically with his own question: "Have they really left?" The Yom Kippur War proves that they never really did. In fact, there is a good likelihood that the Soviet withdrawal from Egypt in 1972 was part of the grand strategy of surprise sprung on Oct. 6.

Ramifications of Egypt's New Role

The depth of Soviet penetration into the Middle East was presented eight months ago by State Department officials who told Congress that the United States must supply weapons, including Phantom jets, to Saudi Arabia and Iran to help them offset threats from Soviet-supplied neighbors like Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan. This week, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Appropriations Committee, that the USSR provided the Arab nations with more than \$2.6 billion in military equipment during the Yom Kippur War.

America's strategy to set up Egypt as the pivot of U.S. influence in northeast Africa and the Near East has numerous ramifications and effects. The State Department must consider the effects of Egyptian hegemony in this area on Saudi Arabia and Iran, as well as Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, not to mention Israel. Another consideration is the chance that Egyptian-American friendship, easily at its warmest since Secretary of State John Foster Dulles dismissed the Aswan Dam project years ago, can founder quickly, particularly if Saudi Arabia suddenly decides that it is better to be America's friend after all.

Despite Sadat's current effort to carry out his agreement reached with Kissinger on disengagement and the assurances given by Sadat that Egypt's objective is to regain territory from Israel and not to destroy it, there are some who are still skeptical about Sadat's real intentions and about the possibility that Kissinger may be gullible enough to accept all this at face value.

Prof. Hans Morgenthau recalls: "When Neville Chamberlain went to Munich he had no intention of destroying Czechoslovakia. He thought instead that he had assured peace in our time. On his deathbed, the former Prime Minister remarked that everything would have turned out all right if Hitler had not lied to him. Let us hope Henry Kissinger will not have occasion to assert that everything in the Middle East would have turned out all right if Sadat had not lied to him." Many political scientists disagree with this pessimistic view, but the indispensable ingredient for peace in the area--trust--is still an elusive one in view of the Arab's record of the past 26 years.